



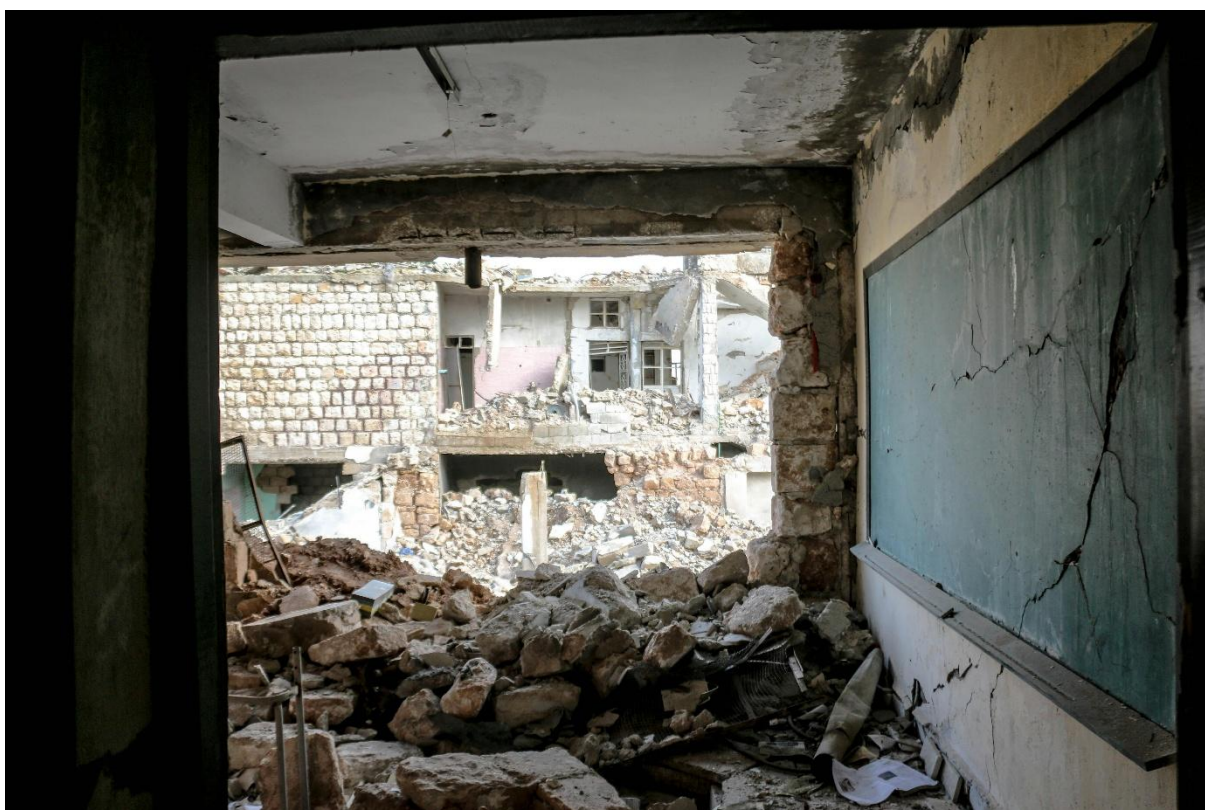
COMMISSION NATIONALE
CONSULTATIVE
DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

Statement
D – 2026 – 2

Regarding the conflict in the Middle East. Statement by the CNC DH

16 April 2026



The CNCDH's statement regarding the conflict in the Middle East was adopted unanimously, with two abstentions, at the Plenary Assembly on 16 April 2026.

Introduction

1. On 28 February 2026, the United States of America and Israel launched the first strikes against Iranian infrastructure and leaders. Since then, the Islamic Republic of Iran has not only retaliated by targeting various countries in the region, but the conflict has taken on an even broader dimension, notably with the involvement of European Union member states, including France, and an extension to Lebanon, all while the armed conflict affecting the Occupied Palestinian Territories persists, and even worsens.

2. On 7 April 2026, a two-week ceasefire agreement was announced between the United States of America and Israel, on the one side, and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the other. This agreement did not bring about a cessation of hostilities in Lebanon. To date, most scenarios anticipate the continuation of a high-intensity armed conflict at the regional level.

The Prohibition of the Use of Force

3. It is undeniable that by initiating strikes against Iranian infrastructure and leaders, the United States and Israel violated the United Nations Charter, which establishes the principle prohibiting the use of force between states. It is equally undeniable that these strikes did not fall within the scope of the exceptions to this principle.

4. In this context of complete denial of international law and total lack of justification, to state, as the French Government spokesperson did, that “*clearly, this was not covered by international law*”¹ or, in the words of the President of the Republic, that these operations “*were conducted outside the framework of international law, which we cannot approve of*”, is insufficient². The CNCDH recommends that the French authorities firmly denounce an armed aggression contrary to the United Nations Charter (**Recommendation No. 1**).

5. The CNCDH further recalls that any State “*which aids or assists another State in the commission of an internationally wrongful act by the latter is internationally responsible for doing so if [t]hat State does so with knowledge of the circumstances of the internationally wrongful act [...]*”³. The CNCDH is therefore deeply concerned by statements according to which France would be ready to assist its partners, particularly in the defence of their territory and security⁴. The CNCDH recommends that France ensure it does not place itself in a position of aiding or assisting the commission of any internationally wrongful act, especially when it involves a peremptory norm of international law (**Recommendation No. 2**).

¹. RTL, [“Death of Khamenei: On RTL, Maud Bregeon states that France ‘can only welcome the death’ of the ‘bloodthirsty dictator’”](#) [in French], 1st March 2026 (free translation).

². Élysée, [“Address to the French people on the situation in Iran and the Middle East”](#) [in French], 3 March 2026 (free translation).

³. International Law Commission, *Draft Articles on State Responsibility for Internationally Wrongful Acts*, 2001, Article 16 (annexed to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 56/83).

⁴. For example: RTL, [“Death of Khamenei: On RTL, Maud Bregeon believes that France ‘can only welcome the death’ of the ‘bloodthirsty dictator’”](#) [in French], 1st March 2026. See, in the same vein: Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, [“Situation in the Middle East and the safety of French nationals – Press conference by Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, following the crisis meeting held at the Quai d’Orsay”](#) [in French], 2 March 2026; Élysée, [“Address to the French People on the situation in Iran and the Middle East”](#) [in French], 3 March 2026.

International Humanitarian Law

6. Beyond considerations related to the prohibition of the use of force, the situation qualifies as an international armed conflict under international humanitarian law. The CNCDH is the national commission on international humanitarian law in France. In this capacity, its mission is to ensure that the obligation to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law, which stems from Common Article 1 of the four 1949 Geneva Conventions, is effectively implemented. It is within this context that the present statement is issued.

7. Applicable during armed conflicts, international humanitarian law consists, on the one hand, of rules relating to the protection of persons who have fallen into enemy hands, as articulated primarily in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their First Additional Protocol of 1977 with regard to international armed conflicts and, on the other hand, of rules relating to the conduct of hostilities, now summarised in the First Additional Protocol of 1977, most of which are of a customary nature. All of these rules, to which France is a party, are applicable in the present conflict.

8. As a preliminary point, the CNCDH recalls that the defensive or offensive nature of a military operation has no bearing on applicable law. Any act of violence against the adversary, regardless of its nature, is covered by the law on the conduct of hostilities. Thus, France, which:

- has deployed its fleet through a full carrier strike group, “to support its partners and allies with whom it has defence agreements”⁵;
- has sent additional air capabilities and surface-to-air defence systems to contribute to the protection of the airspace of its Gulf partners⁶;
- is participating in the daily interception of missiles and drones⁷;
- is providing access to its military base in Istres for U.S. military support aircraft⁸; and
- has suffered losses⁹

is, contrary to what has been asserted¹⁰, engaged in this conflict and is bound by the application of the relevant rules of international humanitarian law where they apply.

9. Furthermore, given the nature of the strikes and their widespread effects, the CNCDH wishes to emphasise the following points, with a view to bringing them to the attention of the French authorities which, in accordance with their obligation to ensure respect for international humanitarian law, should do everything in their power to prevent them or bring them to an end.

Attacks on objects enjoying special protection

10. Under the rules governing the conduct of hostilities in international humanitarian law, parties to the conflict must at all times distinguish between civilians and combatants, and between civilian

⁵. Ministry for the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs, “[The Carrier Strike Group: A Strategic Tool of French Military Power](#)” [in French], 13 March 2026 (free translation).

⁶. Government, “[Statement by Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu on the situation in the Near and Middle East pursuant to Article 50-1 of the Constitution](#)” [in French], 25 March 2026 (free translation). See the transcript of the National Assembly debate available [in French] at https://videos.assemblee-nationale.fr/video.18478866_69c3d8fd65f64?timecode=9189870.

⁷. RTL, “[Speech by Emmanuel Macron: General Vincent Desportes is Jérôme Florin’s guest](#)” [in French], 4 March 2026.

⁸. France Info, “[U.S. aircraft not participating in operations in Iran ‘accepted’ at the French base in Istres](#)” [in French], 5 March 2026.

⁹. France Info, “[The remains of the French soldier killed in Iraqi Kurdistan and the six soldiers wounded in the same drone strike have been repatriated to France](#)” [in French], 14 March 2026.

¹⁰. Although, regarding the specific context of protecting the Strait of Hormuz, the Prime Minister did indeed state: “France is not a party to the conflict. It will not participate in military operations to open the strait by force. It will not allow itself to be drawn into a war it has not chosen” (Government, “[Statement by Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu on the situation in the Near and Middle East pursuant to Article 50-1 of the Constitution](#)” [in French], 25 March 2026 (free translation)).

objects and military objectives, as attacks may only be directed against the latter. Moreover, due to their specific characteristics, certain objects enjoy special protection. This is particularly the case for works containing dangerous forces, the natural environment, objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, and medical facilities. This means that, even if they were to become military objectives, because they would make an effective contribution to military action, for example due to their location or use, and because their destruction would provide a definite military advantage in that instance - such objects may not be attacked, or for some only after additional precautions have been taken.

11. This applies for instance to oil installations. These can be regarded as works containing dangerous forces¹¹, which require that special precautions be taken due to the severe losses their targeting may cause among the civilian population. Additionally, attacks on oil installations are likely to cause widespread, long-term, and severe damage to the natural environment, which is prohibited. As for desalination plants, they fall within the category of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population. It is prohibited to attack, destroy, remove, or render them useless. Finally, as previously noted by the CNCDH¹², medical facilities enjoy one of the highest levels of protection under international humanitarian law. They may only be attacked if three cumulative conditions are met: they are used to commit an act harmful to the enemy, they have been the subject of a warning that went unheeded, and they have become a military objective.

12. The CNCDH recommends that whenever such an attack occurs, France reaffirm its commitment to these rules, which now form part of customary international law, and undertake all diplomatic, political, or other measures to prevent them or bring them to an end, particularly with respect to its partners (**Recommendation No. 3**).

Forced Displacement of Populations

13. In Iran, between 600,000 and 1 million households (up to 3.2 million people) are internally displaced¹³. In Lebanon, more than 1 million displaced persons have been registered, of whom only 136,000 are housed in collective shelters¹⁴; this situation risks further exacerbating the deep political and social crisis in a country that already hosts many refugees and displaced persons. Furthermore, according to the International Organisation for Migration, more than 30,000 migrants have been displaced throughout the region, and most no longer have access to humanitarian assistance¹⁵.

14. The CNCDH recalls that the displacement of populations is strictly governed by international humanitarian law¹⁶. In particular, every possible measure must be taken to ensure that the civilians concerned are provided with satisfactory conditions of shelter, hygiene, health, safety, and nutrition, and that members of the same family are not separated. Furthermore, the property rights of displaced persons must be respected, and they have the right to voluntary return in safety to their homes as

¹¹. Rule 42 of [the ICRC Study on Customary International Humanitarian Law](#); ICRC, [Guidelines on the Protection of the Natural Environment in Armed Conflict](#), March 2022, § 162, p. 75.

¹². See, in particular: CNCDH, [Statement "Reminder of the fundamental rules of International Humanitarian Law applicable in the context of the conflict between Hamas, other armed groups, and Israel"](#), Plenary Assembly of 30 November 2023, JORF No. 0283 of 7 December 2023, Text No. 177, §11.

¹³. United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), ["UNHCR: Up to 3.2 million Iranians temporarily displaced in Iran as conflict intensifies"](#), 12 March 2026. See the [UNHCR database](#) on the situation in the Middle East for the latest figures on population displacement.

¹⁴. UNHCR, ["UNHCR calls for urgent support in Lebanon as humanitarian catastrophe looms"](#), 30 March 2026.

¹⁵. International Organisation for Migration (IOM), [Flash Appeal. Crisis response](#), March–May 2026.

¹⁶. These obligations are supplemented by other bodies of law. See, for example, regarding persons displaced in connection with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), Grand Chamber, judgment of 16 June 2015, [Chiragov and Others v. Armenia](#), No. 13216/05; ECHR, Grand Chamber, judgment of 16 June 2015, [Sarqsyanyan v. Azerbaijan](#), No. 40167/06.

soon as the reasons for their displacement cease to exist. All of these rules apply when population displacements result from evacuation orders. In this regard, the CNCDH reiterates that evacuations are, by their very nature, extreme measures that may be ordered only as a last resort and only in cases where the security of civilians or military imperatives so require, that is, when the party to the conflict concerned has no other choice but to order them. They can only be limited in both geographical scope and duration. Finally, when such displacements constitute deportation or forcible transfer of population, or when the displacement of the civilian population is ordered for reasons related to the conflict but without imperative military reasons so requiring, these constitute war crimes.

15. The CNCDH recommends that, whenever displacements of population are taking place, France reaffirm its commitment to these rules, which now form part of customary international law, and undertake all diplomatic, political, or other measures to prevent them or bring them to an end (**Recommendation No. 4**).

Attacks on schools

16. The CNCDH is deeply concerned by the silence of French authorities when the Minab school was the target of a direct attack on the first day of the conflict, causing 168 deaths among the civilian population, including at least 110 pupils¹⁷. France has endorsed the 2015 Safe Schools Declaration¹⁸. While this Declaration does not in itself create legal obligations, it expresses political support for the protection of students, teachers, schools, and universities from attacks during armed conflict and underscores the importance of ensuring the continuity of education during armed conflict. By endorsing it, States commit to incorporating its provisions into their domestic law. They should also promote its content. The CNCDH recommends that French authorities condemn the attack on the Minab school in the strongest possible terms and take all measures at their disposal to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice (**Recommendation No. 5**).

Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas

17. Given their devastating impact on civilians and civilian objects, the use of explosive weapons in populated areas is the subject of a Declaration¹⁹ aimed at developing a set of good practices to ensure better protection of civilians during military operations in populated areas. France signed this Declaration on 18 November 2022²⁰. This text aims to encourage States to adapt their operational procedures and practices so as to strengthen the protection of civilian populations during military operations in urban areas. In particular, it states that commanders may decide to refrain from using explosive weapons in populated areas where there is a risk to civilians or civilian objects. The CNCDH, while referring the French authorities to its 24 June 2021 Statement on this issue²¹, recommends that they condemn the shelling²² of populated urban areas (**Recommendation No. 6**).

¹⁷. Amnesty International, "[USA/Iran: Those responsible for deadly and unlawful US strike on school that killed over 100 children must be held accountable](#)", 16 March 2026.

¹⁸. The [Safe Schools Declaration](#), adopted in May 2015 in Oslo. France endorsed this declaration in February 2017 (see the list of States available on the website of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack: <https://ssd.protectingeducation.org/endorsement/>).

¹⁹. [Political Declaration on strengthening the protection of civilians from the humanitarian consequences of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas \(EWIPA\)](#), adopted in Dublin on 18 November 2022.

²⁰. [Statement by the Permanent Mission of France to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva during the signing ceremony in Dublin](#) [in French], on 18 November 2022. See also [France's statement at the latest EWIPA follow-up conference](#) [in French], delivered on 19 November 2025.

²¹. CNCDH, [Statement calling for an ambitious political commitment regarding explosive weapons in populated areas](#) [in French], Plenary Assembly of 24 June 2021, JORF No. 0154 of 4 July 2021, text No. 35.

²². See, in particular: UN Info, "[Middle East Live 9 April: UN condemns massive strikes in Lebanon, as concerns grow over ceasefire](#)", 9 April 2026; ICRC, "[Lebanon: ICRC outraged by deadly strikes in densely populated areas](#)", 8 April 2026.

Attacks on humanitarian personnel

18. The CNCDH has issued numerous opinions and statements in which it has reiterated the special protections afforded to humanitarian personnel under international humanitarian law²³. These protections continue to be regularly violated²⁴. The CNCDH can only reiterate the fundamental nature of this protection and the need for France to denounce more systematically the attacks to which humanitarian personnel are subjected (**Recommendation No. 7**).

19. Beyond implementing its obligation to ensure respect for international humanitarian law under Article 1 common to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions, the CNCDH notes that acting in support of the international rule of law requires not only exemplary conduct but also speaking out whenever it is undermined by others. The CNCDH recommends that France play its full part in this regard (**Recommendation No. 8**).

20. Finally, the CNCDH notes with satisfaction that France *“proposes: a halt to airstrikes, particularly against civilian infrastructure; a comprehensive diplomatic solution; the cessation of hostilities in Lebanon, respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity, the strengthening of the Lebanese army, and a political solution”*²⁵. It emphasises, however, that what applies in one situation applies in any other analogous situation. Thus, the CNCDH recommends that these efforts be pursued in all contexts, in order to cease maintaining a double standard that only contributes to the erosion of international law (**Recommendation No. 9**).

Humanitarian Action

21. The current context is generating immense humanitarian needs. It is therefore essential that the work of humanitarian organisations be facilitated, in accordance with the requirements of international humanitarian law. To facilitate means taking positive measures to support aid delivery. It is therefore not simply a matter of refraining from taking measures that could hinder delivery, but also of taking any measure intended to facilitate the work of humanitarian organisations. Moreover, facilitating aid delivery necessarily entails the corollary obligation to allow humanitarian personnel to move freely in order to provide it. The CNCDH recommends that France, which hosts the headquarters of numerous humanitarian organisations operating in the context of the conflicts in the Middle and Near East, undertake all diplomatic, political, or other necessary steps to ensure that the parties to the conflict, or any other relevant stakeholders, comply with these obligations (**Recommendation No. 10**).

²³. See in particular: CNCDH, [Opinion on the respect and protection of humanitarian personnel](#) [in French], Plenary Assembly of 14 December 2020, JORF No. 0307 of 20 December 2020, text No. 86; CNCDH, [Opinion on the draft law on the preservation of the humanitarian space](#) [in French], Plenary Assembly of 25 November 2021, JORF No. 0283 of 5 December 2021; CNCDH, [Opinion on Humanitarian Exemptions in Sanctions Regimes and Counter-terrorism Measures. Promoting widespread use and better implementation](#), Plenary Assembly of 20 June 2024, JORF no. 0155 of 2 July 2024, text no. 62.

²⁴. [Statement to the United Nations Security Council by Tom Fletcher, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, pursuant to Resolution 2730 \(2024\) on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and the protection of United Nations and associated personnel](#), 8 April 2026. See also: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), [“IFRC condemns the killing of a Lebanese Red Cross paramedic in Lebanon”](#), 11 March 2026; The Guardian, [“Israeli strike kills 12 healthcare workers in southern Lebanon”](#), 14 March 2026; Reuters, [“WHO says attacks in southern Lebanon kill nine paramedics”](#), 28 March 2026; UN News, [“Lebanon: Health system overwhelmed following a ‘horrific’ day of Israeli strikes”](#), 9 April 2026. See also attacks against medical personnel in Iran documented by the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) [surveillance system for attacks on healthcare](#).

²⁵. Government, [“Statement by Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu on the situation in the Near and Middle East pursuant to Article 50-1 of the Constitution”](#) [in French], 25 March 2026 (free translation).

22. The CNCDH's concerns are all the greater given that this situation compounds the broader trend of widespread funding cuts to aid, which contributes to preventing humanitarian organisations from implementing the assistance programs that are actually needed. In this regard, the CNCDH notes in particular that the shifts in funding carried out by the United States, a party to the conflict in the Middle East, are taking place in flagrant contradiction with the principles of humanitarian action, foremost among them impartiality and independence, amid complete silence and indifference. The provision of assistance based on these principles is, however, a *sine qua non* condition. The CNCDH recommends that France take all measures within its power to ensure that the principles of humanitarian action are not undermined under any circumstances, including when France itself is called upon to apply them (**Recommendation No. 11**).

23. The CNCDH also takes the opportunity of this statement to draw attention to the fact that beyond the immediate impact of conflicts on directly affected populations, among whom the poorest suffer the most brutal consequences, repercussions are numerous in other contexts. Humanitarian logistics and supply chains are severely impacted. Some humanitarian organisations have had to suspend their activities because they can no longer procure the basic supplies they need in sufficient quantities or at stable prices. Others are seeing a domino effect on their operations elsewhere, due to their humanitarian supplies being stranded in warehouses located in Persian Gulf countries²⁶. For its part, the World Food Programme is warning of the conflict's repercussions on global hunger. WFP emphasises that the conflict in the Middle East could plunge an additional 45 million people, or more, into famine in some of the world's most fragile and food-insecure countries²⁷.

Upcoming review of the Military Programming Law

24. Against the backdrop of armed conflict in the Middle East and at a time when, since Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukrainian territory, "*preparation for high-intensity conflict is once again becoming a strategic priority for France*"²⁸ the CNCDH is particularly concerned by statements made in the context of the upcoming fast-track review of the *Military Programming Law (LPM)*, which is scheduled for the week of 4 May in the National Assembly and for the week of 1 June in the Senate²⁹. In this context, it has been announced that "*the urgent priority is naturally armaments*" and that France plans "*to invest an additional 8.5 billion euros in orders between 2026 and 2030 – [which] will be in addition to the 16 billion euros provided for in the LPM adopted in 2023,*" notably through the creation "*of the upcoming France Munitions Platform, an unprecedented ammunition wholesaler intended to meet the needs of the French armed forces, [its] allies, and, of course, [its] many export customers*"³⁰. The CNCDH therefore wishes to reiterate all the recommendations it made in its Opinion on the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and for enhanced accountability in arms transfers, adopted on 25 November 2025, and in particular to suspend all arms transfers to any State across the world if

²⁶. La Croix, "[45 million people threatened by hunger: the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint disrupting humanitarian logistics](#)" [in French], 18 March 2026.

²⁷. UN News, "[Middle East war risks pushing 45 million more people into acute hunger](#)", 17 March 2026; Euronews, "[No return to normal: IMF warns of lasting damage from the war in Iran](#)", 10 April 2026.

²⁸. Ministry for the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs, "[Report] [High Intensity: How France Is Preparing](#)" [in French] (free translation).

²⁹. National Assembly, [Bill updating the military planning for the years 2024 to 2030 and containing various provisions relating to defense, No. 2630](#) [In French], introduced on 8 April 2026.

³⁰. Government, "[Statement by Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu on the situation in the Near and Middle East pursuant to Article 50-1 of the Constitution](#)" [in French], 25 March 2026 (free translation).

France is aware, or should normally have been aware, that such arms could be used to commit or facilitate international crimes³¹ (**Recommendation No. 12**).

25. Furthermore, the CNCDH is particularly concerned by statements regarding a “*new national security alert regime*” announcing a “*new framework [that] will allow, in the event of threats and when circumstances require it, to temporarily adapt our rules to accelerate decisions, simplify procedures, and remove the obstacles that currently slow down the implementation of our strategic projects*”³². In the same vein, the CNCDH is alarmed by the following statements: “*We cannot be the only ones to impose these on ourselves when our security is at stake*” and that “[i]t is certainly not a about calling the rule of law into question, it is about finally giving it the means to be effective in times of crisis”³³. Under no circumstances does the existing framework provided by international and domestic law hinder any effectiveness in times of crisis. Moreover, France has a comprehensive *Manual of the Law of Military Operations*³⁴ that gives it full latitude to act in compliance with its international obligations. The CNCDH recommends that the legislature refrain from any amendments that would have the effect of weakening the legal framework provided by international and national law currently in force, including in the context of the review of the Military Programming Act (**Recommendation No. 13**).

26. If “*to be free, one must be powerful*”³⁵, France’s assertion of its power can only take place within the existing international legal framework. International law, and within it international humanitarian law, are bodies of law well-versed in the practice of armed conflict, and nothing can justify seeking to depart from them. The CNCDH recommends that in all measures taken for the purpose of preparing for war, France fully incorporate all rules applicable in times of armed conflict (**Recommendation No. 14**).

Recommendations

Recommendation No. 1: The CNCDH recommends that French authorities firmly denounce any armed aggression contrary to the United Nations Charter.

Recommendation No. 2: The CNCDH recommends that France ensure it does not place itself in a position of aiding or assisting the commission of any internationally wrongful act, especially when it involves a peremptory norm of international law.

Recommendation No. 3: The CNCDH recommends that, whenever attacks target objects enjoying special protection, France reaffirm its commitment to the relevant rules, which now form part of customary international law, and undertake all diplomatic, political, or other measures to prevent them or bring them to an end, particularly with respect to its partners.

³¹. CNCDH, [Opinion on the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and for enhanced accountability in arms transfers](#), Plenary Assembly of 20 November 2025, JORF No. 0279 of 28 November 2025 text No. 100, §23; CNCDH, [Statement regarding France’s obligations with regard to the implementation of international humanitarian law](#), Plenary Assembly of 23 January 2025, JORF No. 0027 of 1st February 2025, text No. 96, §10 and Recommendation No. 8.

³². Government, [“Statement by Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu on the situation in the Near and Middle East pursuant to Article 50-1 of the Constitution”](#) [in French], 25 March 2026 (free translation). See Article 21 of the aforementioned Bill No. 2630.

³³. *Ibid.*

³⁴. Ministry for the Armed Forces, [Manual of the Law of Military Operations](#), 2022.

³⁵. Remarks by the President of the Republic reiterated by the Prime Minister at the National Assembly: Government, [“Statement by Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu on the situation in the Near and Middle East pursuant to Article 50-1 of the Constitution”](#) [in French], 25 March 2026 (free translation).

Recommendation No. 4: The CNCDH recommends that, whenever displacements of population are taking place, France reaffirm its commitment to relevant rules - which now form part of customary international law, and take all diplomatic, political, or other measures to prevent them or bring them to an end.

Recommendation No. 5: The CNCDH recommends that French authorities condemn the attack on the Minab school in the strongest possible terms and take all measures at their disposal to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

Recommendation No. 6: The CNCDH, while referring the French authorities to its 24 June 2021 Statement on explosive weapons, recommends that they condemn the shelling of populated urban areas.

Recommendation No. 7: The CNCDH reiterates the fundamental nature of the protections afforded to humanitarian personnel, which have been subject of recommendations in its previous opinions and statements, and the need for France to more systematically denounce the attacks to which they are subjected.

Recommendation No. 8: The CNCDH recommends that France speak out whenever others undermine the international rule of law.

Recommendation No. 9: The CNCDH recommends that France's efforts in making proposals be deployed in all contexts, in order to cease maintaining a double standard that only contributes to the erosion of international law.

Recommendation No. 10: The CNCDH recommends that France, which hosts the headquarters of numerous humanitarian organisations operating in the context of the conflicts in the Middle and Near East, undertake all diplomatic, political, or other necessary steps to ensure that the parties to the conflict, or any other relevant stakeholders, comply with their obligations regarding the facilitation of humanitarian aid delivery.

Recommendation No. 11: The CNCDH recommends that France take all measures within its power to ensure that the principles of humanitarian action are not undermined under any circumstances, including when France itself is called upon to apply them.

Recommendation No. 12: The CNCDH reiterates all the recommendations it made in its *Opinion on the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and for enhanced accountability in arms transfers, adopted on 25 November 2025*, and in particular to suspend all arms transfers to any State across the world if France is aware, or should normally have been aware, that such arms could be used to commit or facilitate international crimes.

Recommendation No. 13: The CNCDH recommends that the legislature refrain from any amendments that would have the effect of weakening the legal framework provided by international and national law currently in force, including in the context of the review of the Military Programming Law.

Recommendation No. 14: The CNCDH recommends that in all measures it takes for the purpose of preparing for war, France fully incorporate all rules applicable in times of armed conflict.



Created in 1947 at the initiative of René Cassin, the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNC DH) is France's national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights, accredited to the United Nations.

The CNC DH's work is guided by a threefold mission:

- To advise public authorities on human rights and international humanitarian law;
- Monitoring the effectiveness of France's commitments in this area;
- To raise awareness and educate the public about human rights.

The independence of the CNC DH is enshrined in law. Its operations are based on the principle of pluralism of ideas.

Unique institution that maintains continuous dialogue between civil society and French experts in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law, the Commission comprises 64 qualified individuals and representatives of non-governmental organisations and trade-unions.

The CNC DH has been an independent National Rapporteur on the fight against all forms of racism since 1990, on the fight against the trafficking and exploitation of human beings since 2014, on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights since 2017, on the fight against LGBTI hatred and discrimination since 2018 and on the effectiveness of the rights of persons with disabilities since 2020.

The CNC DH is also the French commission on the implementation of international humanitarian law within the meaning of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

