

- Iraq has also violated the object and purpose of the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, which it has signed. That Convention prohibits altering the composition of a body of water for military purposes in a way that has severe, long-term and widespread effects. As well, the 1977 Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions on the Law of Armed Conflict, although not in force for Iraq, prohibit states from using methods of warfare that are intended to cause damage to the natural environment.

- The basic principle embodied in all these conventions is that the deliberate depredation of the environment for military purposes is prohibited by international law. While this principle exists as a rule of customary international law, the purpose of an international legal effort would be to make clear that the principle is binding on all states, and to strengthen its application.