Digital Emblems under International Humanitarian Law

Problem Statement

Samit D’Cunha  sdcunha@icrc.org
• Today, there are over 120 armed conflicts, involving over 60 states and 120 non-state armed groups.

• Each party to an armed conflict may use the protective emblem.

• The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of the Red Cross may use the protective emblem at all times.

• The National Societies may sometimes use the protective emblem; they otherwise may use the indicative emblem.

• The ICRC undertakes humanitarian operations in over 80 countries worldwide (the ICRC is present in over 100 countries). The IFRC is present in 191 countries.

• The ICRC has a specific mandate in the Geneva Conventions and the Statutes of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
The Distinctive Emblems have many functions

Inform
A distinctive emblem can indicate affiliation

Demand Respect
The distinctive emblem must be respected

Assist
The distinctive emblem indicates where to find assistance
Why are we at the IETF?

We seek to standardize a digital emblem because it must fit into the ecosystem of the Internet and will be used by a broad range of parties to mark their infrastructure.

Our goal is to take the result of the standardization process and propose it to states as a digital version of the emblems recognized under International Humanitarian Law so that it can be widely adopted and respected.

• Ensure interoperability with internet standards.

• Ensure it is usable by all parties.

• As the guardians of International Humanitarian Law, a complex mandate recognized under international law, our role is to work towards the respect for and development of International Humanitarian Law.