THE TREATMENT OF DETAINEEES

Even during an armed conflict, the enemy must be treated humanely. The rules of humane treatment of detainees are set out in international humanitarian law and summarized here. Follow these rules, make them known to your group, and report any violations to your superiors.
This pocket card has been designed for non-state parties to non-international armed conflicts and sets out only a selection of the rules of international humanitarian law.

A complete list of the rules on protecting detainees in non-international armed conflicts, and examples of how they can be implemented in practice, can be found in:

1. Do not kill detainees.
2. Treat detainees humanely and with dignity. Protect them from pain or suffering.
3. Do not use detainees as human shields.
4. Provide medical care for sick or wounded detainees.
5. As soon as possible after capture, take detainees to a safe place.
6. Give detainees adequate food, water and shelter, as well as clothing if needed.
7. Help detainees to contact their families.
8. Do not publish detainees’ names or pictures in the media, online or offline.
9. Allow detainees to worship. 
   Respect their religion and beliefs.
10. Detain women and girls separately from men. Provide for their specific health-care and sanitary needs and keep them under female guard.
11. Detain children separately from adults unless they are detained with their family.
12. Release detainees as soon as the reasons for their detention cease to exist or if you cannot provide for their basic needs or safety.
13. Make a list of all detainees with their full name, date of birth, rank, service number, when and where they were captured, their state of health, and who is responsible for their detention.
14. Inform your superior when you take detainees.
15. Inform the ICRC about any detainees as soon as possible, and allow the ICRC to visit the detainees and to speak to them in private.
16. If a detainee dies, inform your superior, record how they died and where their remains are. If possible, inform their family and return their remains.
MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization 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. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.