

THE WARFARE CODE – A SYNOPSIS

Domestic and international war law and its enforcement

This booklet aims to explain war law to MPs and the people of Britain in a simple and straightforward format, so that if they are ever again asked to support or take part in warfare or military conflict, they can identify for themselves whether the Government's orders and their own actions are right or wrong in law.

The work is in five parts. After a brief explanation of the aim of the booklet and a short history of war law, the first section concentrates on the laws prohibiting the initiation of war. In particular The General Treaty for the Renunciation of War, The Nuremburg Judgment, The United Nations Charter, The Nuremburg Principles, The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and The International Criminal Court Act 2001.

The second section is a very brief description of the main laws governing the conduct of war namely the Geneva Conventions, the Chemical, Biological and Toxin Weapons Conventions, the Landmines Convention, the Convention against Torture, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the law prohibiting Conspiracy, The Offences against the Person Act and the Accessories and Abettors Act.

Part three is the author's summary of the laws of war entitled the Warfare Code

The fourth section of the book is a brief description of the processes available for holding the Government to account for breaches of war law. In particular we explain how to approach and brief an MP, impeachment by Parliament, reporting crimes to the police, and the international criminal court, private criminal prosecutions, obtaining an injunction, judicial review, conscientious objection, refusing tax and refusing orders.

The last part of the book aims to illustrate the application of war law by providing an example to which most people can relate. A short explanation of the incorrect legal advice on the legality of the war with Iraq that Tony Blair received from the Attorney General in March 2003, together with an example of the advice that the Attorney General should have provided to the Prime Minister if he had been doing his job properly.

Throughout the booklet I have attempted to summarise the main war laws and the implications of their violation, as well as providing a few memorable quotes. I hope that this book will stimulate MPs to hold the government to account for its illegal ventures into armed conflict, the Government to end British involvement in warfare, law enforcement authorities to prosecute war criminals, the public to lobby their MPs and Parliament to prevent Governments from waging war or engaging in military conflict.