

GAME OF THRONES

SEASON 1 TO 7

VIOLETIONS OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Data Analysis | March 2019

HBO and Australia's Game of Thrones distribution partners were not involved in the analysis.

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International humanitarian law (IHL) is a set of rules that seek to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects people who are not or are no longer participating in hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare. There are consequences if the rules of war are broken. War crimes are documented and investigated by States and international courts, and individuals can be prosecuted for war crimes.

As the guardian and promoter of IHL, the International Committee of the Red Cross takes action to protect and assist victims of armed conflicts and other situations of violence, to foster respect for the law, and to guide the development of the law. National Societies, like Australian Red Cross, ensure respect for IHL by disseminating IHL and assisting their governments to disseminate IHL.



WHAT DID OUR EXPERT IHL VOLUNTEERS DO?

- Our volunteers reviewed the conduct of certain, key characters in each episode of the first seven seasons of Game of Thrones.
- They categorised potential violations of, and respect for, international humanitarian law (IHL, or the laws of war).
- They also identified other relevant conduct, such as examples of violence occurring outside the scope of armed conflict or examples of violence falling short of a violation of IHL.

HOW DID THE VOLUNTEERS DETERMINE WHICH VIOLATIONS AND COMPLIANCE TO MONITOR?

- IHL only applies during armed conflict (either an international or a non-international armed conflict).
- We developed a list of violations and compliance that are of the nature that would constitute violations in either context in accordance with customary international humanitarian law. The volunteers reviewed the conduct of key characters against this list.
- Volunteers also identified conduct that fell outside the scope of an armed conflict where it was considered particularly notable or egregious conduct.



VIOLATIONS AND COMPLIANCE



VIOLATIONS

COMPLIANCE

Declaring no quarter	Starvation of civilians as a method of warfare	Protection of civilian objects
Displacement of civilian population	Subjecting detained persons/persons under the power of the adversary to medical or scientific experiments and seriously endangering their health	Protection of civilians
Indiscriminate attack causing damage to civilian objects	Taking hostages	Protection of medical objects
Indiscriminate attack causing death or injury to civilians	Torture, cruel or inhuman treatment	Protection of medical or religious personnel
Making civilian objects the object of attack	Use of biological weapons	Protection of religious or cultural objects
Making civilians not taking direct part in hostilities the object of attack	Use of chemical weapons	Provision of adequate care to detainees/prisoners of war

VIOLATIONS

COMPLIANCE



GAME OF THRONES | VIOLATIONS OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Making medical or religious personnel or objects the object of attack	Use of child soldiers	Targeting only combatants
Making religious or cultural objects the object of attack (provided that they are not military objectives)	Use of human shields	Targeting only military objectives
Passing judicial sentence / execution without previous judgment of a regularly constituted court	Use of incendiary weapons against civilians, civilian objects, forests or other plant cover	
Perfidy	Use of means or methods of warfare that inflict superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering	
Seizing property not required by military necessity	Wilful killing of those who are hors de combat, such as injured soldiers or prisoners	
Sexual violence, including rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution and enforced pregnancy	Wilful killing of those who are not participating in hostilities, such as civilians, medical personnel or aid workers	
Slavery	Wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health of a protected person or those who are hors de combat	

TOTAL VIOLATIONS 103*

TOTAL COMPLIANCE 21*

* Includes both listed and non-listed characters, and only the listed violations and compliance of IHL that constitutes customary international humanitarian law.

WORST VIOLATIONS



Slavery is a grave violation of IHL, with the Night King **turning an indeterminate number of civilian and combatant dead into Wights**.



Torture, cruel or unusual punishment against a prisoner of war is a grave violation of IHL, and torture is widespread in Westeros. One of the worst examples is the **torture of Theon Greyjoy** by Ramsay Bolton that takes place over a number of episodes.



Daenerys Targaryen **crucifies the 163 Masters of Meereen**. Even though they are the bad guys they are still entitled to the protection of IHL, but Daenerys executes them without trial and does it in a way that likely constitutes torture, cruel or unusual punishment.



Sexual violence, including rape, sexual slavery and enforced prostitution are the terrible and common practices of the Dothraki invaders, and a particularly serious example is the rape of women during an attack on a village in Lhazar by the Dothraki led by Khal Drogo.



At **the Red Wedding**, Walder Frey **wilfully kills all associated with House Stark and their supporters, including those who are not participating in hostilities**, in a horrifying attack.

BEST EXAMPLES OF COMPLIANCE



The **protection of civilians** when Tyrion Lannister talks Daenerys Targaryen out of using her Dragons on Kings Landing. Using the Dragons in such an attack would likely have inflicted indiscriminate violence, killing or wounding millions of civilians.



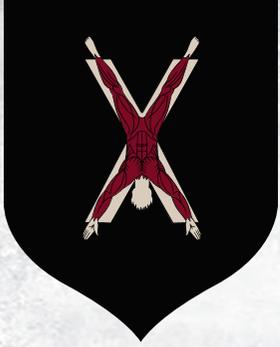
The **provision of impartial medical assistance to wounded soldiers** by Robb Stark.



The **protection of civilians** and the **cessation of murder and provision of care to detainees** by Tywin Lannister by putting a stop to the torture of the civilian and soldier detainees at Harrenhal who had been captured during the battle with the Starks.



Jon Snow **protects Ygritte the Wildling from violence** while she is detained by him, despite being ordered to kill her by Qhorin Halfhand.



THE CHARACTERS

RAMSAY BOLTON



Ramsay Snow is responsible for 17 IHL violations within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:



torture, cruel or inhuman treatment (six times);



perfidy (four times);



taking **hostages**;



wilful killing of those who are hors de combat, such as injured soldiers or prisoners (twice);



use of means or methods of warfare that inflict superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering;



sexual violence, including rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution and enforced pregnancy (twice);



making civilians not taking direct part in hostilities the object of **attack**.



17

VIOLATIONS



THE CHARACTERS

DAENERYS TARGARYEN



Daenerys had a total of 15 violations of IHL within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:



use of means or methods of warfare that inflict superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering (that dragon fire...) (six times);



passing judicial sentence/execution without previous judgment of a regularly constituted court (six times);



torture, cruel and unusual punishment;



making civilian objects the object of attack;



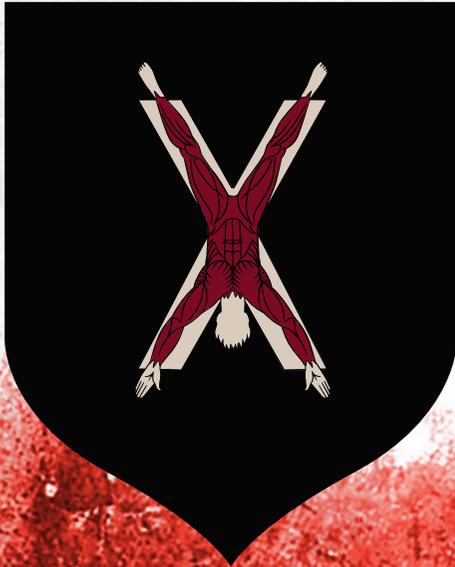
declaring no quarter.

She also demonstrates compliance with IHL, including with the protection of civilians and targeting only military objectives in particular instances.



15

VIOLATIONS



THE CHARACTERS

ROOSE BOLTON



Roose Bolton is responsible for eight IHL violations within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:

-  **torture**, cruel or inhuman treatment (three times);
-  **sexual violence**, including rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution and enforced pregnancy;
-  **wilful killing** of those who are not participating in hostilities, such as civilians, medical personnel or aid workers;
-  **perfidy**;
-  **wilful killing** of those who are hors de combat, such as injured soldiers or prisoners;
-  **use of means or methods of warfare** that inflict superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering.

He also demonstrates compliance with IHL by provision of adequate care to detainees/prisoners of war.





THE CHARACTERS

NIGHT KING



The Night King is responsible for six IHL violations within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:



slavery;



use of **child soldiers** (twice);



making **civilians** not taking direct part in hostilities the **object of attack**;



making **religious or cultural objects** the **object of attack**;



use of **incendiary weapons** against a **civilian** objects.



6

VIOLATIONS

THE CHARACTERS

SONS OF THE HARPY



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The Sons of the Harpy (Mereen) are responsible for six IHL violations within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:



wilful killing of those who are hors de combat, such as injured soldiers or prisoners;



wilful killing of those who are not participating in hostilities, such as civilians, medical personnel or aid workers;



slavery;



indiscriminate attack causing damage to civilian objects;



indiscriminate attack causing death or injury to civilians



making **civilians** not taking direct part in hostilities the **object of attack**.



6

VIOLATIONS



THE CHARACTERS

JON SNOW



Jon Snow is responsible for six IHL violations within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:



the use of **child soldiers** (four times); and



torture, cruel or inhuman treatment (twice).

He also demonstrates compliance with IHL, including:



the **protection of civilians**;

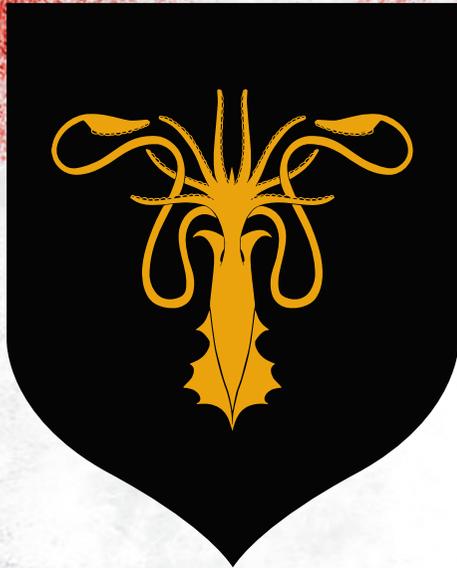


provision of **adequate care** to detainees/prisoners of war.



6

VIOLATIONS



THE CHARACTERS

EURON GREYJOY



Euron Greyjoy had a total of five violations of IHL within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:



torture, cruel or inhuman treatment (twice);



wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health of a protected person or those who are hors de combat;



pillage; and



taking **hostages**.

A further example of conduct of note by Euron falling outside the scope of armed conflict is when he kills his brother, the purported King of the Iron Islands, by pushing him off a rope bridge.

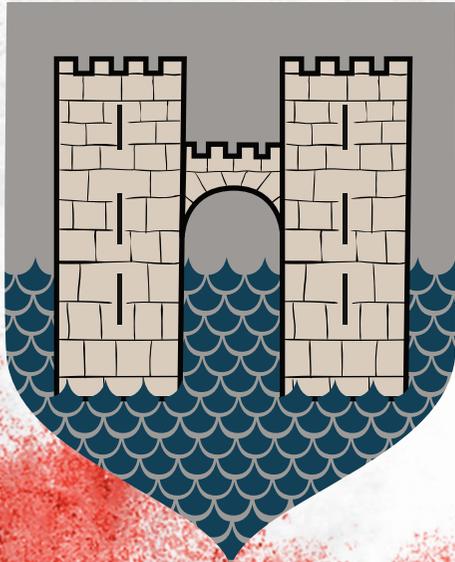


5

VIOLATIONS

THE CHARACTERS

WALDER FREY



Walder Frey is responsible for five IHL violations within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:



wilful killing of those who are not participating in hostilities, such as civilians, medical personnel or aid workers;



perfidy;



wilful killing of those who are hors de combat, such as injured soldiers or prisoners;



use of means or methods of warfare that inflict superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering; and



taking **hostages**.



5

VIOLATIONS



THE CHARACTERS

TYWIN LANNISTER



Tywin Lannister is responsible for four IHL violations within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:

-  **slavery;**
-  making civilians not taking direct part in hostilities the object of **attack**;
-  **wilful killing** of those who are hors de combat, such as injured soldiers or prisoners;
-  **wilful killing** of those who are not participating in hostilities, such as civilians, medical personnel or aid workers.

He also demonstrates compliance with IHL by providing adequate care to detainees/prisoners of war. Other conduct of note outside the scope of armed conflict includes ordering attacks on civilians.



4

VIOLATIONS



THE CHARACTERS

TYRION LANNISTER



Tyrion Lannister is responsible for four IHL violations within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:



use of means or methods of warfare that inflict superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering;



use of incendiary weapons against civilians, civilian objects, forests or other plant cover;



sexual violence, including rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution and enforced pregnancy;



perfidy.

He also demonstrates compliance with IHL by protecting civilians from attack.



4

VIOLATIONS



THE CHARACTERS

JOFFREY BARATHEON



Joffrey Baratheon is responsible for three IHL violations within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:



torture, cruel or inhuman treatment;



wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health of a protected person or those who are hors de combat; and



wilful killing of those who are hors de combat, such as injured soldiers or prisoners.

Further examples of conduct of note by Joffrey include:



ordering that children be killed;



murderous conduct by the City Watch ordered by Joffrey.



3

VIOLATIONS

THE CHARACTERS

MANCE RAYDER



GAME OF
THRONES

Mance Rayder is responsible for three IHL violations within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:



making civilians not taking direct part in hostilities the **object of attack** (twice); and



declaring no quarter.



3

VIOLATIONS



THE CHARACTERS

CERSEI LANNISTER



Cersei Lannister had a total of three violations of IHL within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:



taking **hostages**;



wilful killing of those who are hors de combat, such as injured soldiers or prisoners; and



perfidy.

She also had several other examples of conduct of note falling outside the scope of armed conflict, including:



the **attempted murder** of Brandon Stark;



the **mistreatment** of Queen Margaery; and



the use of wildfire to kill Margaery Tyrell and others and destroy the Great Sept of Baelor.



3

VIOLATIONS

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THE CHARACTERS

KHAL DROGO



Khal Drogo is responsible for three IHL violations within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:



sexual violence, including rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution and enforced pregnancy;



making civilians not taking direct part in hostilities the **object of attack**;



wilful killing of those who are not participating in hostilities, such as civilians, medical personnel or aid workers.

Further examples of conduct of note by Drogo include:



his **rape** of Daenerys Targaryen when they are first wed; and

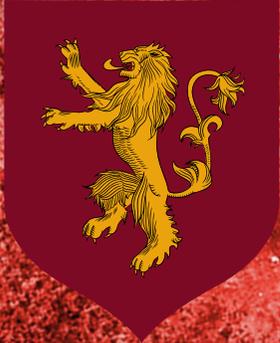


killing a wine seller who attempted to kill Daenerys.



3

VIOLATIONS



THE CHARACTERS

JAIME LANNISTER



Jaime Lannister commits two IHL violations within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:



wilful killing of those who are not participating in hostilities, such as civilians, medical personnel or aid workers; and



pillage.

He also demonstrates compliance with IHL when he provides adequate care to detainees/prisoners of war.



2

VIOLATIONS



THE CHARACTERS

SANSA STARK



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GAME OF THRONES | VIOLATIONS OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Sansa Stark is responsible for two IHL violations within the parameters of the data analysis, namely:



torture, cruel or inhuman treatment; and



passing judicial sentence/execution without previous judgment of a regularly constituted court.



2

VIOLATIONS



THE CHARACTERS

ROBB STARK



Robb Stark is responsible for one IHL violation within the parameters of the data analysis, namely taking hostages.

He also demonstrates seven instances of compliance with IHL, including:



provision of adequate care to detainees/prisoners of war (six times);



targeting only combatants.



1

VIOLATION



THE CHARACTERS

STANNIS BARATHEON



Stannis Baratheon is responsible for one IHL violation within the parameters of the data analysis, namely use of means or methods of warfare that inflict superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering.



He also demonstrates compliance with IHL by **providing adequate care to detainees/prisoners** of war.

Further examples of conduct of note by Stannis include:



burning his daughter alive;



supporting human sacrifices.



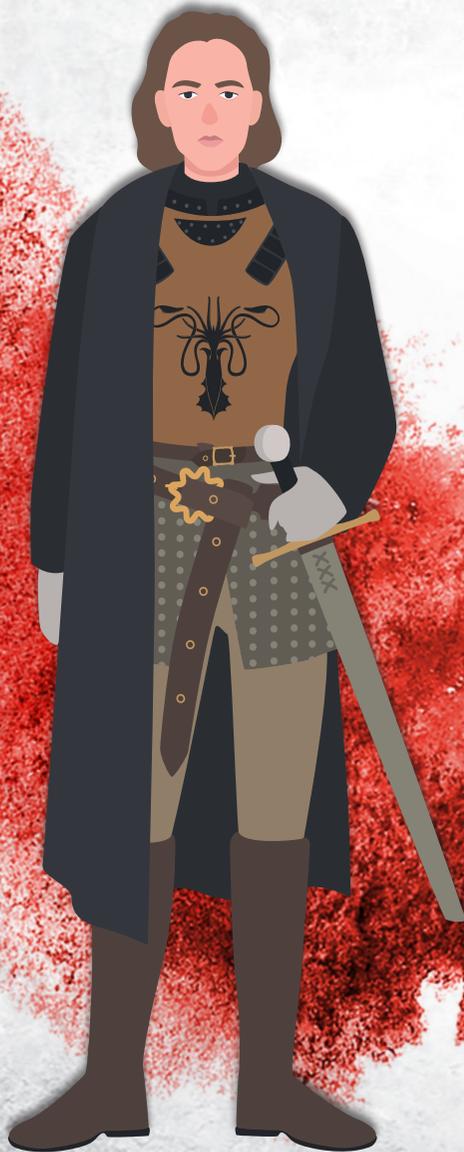
1

VIOLATION



THE CHARACTERS

YARA GREYJOY



Yara Greyjoy is responsible for one IHL violation within the parameters of the data analysis, namely wilful killing of those who are hors de combat, such as injured soldiers or prisoners.



1

VIOLATION

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GAME OF THRONES

VIOLATIONS

RAMSAY BOLTON	17
DAENERYS TARGARYEN	15
ROOSE BOLTON	8
JON SNOW	6
NIGHT KING	6
THE SONS OF THE HARPY (MEREEN)	6
EURON GREYJOY	5
WALDER FREY	5
TYWIN LANNISTER	4
TYRION LANNISTER	4
JOFFREY BARATHEON	3
MANCE RAYDER	3
CERSEI LANNISTER	3
KHAL DROGO	3
JAIME LANNISTER	2
CATELYN STARK	2
SANSA STARK	2
ARYA STARK	2
THEON GREYJOY	2
ROBB STARK	1
STANNIS BARATHEON	1
YARA GREYJOY	1
LORD VARYS	1
BRIENNE OF TARTH	1

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