



ICRC

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) - GENEVA

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**Information and Observations  
on the Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction**

**Overview**

The purpose of this submission, by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), is to

In addition, State practice and *opinio juris* have helped to consolidate a customary rule whereby States can vest their courts with universal jurisdiction over other serious violations of IHL.<sup>1</sup> These include, in particular, serious violations of Article 3 common to the four Geneva

The new commentary on Article 49 (penal sanctions) of the First Geneva Convention contains a detailed explanation of the various methods available to States to fulfil the obligation to enact *“legislation necessary to provide effective penal sanctions for persons committing or ordering to be committed, any of the grave breaches listed in these Conventions”*