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ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION – INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Category A

ESSAY TITLE: Role of humanitarian agencies in conflict zone around the world

Humanitarian help/aid is proving to be very important in today world. Humanitarian agencies aid people who are suffering particularly victims of armed conflicts, famines and natural disasters. Humanitarian aid is materials and logistic assistance to people who need help. Humanitarians promote human welfare and ideas to people, they bring about change in the normal behavioural patterns of a society and help to aid by giving money or necessities for those in need.

Humanitarian agencies are involved in searching for, collecting and transporting wounded sick, missing people in places of war or conflicts zones. Conflict zones are place that are affected by war or political instability, disruption of essential services such as housing, transportation, sanitation, water and healthcare, which require the response of people outside of the community affected. According to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) there are about twenty seven ongoing conflicts in the world today. Children in war zones have been deliberately killed or maimed by parties to conflicts, often in extremely brutal ways.

Humanitarian agencies provide medical treatment to the wounded and the sick, assisting prisoners of war and assisting the civilian population through the provision of the humanitarian relief. Humanitarian relief is intended to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and after man-made crises and disasters caused by natural hazards, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for when such situation occurs. Therefore, it is important to look for other responses that allow humanitarian aid to assist the people that need it and protect against escalating the conflict by having their resources support the militant.

Humanitarian agencies work on certain humanitarian principles. The main principles of humanitarian agencies are humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. These principles provide the foundation action. They are central to establishing and maintaining access to affected people, whether in a natural disasters or a complex emergency such as armed

conflict.

Some examples of conflict zones are Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and South Sudan among others. Afghanistan has the most children who have been killed and maimed. While the highest number of children in conflict zones suffer sexual violence. In Somalia and Nigeria there are the highest number of children fighting in war and recruited into arms groups. Some example of humanitarian agencies are UNICEF, UNITED NATION, OXFAM and DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS.

Agencies help people in place of war by providing help like providing food shelter and assistance for vulnerable people who are injured.

Humanitarian agencies are important organisations because they provide life- saving assistance to people affected by conflicts, disasters and poverty hence humanitarian agencies are vital in reducing the impact of crises on communities, helping recovery and improving preparedness for future emergencies.