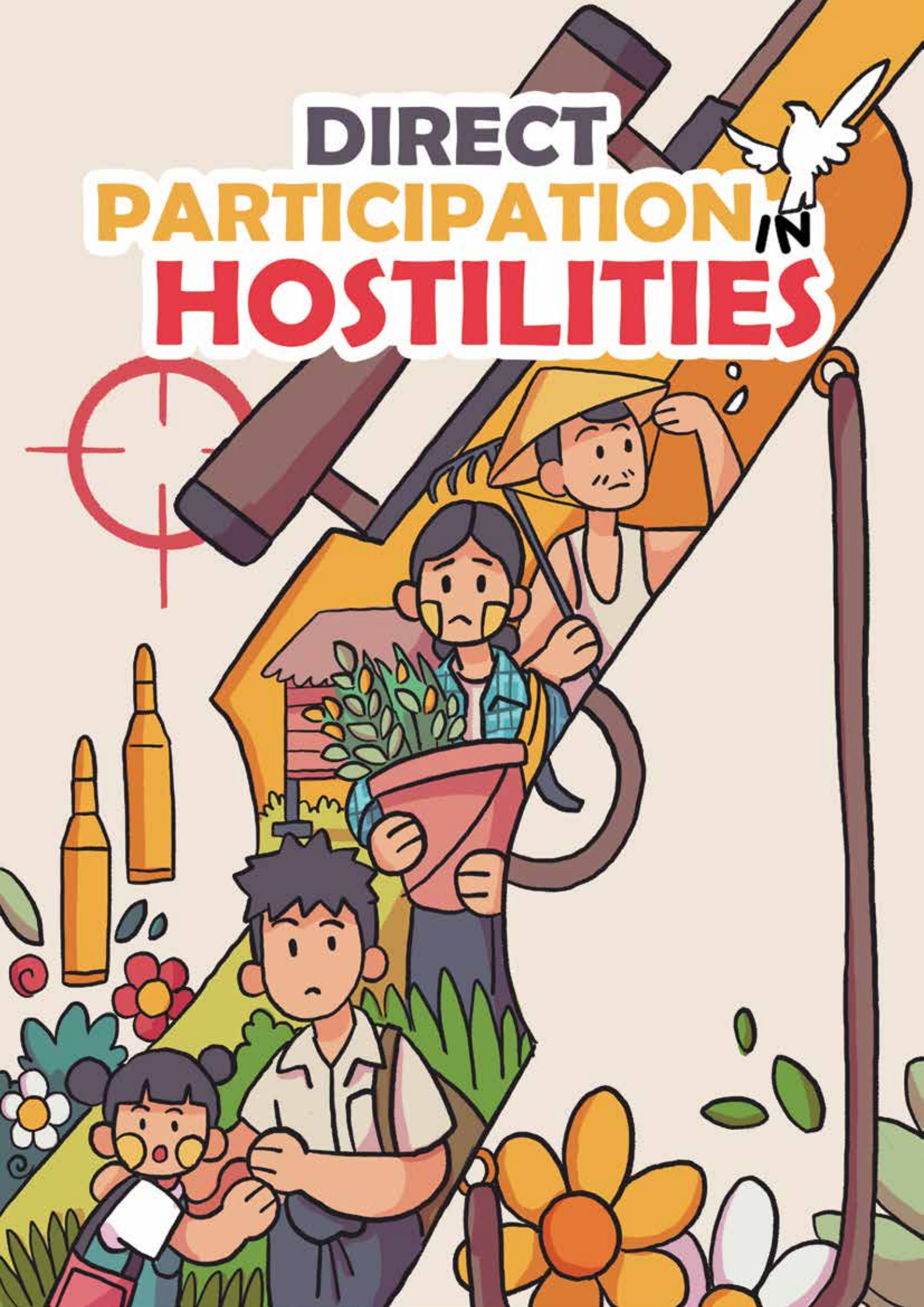
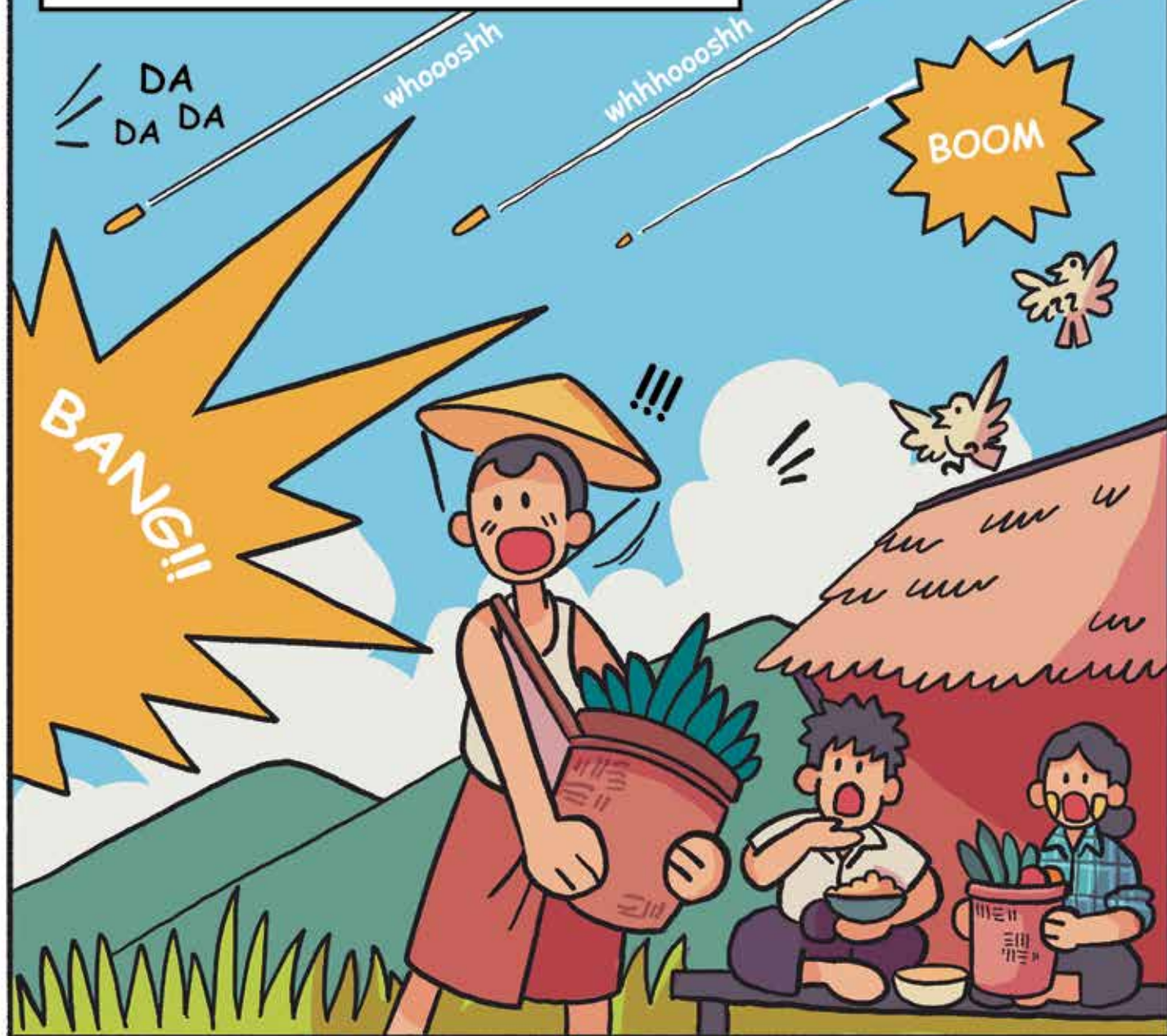


# DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN HOSTILITIES

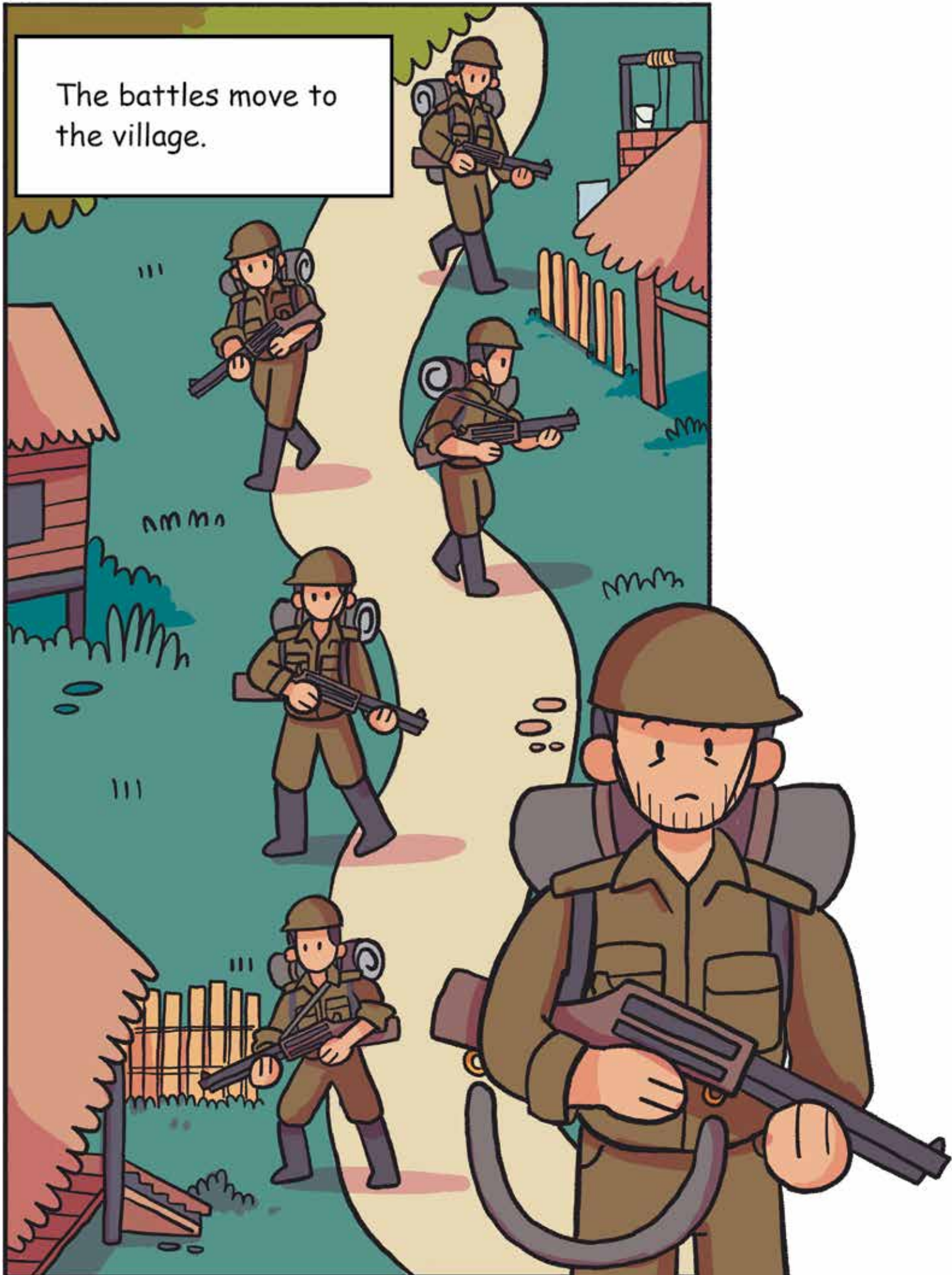




As the clashes suddenly started ,  
the villagers couldn't flee.



The battles move to the village.





We just came back from the farm. We are not taking part in the attacks.



Without proper investigation,  
you can't punish or arrest  
civilians.



But this is  
what happened.



After the interrogation,  
the civilians were released.





During armed conflicts, civilians may be present in the affected areas.

It's crucial to have the ability to decide properly within a short period of time whether they are directly participating in hostility or not.



This will help minimize unnecessary harm and casualties.



During the fighting, civilians might -



They might perform different activities but we can't assume all of them are directly participating in hostilities.







Not every civilian activity during armed conflict constitutes direct participation in hostilities.

For an act of the civilian to constitute direct participation in hostilities, it must meet **all three criteria:**



the threshold of harm,



direct causation, and



belligerent nexus.



They must carry out a specific act which is sufficiently harmful,



and forms part of the hostilities conducted by parties in the armed conflict.

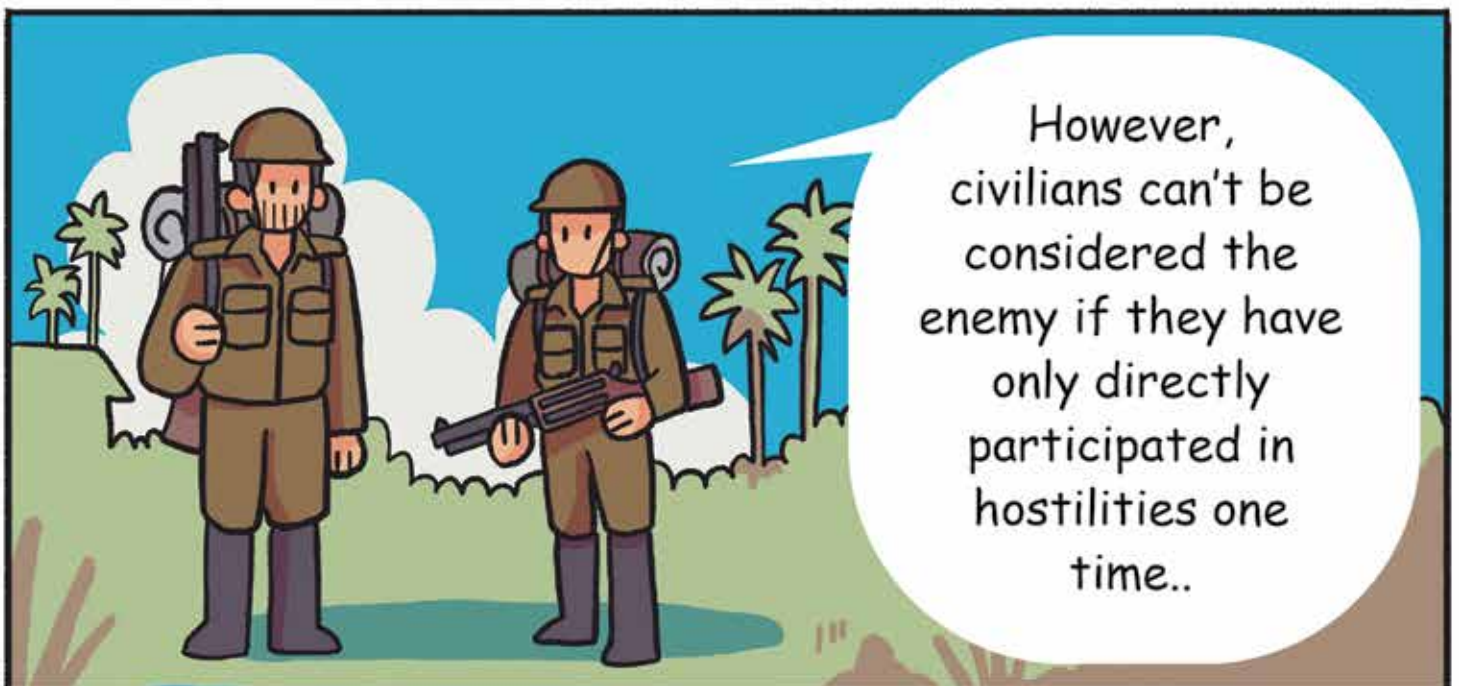


A direct causal link must exist between that act and the harm that is likely to result from the act.



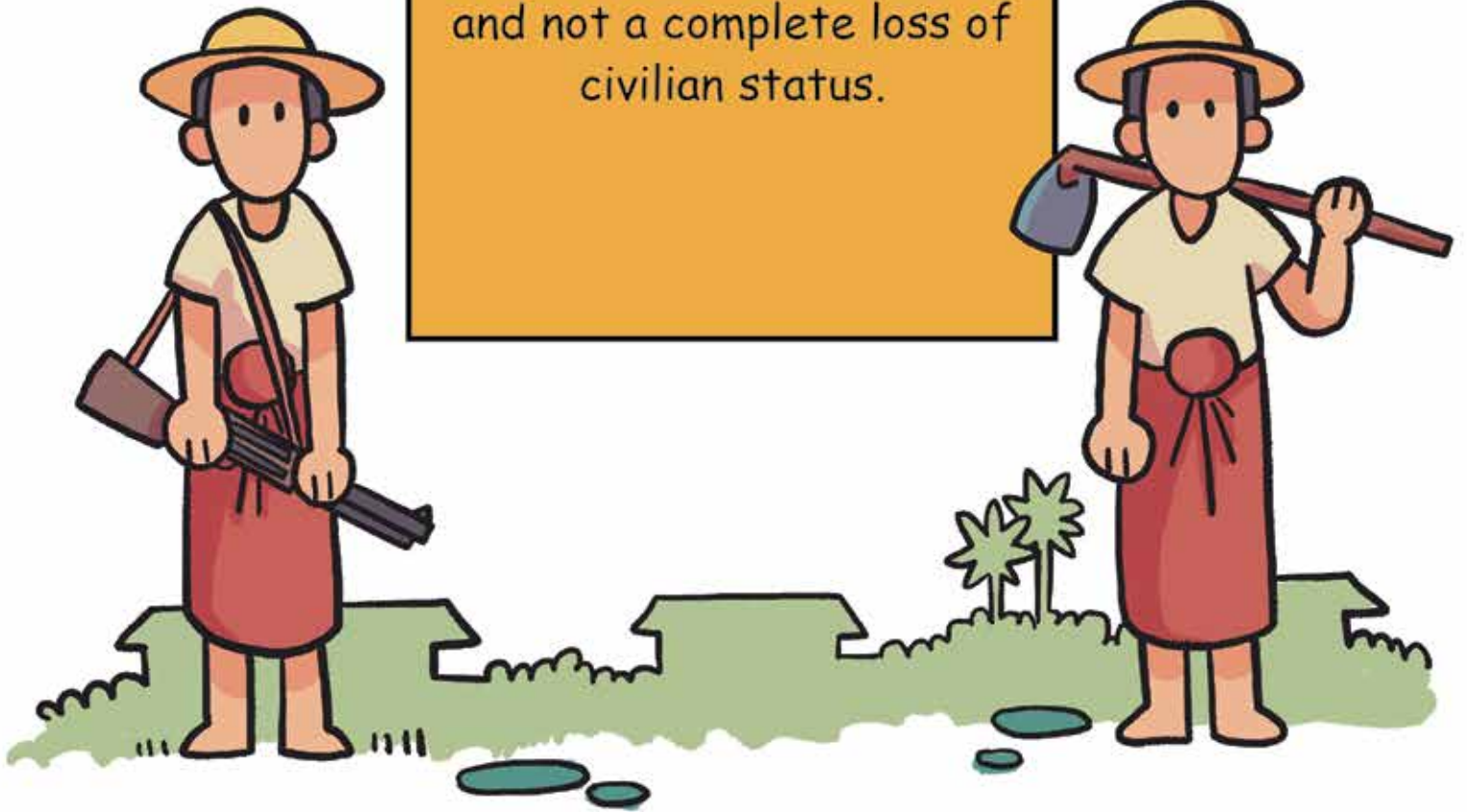
The act in question must be intended to directly cause the harm in favour of one party to the conflict and against another.

Civilians may temporarily lose their protection from being attacked if they are found to be directly participating in hostilities.



However, civilians can't be considered the enemy if they have only directly participated in hostilities one time..

The act of direct participation in hostilities prompts merely a temporary suspension and not a complete loss of civilian status.



So, it is important to make sure that you know whether they are participating directly in the hostility.



For example - providing financial support or food supply for the enemy,



Helping to scout human resources for the enemy



Providing non-military information to the enemy



They are directly related to the hostility but not directly participating.



In these situations of a direct relationship with the hostility, civilians can be detained and interrogated.



But they must still be assumed as civilians and must be protected from being targeted.

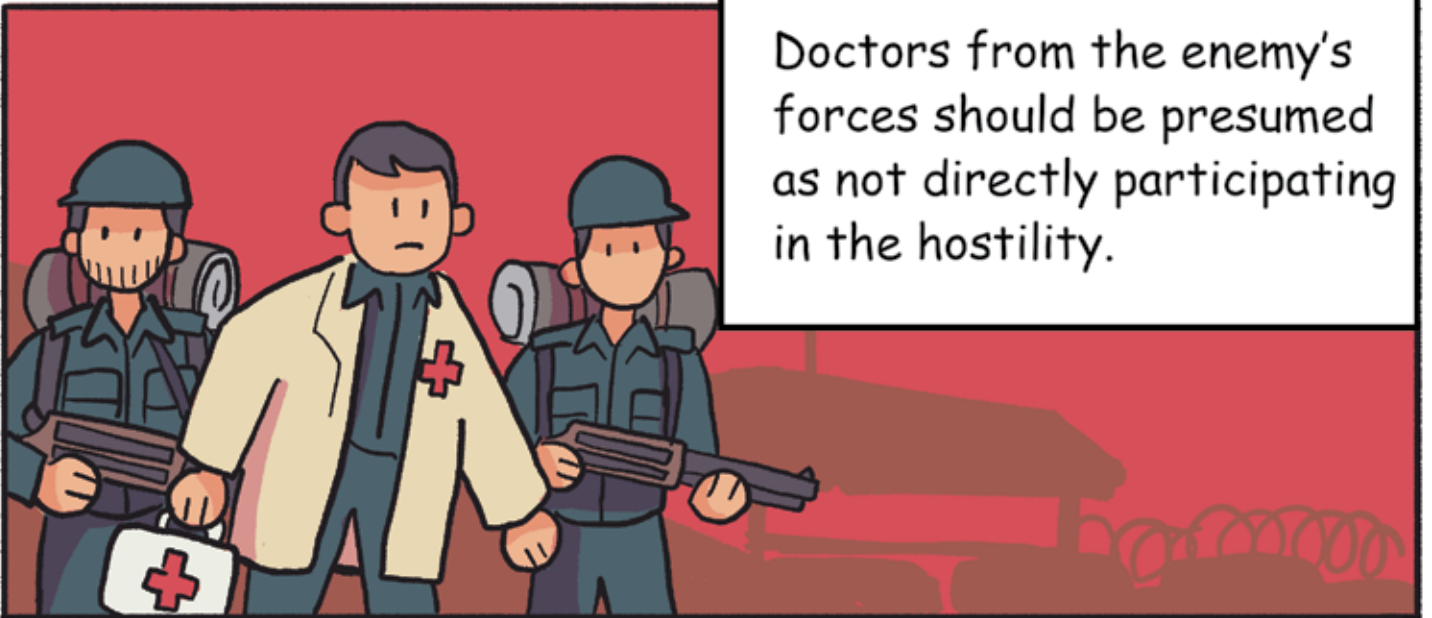




Protect and respect reporters and journalists as they are not participating in the hostility.



Doctors from the enemy's forces should be presumed as not directly participating in the hostility.



If the security teams for the villages were not participating in the fighting, they shall not lose their right to be protected from attacks.



What should we do if it is difficult to differentiate if they are directly participating or not?



Then, they must be presumed to be civilians.



In case of doubt, a person is presumed to be a civilian and shall be protected as such.



The village was left with all the scars from the battles.



The conflict ended because the soldiers from one of the parties surrendered.



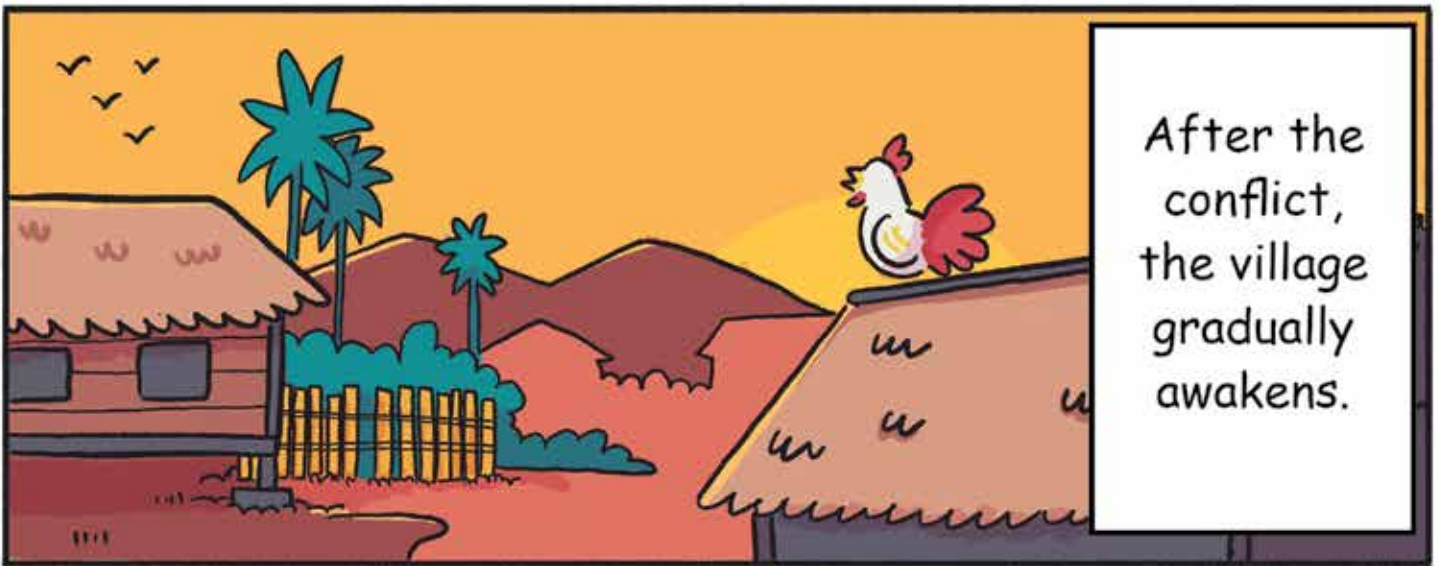
The prisoners-of-war and wounded enemy soldiers should be treated with humanity.



They should be supplied with food and medicine.



The soldiers who surrendered or the wounded soldiers should be presumed as not participating in the battles and they are to be treated with humanity.



After the conflict, the village gradually awakens.



People repair the damages and the village is revived.



The village becomes lively again.



