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The Geneva Conventions which protect wounded or sick soldiers in the field (Protocol 1), wounded or sick soldiers at sea (Protocol 2), prisoners of war (Protocol 3), civilians (Protocol 4) apply to us as many of us are involved in war financially or physically as contractors, soldiers, civilians, bankers, grocers, health care personnel, library or museum staff or educators. The Geneva Conventions protect us from being taken hostage, violence to life and person, outrages upon personal dignity, and humiliating and degrading treatment. Article 116, for example, protects visitation and coming home for near relatives. Article 26 protects family rights. Articles 38 and 93 protect the practice of religion. Article 97 states that our belongings should not be taken away. Article 26 facilitates family enquiries. Article 55 ensures food and medical supplies. Article 25 gives "news ...to members of their families." Article 37 protects humane treatment, Article 147 protects against injury to health. Cook County Guardian and Illinois courts do not yet recognize that these conventions apply to civilians here as well as soldiers abroad, in the sea and taken prisoner. The Geneva Conventions should probably some day be extended to protect soldiers and contractors who are not sick or wounded as well. Courts and guardians need to understand that civilians are protected by the Geneva Conventions not just prisoners of war or wounded soldiers.

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