Editors' Introduction

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/ilr

Part of the Law Commons

Recommended Citation

Available at: https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/ilr/vol18/iss4/1

This Symposium is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Reviews at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Loyola of Los Angeles International and Comparative Law Review by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.
Symposium on Blinding Laser Weapons

EDITORS’ INTRODUCTION

In October 1995, the international community adopted the fourth protocol banning blinding laser weapons (Protocol IV).\(^1\) Protocol IV was a landmark event in international humanitarian law. Traditionally, humanitarian law dealing with weapons and warfare has developed as a reaction to horrors that have already occurred on the battlefield. For example, demands for the ban on chemical weapons were triggered by the catastrophic use of lethal substances during World War I. The continuing revisions of land mine regulations represent a reaction to large numbers of military and civilian land mine casualties. Protocol IV, however, indicates states’ use of international humanitarian law to preempt a non-existing, but unwanted development: the use of blinding laser weapons.\(^2\)

Protocol IV becomes effective when twenty states agree to be


bound by its requirements. In order to educate the international community and to provide information on which states may base their decisions whether to ratify the ban on blinding laser weapons, this symposium provides discussions for and against the ban on the use of such weapons in military combat.