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To detain, or not to detain: a functional approach to non-state armed groups' activities in non-international armed conflicts

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Curriculum Vitae

Ezequiel Heffes was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1987. He is a lawyer by training, specialized in public international law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Ezequiel currently serves as a Senior Policy and Legal Advisor at Geneva Call, a humanitarian non-governmental organization that promotes the respect of humanitarian norms by non-State armed groups (NSAGs). Prior to joining Geneva Call, he has worked as a field and protection delegate and as head of office for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Colombia, Afghanistan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These experiences have provided him a valuable overview of the practice of NSAGs in conflict settings, including those related to their detention activities. Ezequiel has been directly involved in detention visits and in the release of detainees in the power of NSAGs.

Ezequiel has obtained his Law degree from the University of Buenos Aires, School of Law (2011) and his LL.M. from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (2013), where he was a Swiss Government Scholar. He has participated in different research activities, and at the time of submitting this Ph.D. thesis, Ezequiel serves as co-investigator of two major projects on the influence of religious leaders on parties to armed conflict and on the practice and interpretation of “armed non-State actors” on core norms of international humanitarian law, respectively. He has also published widely on different international law issues.

In early 2020, Ezequiel became an external Ph.D. candidate at the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies of Leiden Law School of Leiden University under the supervision of dr. Robert Heinsch and prof. dr. Carsten Stahn.