

Alignment of Jurisprudential Principles with Red Cross Standards for Strengthening the Safety Foundations of Aid Workers in the Laws and Implementing Guidelines of the Iranian Red Crescent Society

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Original Article

Abstract

INTRODUCTION: Aid workers safety is a key component of disaster management and requires clear jurisprudential, legal, and operational foundations for preserving life and preventing harm. This study aimed to comparatively examine Islamic jurisprudential rules relevant to aid worker safety in relation to the standards of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Iranian legal system, and to propose a framework for strengthening aid workers protection.

METHODS: The study analyzed jurisprudential sources, legal texts, and international guidelines and standards.

FINDINGS: The findings showed that Islamic jurisprudential principles, particularly the preservation of life, prevention of harm, and management of competing obligations and interests (tazahum), provide a strong basis for aid workers' safety. These principles are consistent with IFRC standards on risk prevention, intervention prioritization, and psychological support. The Iranian legal system also recognizes certain protections, including emergency actions. However, legislative gaps remain regarding the distinction between professional and volunteer aid workers, explicit restrictions on intervention under disproportionate risk to life, psychological support, and compensation. Integrating jurisprudential principles, international standards, and domestic legal capacities can strengthen risk management, reduce casualties, improve rescue operations, and promote rational self-sacrifice.

CONCLUSION: Legislative reform should emphasize protection against severe and disproportionate risks to life, expand psychological support, establish compensation mechanisms, and use emerging technologies for risk assessment. From a jurisprudential and legal perspective, this integrated approach reinforces safety as both a religious and legal obligation, reduces casualties, and promotes rational self-sacrifice. It can also contribute to aligning national obligations with the Geneva Conventions and provide a framework applicable to other societies.

Keywords: Aid worker; Safety; Islamic Jurisprudential Rules; Preservation of Life; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Disaster Management.

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Introduction

The safety of aid workers during operations in natural disasters and crises is a key concern in disaster response and rescue. Addressing this issue comprehensively across legal and customary dimensions requires the integration of Islamic jurisprudential principles with

international standards and domestic legal frameworks. This study examines several Islamic jurisprudential principles, including the obligation to preserve life, the principle of no harm (*la darar wa la dirar*), the prohibition against exposing oneself to destruction, the principle of necessity, *taqiyya*, the conflict between two obligations,

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