



CLARA BARTON

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION
14TH ANNIVERSARY

2026-2027 APPLICATION PACKET



**American
Red Cross**

International
Humanitarian Law



**American
Red Cross**

International
Humanitarian Law

August 24, 2026

Dear Applicants,

On behalf of the American Red Cross, the Clara Barton Commission, and the American Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Program, thank you for your interest in this vital area of law. From Russia and Ukraine to Israel and Gaza, Iran, Sudan, and beyond, the role of IHL in mitigating suffering during armed conflict is more critical than ever. The Clara Barton Competition is a cornerstone of our IHL dissemination efforts. By participating, you join a community of emerging and established legal professionals who have dedicated their time and energy to deepening their understanding of IHL and sharing that knowledge with others.

We are thrilled to launch the 14th Annual Clara Barton Competition and look forward to seeing you put IHL into practice. Both the application process and the competition rounds will simulate a wide range of professional roles and contexts, rigorously testing your knowledge and application of the law. While the competition is a simulation, your participation places you among the vanguard of professionals shaping the future of IHL.

I wish you the best of luck in your endeavors!

All the best,

Benjamin E. Crawford

Benjamin E. Crawford
Chairperson, Clara Barton Commission



CLARA BARTON

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION

14TH ANNIVERSARY

TEAM REGISTRATION FORM



**American
Red Cross**

International
Humanitarian Law

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Clara Barton Competition is open to students currently pursuing Juris Doctor (J.D.), Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.), or Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees at law schools in North, Central, and South America, as well as students attending U.S. military academies.

Students from outside these geographical areas may apply, pursuant to the discretion of the Clara Barton Commission. Questions regarding eligibility for the Competition shall be directed to the Commission at clarabartonihl@redcross.org.

The Competition will take place March 5-7, 2027, in-person at the American Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The application deadline is December 4, 2026, at 11:59 PM (Eastern US Time).

Lodging for student team members from teams traveling from outside the DC area will NOT be provided by the Commission. Some recommended hotels that are located near the competition are: Courtyard by Marriott (Foggy Bottom), State Plaza Hotel, or Club Quarters Hotel.

Full competition rules can be found at clarabartoncompetition.org. All interested teams are required to comply with the following:

Team Composition:

Teams are composed of no more than three members. No person who has competed in a previous year is allowed to compete again. A team may elect to designate one alternate team member who can join the team if a member becomes unavailable before the event. Teams should notify the Commission of any changes to team composition as soon as possible prior to the Competition. Multiple teams from a single educational institution may apply.

Application to Complete:

All teams must submit a complete application packet prior to the application deadline to be considered. There is no application fee. **The application packet consists of the registration forms and your evaluation question answers, which should be submitted as two separate PDF files.** The evaluation questions must be completed only by members of the team; no external assistance is allowed. Applications will be evaluated based on the criteria stated in the competition rules.

Evaluation Questions:

Each team must analyze the two legal scenarios contained in the hypothetical portions below and answer the questions posed therein. The team's answers should be submitted as one combined document, not to exceed 1500 words per scenario, excluding citations. **Each answer should include a posted word count in the heading.** The answers should be double spaced, size twelve (12) Times New Roman font, with one (1) inch margins. **Except for the file name, the answers document must not contain any information identifying the team's members or school.** If citations are used, they may be in any format if the format selected is consistent.

Participation Fee:

Teams that are accepted to participate in the competition will be required to submit a \$1,100 participation fee. If a team is unable to pay this fee, it must submit the hardship waiver request (found in this application packet) with their application documents explaining its good faith request for waiver of the fee.

Information on how to pay this fee by card or check will be provided to you in your team's participation invitation.

**All application materials must be
submitted to the Clara Barton
Commission via email:
ClaraBartonHL@redcross.org
by 11:59 PM (Eastern US Time)
on December 11, 2026.**

Participation invitations will be distributed
no later than December 31, 2026.

By submitting this application packet, all applicants certify that the information provided in this application packet and any supporting documentation is complete and correct to the best of each applicant's knowledge and belief. Each applicant agrees to provide updated information if answers to any of the application questions should change between now and the beginning of the Competition.

REGISTRATION FORMS:

Academic Institution

Name of Institution: _____

Address: _____

Program (J.D.; LL.B; LL.M; Military): _____

Faculty Advisors, Coaches, or Sponsors

Name: _____

Position: _____

Relation to Team: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Relation to Team: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Relation to Team: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:

Participant One:

Personal Information

Name: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month/Year): _____

Education

Name of Academic Institution: _____

Degree: _____



Relevant IHL Course Experience

1. Course: _____

Semester & Year: _____

2. Course: _____

Semester & Year: _____

3. Course: _____

Semester & Year: _____

4. Course: _____

Semester & Year: _____

5. Course: _____

Semester & Year: _____

Competition Experience

1. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):

2. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):

3. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):

Participant Two:

Personal Information

Name: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month/Year): _____

Education

Name of Academic Institution: _____

Degree: _____

Relevant IHL Course Experience

1. Course: _____

Semester & Year: _____



2. Course: _____
Semester & Year: _____

3. Course: _____
Semester & Year: _____

4. Course: _____
Semester & Year: _____

5. Course: _____
Semester & Year: _____

Competition Experience

1. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):

2. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):

3. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):

Participant Three:

Personal Information

Name: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month/Year): _____

Education

Name of Academic Institution: _____

Degree: _____

Relevant IHL Course Experience

1. Course: _____
Semester & Year: _____

2. Course: _____
Semester & Year: _____



3. Course: _____
Semester & Year: _____

4. Course: _____
Semester & Year: _____

5. Course: _____
Semester & Year: _____

Competition Experience

1. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):

2. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):

3. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):

Alternate:

Personal Information

Name: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month/Year): _____

Education

Name of Academic Institution: _____

Degree: _____

Relevant IHL Course Experience

1. Course: _____

Semester & Year: _____

2. Course: _____

Semester & Year: _____

3. Course: _____

Semester & Year: _____



4. Course: _____
Semester & Year: _____

5. Course: _____
Semester & Year: _____

Competition Experience

1. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):

2. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):

3. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):



HARDSHIP WAIVER REQUEST (PARTICIPATION FEE):

The Commission does not want cost issues to preclude a team from participating in the Competition. If a team is unable to pay this fee, the team may submit a request for a hardship waiver. The request for waiver must be submitted with the application documents and contain an explanation for the team's good faith request for waiver of the fee. There is no guarantee that the Commission will be able to grant hardship waivers, but all waiver requests will be considered and evaluated.

Name of applicants:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Name of institution: _____

Date of request: _____

Reason for requesting waiver of application fee: Please submit reasoning as a separate word document alongside the application.

Signature of Faculty Sponsor

(Print Name)
(Signature)
(Email)

I have reviewed the request for waiver and support the request based on the reasons stated.

Signature of Dean of Students

(Print Name)
(Signature)
(Email)

I have reviewed the request for waiver and support the request based on the reasons stated.

By submitting this hardship waiver, all applicants certify that the information provided in this request and any supporting documentation is complete and correct to the best of each applicant's knowledge and belief.

Each applicant agrees to provide updated information if answers to any of the waiver questions change between the date of submission and the beginning of the Competition.



HARDSHIP ALLOWANCE REQUEST (LODGING):

The Commission does not want cost issues to preclude a team from participating in the Competition. If a team is unable to pay for lodging, the team may submit a request for a hardship allowance. The request for an allowance must be submitted with the application documents and contain an explanation for the team's good faith request for an allowance for lodging expenses. There is no guarantee that the Commission will be able to grant hardship allowances, but all allowance requests will be considered and evaluated.

Name of applicants:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name of institution: _____

Date of request: _____

Reason for requesting hardship allowance: Please submit reasoning as a separate word document alongside the application.

Signature of Faculty Sponsor

_____ (Print Name)
_____ (Signature)
_____ (Email)

I have reviewed the request for allowance and support the request based on the reasons stated.

Signature of Dean of Students

_____ (Print Name)
_____ (Signature)
_____ (Email)

I have reviewed the request for allowance and support the request based on the reasons stated.

By submitting this hardship allowance request, all applicants certify that the information provided in this request and any supporting documentation is complete and correct to the best of each applicant's knowledge and belief.

Each applicant agrees to provide updated information if answers to any of the grant questions change between the date of submission and the beginning of the Competition





CLARA BARTON
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION
14TH ANNIVERSARY

HYPOTHETICAL PORTION



**American
Red Cross**

International
Humanitarian Law

Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts

GC I-IV	Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field. Geneva, 1949. Convention (II) for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea. Geneva, 1949. Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. Geneva, 1949. Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, 1949.
AP I	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts. Geneva, 1977.
AP II	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts. 1977.
AP III	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem. Geneva, 2005.
CRC & Opt. Prot.	Convention on the Rights of the Child. New York, 1989. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. New York, 2000.

International Organizations

UN Charter	Charter of the United Nations, San Francisco, 1945.
ICC Statute	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Rome, 1998.

Rights and Duties on Land & Sea

Hague Cv. IV	Laws and Customs of War on Land, Den Haag, 1907.
Hague Cv. V	Respecting the Rights and Duties of Neutral Powers and Persons in Case of War on Land, Den Haag, 1907.
Hague Cv. XIII	Concerning the Rights and Duties of Neutral Powers in Naval War, Den Haag, 1907.

Protection of Cultural Property

Hague Cv.	Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Den Haag, 1954.
Hague Prot.	Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, Den Haag, 1954.
Hague Prot. II	Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, Den Haag, 1999.



**American
Red Cross**

International
Humanitarian Law

Miscellaneous

ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. New York, 1966.
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, 1966.
CAT & Opt. Prot.	Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984. Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 2002.
Vienna Conv.	Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969.
Gen. Conv.	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948.
UNCLOS	U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982.
ENMOD	Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (ENMOD), 1976.
Outer Space	Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 1967.

Weapons Conventions

BWC	Conv. On the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. 1972.
CCW Prot. I Prot. II Prot. III Prot. IV Prot. IIa Prot. V	Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects. Geneva, 1980. Protocol on non-detectable Fragments (I). Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and Other Devices (I). Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (III). Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons. Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996. Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War. 2003.
CWC	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. Paris 1993.
AP Mine	Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. 1997.
Cluster	Convention on Cluster Munitions. 2008.
UN ATT	Arms Trade Treaty 24 December 2014.
Gas. Prot.	Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare. Geneva, 1925.



	Harpany	Kaedern	Shawga
GC I-IV	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
AP I	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
AP II	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
AP III	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
CRC	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
Opt. Prot.	Ratified	Ratified	Signed
UN Charter	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
Rome Statute (ICC)	Ratified		Ratified
Hague Cv. IV	Ratified	Ratified	
Hague Cv. V	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
Hague Cv. XIII	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
Hague Cv.	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
Hague Prot.		Ratified	
Hague Prot. II		Ratified	Signed
ICCPR	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
ICESR	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
CAT	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
CAT Opt. Prot.	Ratified	Signed	Signed
Vienna Cv.	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
UNCLOS	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
Gen. Conv.	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
Gas Prot.	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
BWC	Signed	Ratified	Ratified
CCW	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
Prot. I	Ratified	Ratified	Signed
Prot. II			
Prot. III	Ratified	Signed	Ratified
Prot. IV	Ratified	Ratified	
Prot. IIa		Ratified	Ratified
Prot. V	Signed	Ratified	
CWC		Ratified	Ratified
AP Mine	Ratified		Ratified
Cluster			Ratified
ATT	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
ENMOD	Ratified	Signed	Signed
Outer Space	Ratified	Ratified	





War Breaks Out Between Harpany and Kaedern

By The Guardian Investigative Team

Date: August 1, 2026

Armed conflict broke out today between Kaedern and Harpany following years of escalating tensions over disputed border territories and increasingly hostile trade relations.

Fighting reportedly began along a contested northern border crossing, where both nations claim sovereignty over sections of land. Each government accused the other of initiating the conflict, though independent verification remains unavailable.

The outbreak follows decades of disagreement over border demarcation and a series of fractured trade agreements that repeatedly strained relations. Kaedern has accused Harpany of imposing unfair restrictions on its exports, while Harpany claims Kaedern's economic policies have harmed Harpanian industries.

Military units from both countries have mobilized along the frontier, and residents in nearby communities reported hearing artillery fire and seeing troop movements throughout the day. Casualty figures have not yet been released.

Regional leaders have called for restraint and urged both nations to return to diplomatic negotiations. However, with military operations continuing and long-standing grievances unresolved, analysts warn the confrontation could develop into a wider conflict.

"This has been building for years," said regional security analyst Talia Voss. "The border dispute and deteriorating economic relationship created conditions where even a small incident could trigger a much larger crisis."

As international observers monitor the situation, fears are growing that the conflict marks the beginning of a prolonged period of instability between the two neighboring states.



CLARA BARTON
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION
14TH ANNIVERSARY

PROMPT ONE



**American
Red Cross**

International
Humanitarian Law

ARGUS-1 - Pre-Strike Legal Review

 **Col. Mara Ives**
To: Office of the Legal Advisor, NSOC

😊 ↩ ↶ ↷ ...
Mon 08/24/2026 8:37 AM

Team,

Three weeks in, Harpany’s ARGUS-1 satellite has been one of the most effective tools in their intelligence arsenal, providing them an unacceptable advantage on the battlefield. The targeting board has decided to remove the ARGUS-1 from play and need you to weigh in on the legality of our options. I’ve attached the available public information, our internal intelligence reports, and our proposed strike options below. The board meets in two days. Before it does, I need you to answer the following questions:

1. By what body or bodies of law is an operation against ARGUS-1 governed by, and, if more than one, how do they fit together?
2. Of our strike options, which, if any, is considered to be an attack, which one(s) may we lawfully pursue, and on what conditions?

Keep your responses to a total of 1,500 words for both these questions.

Thanks,
Col. Ives
National Space Operations Command

↩ Reply ↷ Forward

ONE SATELLITE, TWO JOBS: WHY ARGUS-1 HAS BECOME THE QUIET FRONT OF A WIDENING WAR

AUGUST 16, 2026

For the vast majority of people across Lahine, ARGUS-1 is invisible infrastructure – the reason a fishing vessel off the southern coast knows exactly where it is, the reason regional airliners hold a steady track through crowded corridors, the reason a farmer three countries away gets a reliable frost warning. Few of the millions who depend on its signals could tell you it exists. Fewer still know it is also a military asset in the ongoing Harpanian-Kaedish war.

Launched two years ago by Harpany's national space service, ARGUS-1 was presented to the public as a civilian good: a single platform carrying a wide-area navigation and timing service and a weather and earth-observation package, both broadcast openly for anyone with a receiver. Aviation authorities and shipping registries in at least six neighboring states – several with no part at all in the current conflict – folded the ARGUS feeds into their own systems years ago.

What was less advertised sits on the same spacecraft. Alongside the civilian payloads, ARGUS-1 carries an encrypted military communications relay and, according to defense analysts, a tasking link that helps Harpany's forces move surveillance data through the kill chain faster at lightning speed. "It's incredibly efficient," said one independent space-systems researcher. "The weather camera and the war-fighting relay are bolted to the same frame, drawing on the same power, in the same orbit. You cannot switch off one half without touching the other."

That entanglement is now the problem. Kaedern has publicly accused Harpany of "hiding a weapon behind a weather satellite," and Harpany has accused Kaedern of preparing to "blind" the region by going after the platform. Both governments know that whatever happens to ARGUS-1 in orbit will be felt on the ground – in cockpits and on bridges far from the front, and possibly among the growing crowd of other satellites sharing its neighborhood in space.

Harpany's space service declined to discuss operational matters, saying only that ARGUS-1 "remains fully operational and under national control."

Adrian Tau reporting. Contact at a.tau@meridianwire.com .



ARGUS-1 ORBITAL PLATFORM

Kaedern National Space Service - Platform Data Report

Specifications:

- Designation: ARGUS-1 (dual-payload orbital platform)
- Operator / owner: Harpany National Space Service (state-operated)
- Registration: Registered to Harpany
- Orbit: Near-circular, ~1,200 km altitude (low Earth orbit, upper band)
- Payload A - Military: Encrypted communications relay; forces-tasking / data-relay channel supporting intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and targeting
- Payload B - Civilian: Wide-area navigation & timing augmentation feed (open broadcast)
- Payload C - Civilian: Weather & earth-observation downlink (open broadcast)
- Bus: Single shared bus - common power, structure, and station-keeping serve all three payloads
- Known civilian users: Regional civil aviation and maritime authorities, incl. operators of non-belligerent States

ARGUS-1 is a single spacecraft carrying both military and civilian payloads. Its military relay moves encrypted traffic and helps route surveillance data through Harpany's targeting operations. Its two civilian payloads broadcast openly and are relied upon for navigation, timing, and weather across the region, including by users in States taking no part in the conflict. Because all payloads share one structure, one power supply, and one orbit, the platform cannot be partially disabled by physical means without affecting the whole. Its orbit sits in the upper band of low Earth orbit.



SECRET // NSOC INTELLIGENCE // REL KAEDERN

— NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION BEYOND THE TARGETING BOARD —

Subject: ARGUS-1 – adversary counter-space activity and response options

Prepared for: Targeting Board / Office of the Legal Advisor

Prepared by: NSOC J2 (Intelligence)

1. Situation. Harpany is using ARGUS-1's military relay to accelerate its targeting cycle against our forces, routing surveillance data through the platform faster than its ground networks alone would allow. The relay's contribution has grown as the fighting has intensified. ARGUS-1's civilian payload, including navigation, timing, and weather services, continue to broadcast openly. Our assessment is that degrading or meaningfully denying the relay would measurably slow Harpany's operations and provide a notable combat advantage to our forces.

2. Response options under consideration. The board has asked J2 to lay out the technically available means of degrading or denying ARGUS-1's military function. Four are on the table:

(a) Kinetic intercept. A direct-ascent interceptor against ARGUS-1. Highest certainty of a hard kill. Produces a debris field in the platform's orbital band; that band is densely populated with other spacecraft.

(b) Cyber operation. Intrusion to corrupt or disable the military payload's software or data. Potentially reversible; effects may or may not stay confined to the intended payload and affect other ARGUS-1 systems on the bus.

(c) High-power jamming. Electronic denial of the relevant uplink/downlink. No physical damage; effect lasts only as long as the jamming, though terrestrial signal loss may outlast it. Affects every system using that frequency in jamming range.

(d) Orbital repositioning. Commanding – or forcing – a change to orbital parameters to move ARGUS-1 out of useful position. Degrades function without destruction; feasibility depends on access and control.

3. Note. Options are presented for legal and operational assessment. J2 takes no position on selection. All four are believed technically feasible within the relevant window.



CLARA BARTON

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION

14TH ANNIVERSARY

PROMPT TWO



**American
Red Cross**

International
Humanitarian Law

Munitions Strike Fallout Analysis



Irina Petrova

To: legalconsults@lahineherald.com

😊 ↩️ ↶️ ↷️ ⋮

Mon 08/24/2026 12:16 PM

Hi all,

Hope your week is off to a good start. As you know, the ongoing conflict between Harpany and Kaedern has escalated again with the Harpanian attack against the Phagian Munitions Plant in northern Kaedern this past weekend. As the attack and its ripple effects have drawn global attention, we want to publish an analysis as soon as possible.

Please consult the attached reports to answer the following questions to help our team better understand the legal implications of these new developments.

1. What are the legal implications of Harpany's attack under international humanitarian law?
2. What must Shawga do with respect to the detained Harpanian soldiers in to maintain its neutrality?

In light of our tight timeline, please limit your analysis to 1500 words.

Thanks,
Irina Petrova
Chief Editor, International Affairs

↩️ Reply

↷️ Forward

WORLD NEWS

Harpany Special Forces Strike Destroys Phagian Munitions Plant in Northern Kaedern

By Yao Li-Jie, Associated Press

22 Aug 2026 - In a dramatic escalation of the ongoing conflict between Harpany and Kaedern, Harpany's military announced today that a special forces operation successfully destroyed the Phagian Munitions Plant, a major weapons production facility located deep within Kaedern's northern wetland region.

According to preliminary reports from both governments and independent observers, a small Harpany special operations team infiltrated the heavily guarded industrial complex during the early hours of the morning. The operatives allegedly planted a series of demolition charges at critical points throughout the facility before withdrawing undetected.

Military analysts say the resulting explosion far exceeded the destructive power of the planted explosives alone. Investigators believe the charges triggered a chain reaction involving large stockpiles of propellants, explosives, and unfinished munitions stored across multiple production buildings.

"The blast expanded at an accelerating rate as successive storage areas ignited," said defense analyst Rena Volkov. "What began as a localized detonation evolved into an enormous cascading explosion as the facility's own materials became part of the reaction."

Witnesses reported seeing a towering column of fire and smoke visible from more than 80 kilometers away. Satellite imagery released several hours after the strike appeared to show that the majority of the sprawling industrial site had been reduced to rubble. Secondary explosions reportedly continued throughout the day as remaining ammunition stocks detonated intermittently. The Phagian Munitions Plant occupied a controversial location within the North Marrow Wetlands, an internationally renowned ecological region celebrated for its extraordinary biodiversity. The wetlands are home to hundreds of endemic species, including rare amphibians, migratory birds, aquatic mammals, and several plant life forms found nowhere else in the world. Environmental organizations expressed alarm over the potential ecological consequences of the strike.

WORLD NEWS

Harpany Special Forces Strike Destroys Phagian Munitions Plant in Northern Kaedern

"The destruction of the facility is one issue, but the release of industrial chemicals, heavy metals, fuel products, and combustion residues into such a sensitive environment could have lasting consequences," said a spokesperson for the International Wetlands Conservation Network. "This region represents one of the most unique ecosystems on the planet." Scientists are particularly concerned about contamination spreading through the network of river tributaries that wind through the wetlands. The plant relied heavily on hydroelectric power generated from these waterways, which feed a larger river system flowing southward into Kaedern's agricultural heartland.

Hydrologists warned that debris and pollutants from the destruction could travel downstream, potentially affecting irrigation systems, fisheries, and farmland relied upon by thousands of Kaedish farming communities. "The river channels are deeply interconnected," explained environmental scientist Dr. Eva Stratt. "Anything introduced into the northern tributaries has the potential to move gradually south through wetlands, reservoirs, and agricultural districts. Monitoring efforts will be critical in the coming weeks."

Kaedern's government condemned the operation and confirmed significant damage to military-industrial infrastructure but declined to estimate the full extent of losses. Emergency crews remained at the site throughout the day combating fires and assessing environmental hazards. Harpany, meanwhile, characterized the raid as a precision military operation aimed at degrading Kaedern's weapons manufacturing capability. Government representatives stated that planners sought to minimize civilian casualties, though they acknowledged ongoing uncertainty regarding environmental impacts.

Beyond its military significance, the incident has raised urgent questions about the vulnerability of critical ecological regions situated near strategic industrial facilities. For now, investigators continue to assess the extent of damage across the wetlands and downstream waterways, while residents in southern agricultural districts await further information about possible environmental effects from one of the most consequential strikes of the war.

[READ MORE](#)



PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SUMMARY

NORTH MARROW WETLANDS, KAEDERN

INTERNATIONAL WETLANDS CONSERVATIONS NETWORK

August 24, 2026

The destruction of the Phagian Munitions Plant has caused severe environmental damage across the North Marrow Wetlands, one of Kaedern's most biodiverse natural regions. In the immediate aftermath of the explosion, scientists have documented widespread habitat destruction, significant wildlife mortality, and extensive pollution of air and water resources.

The explosion and resulting fires devastated several square kilometers of wetlands surrounding the facility. Marsh vegetation, nesting grounds, and riparian forests were heavily damaged, leaving many species without shelter or breeding habitat. Large numbers of birds, fish, amphibians, and small mammals are believed to have been killed by the blast, fires, and subsequent contamination.

Environmental monitoring has detected pollution from industrial chemicals, fuel products, explosive residues, and heavy metals entering nearby waterways. Several tributaries show signs of contamination, including oil sheens, discolored water, and fish kills. These waterways feed larger river systems that flow south through agricultural regions of Kaedern, raising concerns about future impacts on farmland and drinking water supplies.

Scientists are also warning of potential groundwater contamination. The wetlands' shallow water table and permeable soils may allow pollutants to spread beneath the surface, creating long-term environmental risks that could persist for years.

Human health concerns have emerged among nearby communities. Residents have reported respiratory irritation, headaches, and eye discomfort associated with smoke and airborne pollutants. Authorities have advised against consuming fish or using untreated water from affected waterways until further testing is completed.

Researchers caution that while the full extent of the damage remains unknown, the North Marrow Wetlands are facing a major ecological crisis. Recovery of affected habitats and wildlife populations could take decades, particularly if contamination continues to spread through the region's interconnected river and groundwater systems.

Harpanian Commandos Detained in Neutral Shawga After Cross-Border Escape

RYLAND GRACE 8.23.26
CONTRIBUTOR

A group of Harpanian special forces soldiers allegedly involved in the destruction of Kaedern's Phagian Munitions Plant has been detained by the military of neighboring Shawga after crossing into the neutral country during their escape, Shawgan officials confirmed yesterday.

According to a statement released by Shawga's Ministry of Defense, a contingent of armed personnel entered Shawgan territory approximately 24 hours after the attack on the Phagian facility. Border patrol units intercepted the group in a remote forested region near the Kaedern-Shawga frontier and took them into custody without reported casualties. Shawgan authorities stated that the soldiers were carrying military equipment and identified themselves as members of Harpany's armed forces.

"The Government of Shawga remains committed to strict neutrality in the conflict between Kaedern and Harpany," the statement read. "Any armed forces crossing onto Shawgan territory will be treated in accordance with national law and international obligations."

Military analysts believe the team may have fled westward after their planned extraction route became compromised amid heightened Kaedish security operations following the destruction of the Phagian plant. The strike, which triggered a massive explosion and the loss of the facility, has become one of the most consequential operations of the conflict to date.

Kaedern's government welcomed the detentions and formally requested access to question the captured personnel regarding the attack. Shawga, however, indicated that the soldiers would remain under Shawgan jurisdiction and that no decision had been made regarding any future legal or diplomatic actions.

Meanwhile, Harpany acknowledged that a number of its service members had entered Shawga but called on the neutral state to ensure their humane treatment and eventual repatriation after the conflict.

The incident has placed Shawga in an increasingly delicate diplomatic position. While maintaining its neutrality, the country now finds itself hosting military personnel from one of the belligerent states, raising concerns that the conflict between Kaedern and Harpany may continue to spill beyond their shared borders.

Additional Shawgan forces have reportedly been deployed to the frontier to prevent further unauthorized crossings as fighting continues elsewhere along the Kaedern-Harpany border.



**American
Red Cross**

International
Humanitarian Law