

Brigadier-General (Ret'd) Kenneth Watkin, QC



Brigadier-General (Ret'd) Ken Watkin, OMM, CD, QC served 33 years in the Canadian Forces, four years as the Judge Advocate General, the senior military legal advisor and superintendent of the military justice system. As a military legal officer he worked in a variety of operational, military justice and general legal advisory positions, including being responsible for the provision of operational law advice in respect of Canada's air, sea, land, and Special Forces operations following the 9/11 attacks, first as the Deputy Judge Advocate General/Operations and then as the Judge Advocate General. Ken also served as legal advisor to a 1993 Canadian civilian/military board of inquiry, which investigated the activities of the Canadian Airborne Regiment Battle Group in Somalia. From 1995 until 2005 he was Government counsel in respect of various international investigations and inquiries arising from the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. In 2004 he appeared in that capacity before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania.

Ken has published in the areas of humanitarian law, human rights law and Canadian Constitutional law, with articles referred to by the Canadian and Israeli Supreme Courts. In 2008 he received the Lieber Society Military Prize of American Society of International Law for the article, *Assessing Proportionality: Moral Complexity and Legal Rules*, published in 8 Year Book of International Humanitarian Law (2005). His most recent article is *Targeting in Air Warfare*, 44 Israel Year Book on Human Rights 1 (2014). Ken has also participated as an expert in international working groups tasked with clarifying the law as it applies to contemporary armed conflict by developing manuals dealing with *Cyberwarfare*, *Occupied Territory*, *Air and Missile Warfare* and *Direct Participation in Hostilities*.

Since his retirement from the Canadian Forces in 2010, he served as a Foreign Observer to the Israeli Independent Commission investigating 31 May 2010 Gaza Blockade incident and from May 2011 until June 2012 as the Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Law at the United States Naval War College. In 2012 Ken moved to his hometown in Kingston, Ontario and is writing a book on international law and the use of force in 21st Century conflict, with a particular focus on counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations; has completed academic articles/papers dealing with targeting and cyberwarfare; and continues to participate in international conferences, meetings and workshops. He is also a member of the Board of Governors of St. Lawrence Community College in Kingston, Ontario and the Governor's Affairs Committee of Colleges Ontario.

Ken is a graduate of The Royal Military College (BA Hons 1976) and Queen's University (LLB, 1980 and LLM, 1990) in Kingston, Ontario Canada. From 2002 to 2003 he was a Visiting Fellow at the Human Rights Program, Harvard Law School.

He was honoured as the 2010 recipient of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) President's Award that recognizes the significant contribution of a Canadian jurist to the legal profession, to the CBA or to the public life of Canada. Appointed Queen's Counsel by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council of Newfoundland, Canada in 2006, he was also appointed by the Governor General of Canada to the Order of Military Merit in 2002.

Ken has recently entered into the world of blog posts with contributions as follows:

Sustaining the War Effort: Targeting Islamic State Oil Facilities, Just Security, 3 October 2014, <http://justsecurity.org/15890/sustaining-war-effort-targeting-islamic-state-oil-facilities/>.

The Overlap Between IHL and IHRL, ICRC Intercross, September 2014:

Part I: <http://intercrossblog.icrc.org/blog/joint-series-guest-blogger-ken-watkin-overlap-ihl-and-ihrl>.

Part II: <http://intercrossblog.icrc.org/blog/joint-series-where-ihl-and-ihrl-intersect-part-ii-ken-watkins-guest-post>.

The President's Speech, Al Qaeda, and the Legal Challenge of the Future, Just Security, 4 June 2014, <http://justsecurity.org/11197/guest-post-presidents-speech-al-qaeda-legal-challenge-future/>.