



ICRC

01 November 2016  
CAN16/00012

Dear Mr Sukkar,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry into the Criminal Code Amendment (War Crimes) Bill 2016 (the Bill).

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a neutral, independent and impartial organisation whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Against this background, we would like to share with the Committee the ICRC's *Interpretive Guidance on the Notion of Direct Participation in Hostilities*, which was mentioned in the second reading of the Bill. In line with our neutral and impartial approach, the ICRC does not wish to comment on the content or substance of the Bill.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Policy and Political Affairs Officer, Natalya Wells

Yours sincerely,

Leonard Blazeby  
Head of Mission

Mr Michael Sukkar MP, Chair  
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security  
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