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THE EXCLUSION ZONE AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW: PROTECTING THE AFFECTED POPULATION

On the morning of April 26, talk of the accident was only at the level of rumors. Everyone was curious about what had happened at the station. Cars were driving along the streets, dousing the road and sidewalks with a special liquid with foam. Soldiers and firefighters were wearing masks, and people were living their lives and did not understand anything. At that time, no one had yet warned the residents about the mortal danger.

The accident at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant, which occurred on April 26, 1986, is one of the largest man-made disasters in history. As a result, a large territory with an area of over 2576 km^2 [1] was contaminated with radiation and lost the possibility of farming and permanent residence. The spread of radiation contamination after the destruction of power unit 4 necessitated the evacuation of the population from dangerous areas. The evacuation of Ukrainian residents from the 30-km zone around the Chornobyl NPP began on April 27, 1986, when residents were evacuated from the city of Pripyat. In total, by the end of 1986, more than 116 000 people had already been evacuated from the Chernobyl zone [2].

As is known, international humanitarian law (IHL) is a branch of public international law that is used during armed conflicts to limit the means and methods of warfare [7]. Despite the fact that this tragedy was not a consequence of an armed conflict and is not formally regulated by IHL, there is a connection between them, which is based on certain common aspects:

— The right to life: enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 3) [10], the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 6); in the case of Chernobyl, it was violated primarily due to the threat of fatal radiation damage [8];

— The right to health: provided for in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Article 12) [9]; the Chernobyl accident caused damage to the health of a large number of people;

– The right to a safe environment: not expressly stated in the classical instruments of IHL, but recognized in the Rio de Janeiro Declaration (1992) [6] as an important element of human rights;

– The right to truthful information: emphasized in the documents of the Council of Europe and international human rights conventions; violated during the accident due to the delay in the official notification of the danger;

– The principle of humanitarian assistance: in humanitarian law, it acts as the duty of states to provide assistance to affected civilians; after Chernobyl, the Convention on Assistance in the Event of a Nuclear Accident (1986) [4] was concluded;

– The principle of the protection of civilians: international humanitarian law is aimed at protecting civilians during armed conflicts; in the case of the Chernobyl disaster, although the situation did not involve military action, the massive damage to the civilian population actualized the same principles – the right to life, health and security;

– The principle of international cooperation: enshrined in the UN Charter and international conventions; after Chernobyl, the international community organized assistance to Ukraine through international funds and programs [3].

Thus, although the Chernobyl accident is not an armed conflict in the classical sense, the principles of international humanitarian law, especially those relating to the protection of civilians and humane treatment, are relevant to the analysis of the measures taken to protect the affected population.

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LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF BREXIT FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION

In today’s rapidly changing geopolitical and economic landscape, the legal implications of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (known as Brexit) remain extremely relevant. Brexit has not only changed trade and political relations, but also created significant legal challenges for the European Union (EU). The process of separating the United Kingdom's (UK) legal system from EU law and adapting existing legislation has far-reaching implications for the future of European integration and cooperation.

According to Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, any EU member state may withdraw from the Union [3]. Based on this rule, the Brexit process was launched in the UK. It was based on the results of an advisory referendum on June 23, 2016, when 51.9% of its participants voted in favor of withdrawal. On January 23, 2020, the House of Lords approved the Brexit agreement, which allowed the UK to leave the EU on January 31,