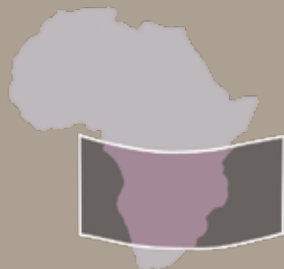




ICRC



Newsletter of the ICRC
Pretoria Regional
Delegation

LOOK OUT FOR...

In detention – the humane way

The ICRC has just launched its new detention film which also serves as a tool for communication to authorities when negotiating access to detention. The primary target audiences are prison and police authorities as well as intelligence agencies with detainee interrogation responsibilities. Find the video at:
<http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/f01052>

The 2009/2010 edition of the African Yearbook on International Humanitarian Law has just been published by Juta Law. The African Yearbook is an annual journal that promotes research in international humanitarian law and policy with a focus on African contexts. In this issue, one article considers extending international criminal accountability to situations of internal violence and strife in Africa and another addresses the new African Union Convention on Displaced Persons. For copies—or subscription information—contact Juta Law (www.jutalaw.co.za).

MISSION Statement

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 war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It 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 International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Themba

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THIRD QUARTER



From the Field: The Mozambican National Red Cross Society in situations of violence. An Interview with Américo Ubisse, Secretary General of Cruz Vermelha de Moçambique (CVM).



Américo Ubisse, SG
of the Mozambican
National Red Cross
Society

On September 1, 2010, protests broke out in and around Maputo against the proposed hike in the price of bread along with water and electricity. Clashes between protestors and police forces turned violent, resulting in 13 deaths, nearly 300 reported injuries, and 400 arrests. CVM was on the scene to respond.

Themba: As soon as reports of violence came out in the media, it was evident from the news that CVM was responding on the scene. Can you describe how CVM has

successfully positioned itself to receive this vital information on the situations of violence and remain trusted by government, the general population, and also the protestors, even during a period of unrest?

AU: I am living in Matola City, which is about 20kms from Maputo, where the CVM headquarters are located. To avoid the heavy traffic into Maputo, I usually leave for work very early. The strange situation that I found on September 1 was no ordinary movement of vehicles and people on the streets. Yet, when I reached the office, I received calls from some of my colleagues, stating they will come late, because they were facing riots and the main roads were blocked. Having received that



A street scene from Maputo during the recent protests over bread price increases.

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EDITORIAL

The global environment in which the ICRC operates will continue to evolve significantly in the coming years. Ongoing transformations in the international political, economic, social, and environmental landscapes will undoubtedly have a major impact on people's lives.

Likewise, as has been witnessed in recent months, with violence related to public service strikes in South Africa, food price protests in Mozambique, and demonstrations in Swaziland, the regional and local environment remains fluid and dynamic.

The ICRC Pretoria Regional Delegation puts people's needs at the centre of its work and must, therefore, be prepared for further adaptation. In line with its mission, in the coming years the ICRC delegation in Pretoria has therefore identified two broad strategic orientations:

1. Reinforce the ICRC Pretoria Regional Delegation scope of action
The ICRC delegation will integrate more systematically the humanitarian consequences of clashes and other situations of violence in its action and will focus its attention on situations of armed violence in urban settings. The delegation will seek to achieve this aim, in light of its potential added value, in close partnership with the National Red Cross Societies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

2. Strengthen the capacity to understand and interact with South African authorities and other stakeholders
There is an increasing awareness that the poles of influence in global politics and economics have begun to shift away from the traditional power centres of Europe and North America to the Global East and Global South. In this space, South Africa has emerged as a major actor within sub-Saharan Africa and as a country of significant influence to the rest of the developing, as well as developed, world. This entails the need for this ICRC delegation to better understand how South Africa sees world affairs, sets priorities, defines humanitarian policies and more generally contemplates the future relevance of ICRC's role and neutral, independent, humanitarian approach. The ICRC Pretoria Regional Delegation will seek to develop a strategic approach to humanitarian diplomacy that is suited to the Southern African context.

South Africa is a regional centre for debate on humanitarian, security and contextual issues of interest to the ICRC. Networking with selected stakeholders, such as NGOs, think tanks, diplomatic representations, associations, journalists and private sector corporations will remain a priority for the delegation in its ambition to both follow and influence debates on the humanitarian consequences of conflicts and armed violence.

In all its endeavours, the ICRC Pretoria Regional Delegation has the ambition to foster an operational mindset that puts the needs of vulnerable people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence at the centre of our attention and humanitarian response.

Gherardo Pontrandolfi, Head of Regional Delegation

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information, I immediately placed calls to the CVM Provincial Delegation and decided to mobilize the staff that were in the office at that time. Six teams using Land Cruisers and double-cab pickups were mobilized and sent to different locations of Maputo and Matola City. This was indeed the start of the CVM involvement in the Maputo and Matola riots.

Themba: Did any issues arise with regard to acceptance of Red Cross volunteers in the streets, recognition of the Red Cross emblem, access, etc?

AU: We are proud of the fact that Red Cross is a well known Humanitarian Organization; Red Cross volunteers and Red Cross emblems are well recognized by the population, the military and police. The population was indeed very supportive to the movement of Red Cross vehicles, and volunteers. CVM was the only organization accepted by the population and only CVM vehicles were allowed by the protestors to circulate in Maputo and Matola cities.

Themba: Could you please summarize your actions, successes, and challenges in this emergency response?

AU: CVM actions during the riots were the following:

- Rescue wounded people and provide First Aid to all as appropriate;
- Transport seriously injured people to the hospitals in order to receive additional assistance.

The big success is that we were able to prevent the death of people as a result of severe injuries sustained by the riots. In fact, we were the only organization that was able to take the majority of wounded people to the hospitals. It is very important to mention that every seriously injured man, women and child would likely have died without the prompt provision of First Aid and hospital transport.

The challenge during this emergency response was in the nature of vehicles used by CVM, to take the injured people to the hospitals. Wounded people were taken to the health facilities in inappropriate vehicles. Wounded people still have a right to be transported and treated with comfort and dignity. It was indeed a big challenge to respect and observe rigorously such rights in the absence of appropriate vehicles to transport wounded people in good conditions. Despite the vehicles used, the most important actions were duly done- alleviate the suffering of people and saving lives of many innocent and injured people. We did our best with what was available during the time of riots. Another challenge that soon emerged was the effective management and sharing of information with the media, including the numbers of dead and wounded.

Themba: What lessons can you offer to other National Societies working in situations where the threat of OSV (Other Situations of Violence) exists?

AU: The lessons that we can offer in OSV are the following:

- Set up the teams to be involved in the rescue of injured people- with clear orientation/responsibilities to be followed during the operations.
- Team coordination is a key for success in any emergency.
- Ensure staff, volunteers, as well as vehicles have appropriate identification as per the ICRC guidelines.
- Avoid circulating very close to the police or military to maintain impartiality.

Themba: Can you describe the support you received from the

Red Cross Movement (ICRC and the International Federation) and its impact, financial, technical, or otherwise?

AU: The Financial and technical assistance received from both International Federation and ICRC were crucial for the success of CVM interventions. The support received was indeed a source of inspiration to act decisively in the provision of First Aid for injured people. I received so many calls from both International Federation and ICRC and when you are in difficult circumstances, like we were, small things like short cell phone calls make a big difference! The direct result was that CVM succeeded in providing vital and timely assistance for wounded people. Suffering was mitigated and many lives were saved!



Members of the Mozambican National Red Cross Society deliver a person injured during protests to hospital using a makeshift ambulance.

ICRC hosts National Press Club

The ICRC hosted the National Press Club (NPC) monthly networking forum for September. As the host, ICRC used the opportunity to present its global humanitarian work. In his speech, Head of the Pretoria Regional Delegation, Mr. Gherardo Pontrandolfi explained the importance of displaying the photographic exhibition, Humanity In War, which highlights the impacts of war along with moments of courage and dignity that are hallmarks of the work of ICRC.

The event was opened with a screening of the ICRC Panorama 08 video, which highlights the ICRC in action, assisting victims of armed conflict and promoting International Humanitarian Law. Zelda Venter, High Court Reporter for the Pretoria News, said watching the video humbled her. She said she was touched by the amazing work done by the Red Cross and stated that humanitarian issues are relevant regardless of where you are in the world.

NPC members were introduced to the regional programme heads



During the NPC event, a South African Red Cross volunteer demonstrates the appropriate procedure to roll a victim onto their side and into a lateral shock recovery position.

and encouraged to find out more about ICRC activities. Victoria Kheswa, Executive Manager, PR Communications from DEKRA Automotive South Africa, said the event helped her realise the importance of humanitarian work and reuniting families.

"The experience was really touching for me. The picture of the two ladies holding guns had the greatest impact on me as it shows the results of war. These women have been robbed of their feminine side" said Cassius Selala, Northern Region Communications Officer from South African National Parks.

The South African Red Cross Society gave a demonstration on basic first aid and life saving tips. Doreen Gough, a member of the NPC executive committee said she found it very useful and inspiring. She plans to become a Red Cross volunteer when she retires.

"When people are suffering, it doesn't mean they don't express dignity. When people are afraid, it doesn't mean they lack courage. When people are in pain, it doesn't mean they don't have hope" - James Nachtwey, Photographer



Antoinette Slabbert, Reporter from Sake24 News agency, views the Humanity In War exhibition during the NPC event at ICRC Pretoria.



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*THEMBA is the Zulu & Xhosa word for “Hope”



Convention on Cluster Munitions Enters Into Force

The entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 1 August 2010 is a major step towards putting an end to the terrible suffering these weapons have caused for decades. The CCM prohibits the use, production, stockpiling, development and transfer of cluster munitions, and requires States to clear contaminated land, destroy existing stockpiles, and provide care and assistance to victims of cluster munitions.

From 1 August onwards, the provisions of the treaty became legally binding on the 30 States that ratified it before 31 May 2010 (40 states have ratified the Convention to date). Implementing the convention will require the mobilization of resources for clearing contaminated areas, stockpile destruction, and victim assistance. It will also require the adoption of domestic laws and regulations to ensure that the Convention is enforced at national levels. The entry into force only 21 months after the treaty was opened for signature in Oslo clearly demonstrates the strong commitment of States Party to the convention, and their collective

will to begin addressing the humanitarian problems caused by these weapons.

From 8 to 12 November 2010, the States Parties will gather in Vientiane, Laos to establish an action plan for implementing the Convention and to decide on procedures for regular monitoring of progress. Participation in the first meeting is open to all governments and states that have not signed or ratified the Convention are invited to attend as observers. It is noteworthy that the first meeting of States Parties is being held in Laos, the country most heavily affected by cluster munitions. The ICRC estimates that between 9 and 27 million unexploded sub munitions remain in Laos, with some 11,000 people already killed or injured (more than 30 percent, children).



Mushroom farmer Do Thien Dang survived a cluster munition explosion, but will remain disabled for life.
REUTERS/Nguyen Huy Kham

IHL in Mozambique

The ICRC's International Humanitarian Law (IHL) department, in conjunction with the Mozambican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, made a presentation to high-level government and civil society participants at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Maputo on 6 July 2010. More than 50 officials were in attendance, including representatives from the Mozambican Attorney General's Office, the Judiciary, the Constitutional Tribunal, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, civil society, and the private sector.

The key objectives of the meeting were the sensitisation and dissemination of IHL, including new developments in the field, and a reminder of the obligations of the Mozambican government, namely the ratification of IHL treaties and the creation of a National IHL Committee. The workshop was considered a success and representatives from the Ministry called for a renewed commitment and focus on the implementation of IHL in the country. Future IHL workshops were requested by the participants.