

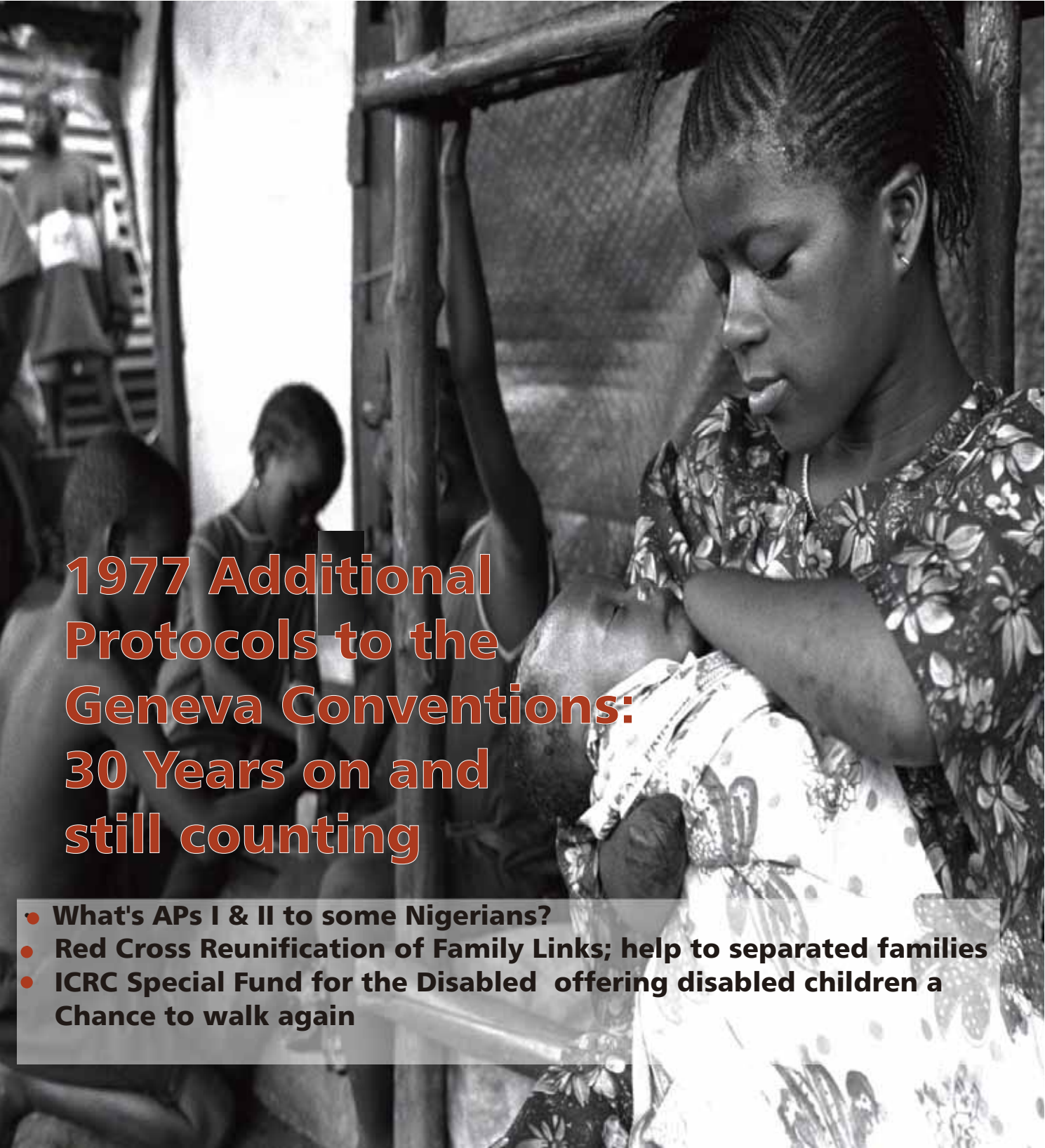


# THE HUMANITARIAN



ICRC

June 2007

A black and white photograph showing a woman in the foreground holding a baby. She is looking down at the baby with a gentle expression. In the background, there are other people, including a child, in what appears to be a rural or makeshift structure. The overall tone is somber and humanistic.

## 1977 Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions: 30 Years on and still counting

- What's APs I & II to some Nigerians?
- Red Cross Reunification of Family Links; help to separated families
- ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled offering disabled children a Chance to walk again

The **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement** is made up of the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and the 185 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In Nigeria, the three components of the Movement are present, each carrying out its specific mandate:



**ICRC**

The **Nigerian Red Cross Society** mission is to assist victims of disaster, implement health and social welfare programs and promote humanitarian principles in Nigeria.

Its activities range from emergency interventions during outbreaks of violence and disasters providing First Aid and assistance to those displaced to providing long-term programs aimed at improving the situation of the most vulnerable.

The NRCS acts as an auxiliary to the Nigerian Government in emergency situations with an extensive network of local branches in every State and over 500'000 volunteers working closely with those needing assistance.

The **International Committee of the Red Cross'** mission is to protect and assist victims of war and internal violence, and to promote and strengthen humanitarian law. It is present in over 80 countries worldwide.

In Nigeria, ICRC is focusing on preventive activities, humanitarian diplomacy and capacity building of the Nigerian Red Cross Society. ICRC works in cooperation with the NRCS to provide protection and assistance to people affected by inter-communal clashes, urban riots and political violence.

It has established dialogue with political authorities and civil society, so as to promote awareness and implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) and exchange information on issues of humanitarian concern. It employs 38 local staff and 7 expatriate staff in the country.

The **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** promotes the humanitarian activities of the National Societies.

It directs and coordinates international assistance of the Movement to victims of natural and technological disasters, health emergencies, and refugees.

IFRC acts as the official representative of its member societies in the international field, promotes cooperation between National Societies, and works to strengthen their capacity to carry out effective disaster preparedness, health and other social programmes.

Together, the partners of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement strive to reduce human suffering and protect life and dignity in an independent and impartial manner, in Nigeria and worldwide.

# Editorial

Every hour, as a result of conflict, hundreds of civilians are killed or injured. Days are gone when the age long custom of never targeting civilians particularly women and children in warfare was observed and respected by combatants. Now in almost all current conflicts, civilians represent the majority of casualties.

The Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 provides protection for the wounded and sick, the shipwrecked, prisoner of war and civilians.

However, during the years following it became clear that civilian victims were still as numerous as combatants, thereby forcefully exposing the need for an extended and further strengthened protection for those women, children and other civilians who do not take part in hostilities.

The 1977 Additional Protocols were drawn up essentially as a response to these increased sufferings of civilians in armed conflict due in part to developments in weapons technology, by introducing essential rules relating to the conduct of hostilities and the methods and means of warfare.

In particular, Additional Protocols I & II reinforced the important principles of distinction between civilians and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives.

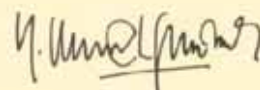
They were also a response to the proliferation of internal armed conflicts; indeed, Additional Protocol II was the first treaty ever devoted exclusively to the protection of the victims of non-international armed conflicts.

Amongst the most widely accepted legal instruments in the world rank the 1977 Additional Protocols. At present, 167 States are party to Additional protocol I and 163 States to Additional Protocol II.

By focusing on these protocols especially as they mark their thirty years of existence, we are highlighting the importance of these landmark treaties, as well as re-affirming their relevance in today's conflicts.



Abiodun Orebiyi  
Secretary General  
Nigerian Red Cross



Harald Schmid de Gruneck  
Head of Mission  
International Committee of the Red Cross

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# Thirty Years of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions: The journey so far

**Barrister Bayo Bola-Solarin**

**T**he Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 are treaties, which are universally accepted for the protection of war victims. Their universal acceptance is total with 194 countries ratifying the treaties. Particularly, the Geneva Conventions protect the wounded and sick, the shipwrecked, prisoners of war and civilians. Their protection also covers medical duties, medical personnel, medical units, facilities, and means of transport.

As is the case universally, there is rarely any well-crafted law or treaty without lacunas; this could be as a result of the non-existence of some particular situations, which the law/treaty never envisaged, or due to modern day sophistication in the art of warfare.

The latter is the situation the Geneva Conventions found itself and the lacunas therein were supposed to be plugged by the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions adopted on June 8 1977. Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 is relating to the protection of victims of international Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) while Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, is relating to the protection of victims of non-international Armed Conflict (Protocol II).

**What are the Purposes of these Protocols?**

## **Protocol I**

Primarily, this Protocol imposes a constraint or better still, a limit on the way in which military operations

may be conducted. This had to be so because it was apparent that the rules applicable to the conduct of hostilities were outdated and means that are more sophisticated were now being employed by combatants during hostilities.

The chief purpose of the protocol is to clearly distinguish civilians from combatants. It tends to achieve this by prohibiting indiscriminate attacks or reprisals directed against

- Civilian population and individual civilians;
- Civilian objects;
- Objects indispensable to survival of civilian populations for example the community source of water;
- Cultural objects and places of worship etc;
- Works and installation containing dangerous force;
- Natural environment;
- Protocol I also,
- Extends the protection accorded

under the Geneva Conventions to all medical personnel units and means of transport whether civilian or military;

- Lay down an obligation to search for missing persons;
- Strengthen the provision concerning humanitarian relief for the civilian populations;
- Protect the activities of civil defense organizations;
- Specifies measures that must be taken by the states to facilitate the implementation of humanitarian law;

Attacks or other acts carried out in violation of these prohibitions are considered grave breaches of humanitarian law and classified as war crimes. The protocol also provides for the establishment of an International Fact-Finding Commission to investigate alleged grave breaches. It is pertinent to note here, that about 167 states are parties to this protocol and many of them have accepted the



Blessing Ejirofor/ICRC



Boris Heggy/ICRC

Wounded persons during conflict have the right to protection says, AP II

competence of the commission.

## Protocol II

After the World War II, it was observed that conflicts were no longer international but non-international i.e. conflict within nations. In the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, reference was made more to international conflicts, because this was the order of the day. It is only in Article 3, which is common to all the four conventions that reference is made to non-international conflict. Even then, the provision of Article 3 is inadequate to cater for the serious humanitarian problems that are resultant of internal conflicts. We can ordinarily imagine the devastating effects of the Darfur crisis in Sudan, the Rwanda genocide or the Liberian situation even after the existence of the additional protocols.

Protocol II is simply to ensure the application to internal conflict of the

important rules of laws of war. Of course, this is without prejudice to the rights of the concerned states to maintain or restore law and order within their states and can never be used to justify foreign interventions into the affairs of a state.

It is universally agreed that while Article 3 planted the seed of humanitarian consideration in law relating to civil war, Protocol II takes this modest considerations to a higher realm.

More particularly, Protocol II:

- Strengthens the fundamental guarantees enjoyed by all persons not, or no longer taking part in the hostilities just like in the Geneva Convention. It hereby distinguished who is a civilian and who is a combatant.
- Lays down rights of persons deprived of their liberty and provides judicial guarantees for those prosecuted in connection with armed conflicts.

- Prohibits attacks on civilian population and individual civilians, objects indispensable to survival of civilian, cultural objects and places of worship, etc ensuring that military objectives does not override civilian objects
- Protect the wounded, sick and shipwrecked.
- Protect religious personnel and all medical personnel, unit and their means of transportation whether civilian or military.
- Limits the use of Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems to those persons and objects duly authorized to display it

It is good to know that about 163 states are parties to Protocol II even with its far-reaching implications, though some work still need to be done in making some super powers like the U.S.A, be party to it.

It is only when all states have pledged compliance with all the



instruments that make up international humanitarian law, will it be possible to ensure equal protection for all victims of armed conflict be of international or internal.

However, as good and well intended as the protocols are, their soft underbelly lies in the fact that the obligations laid down in this instrument do not impose an intolerable burden on those in charge of military operations since they do not affect rights of each nation to defend itself by any legitimate means.

## Nigeria and Additional Protocols I & II

Nigeria as a nation is a party to both the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 1977. The implications of this are that Nigeria has adopted the basic foundation of International Humanitarian Law. It puts the nation in a good position to regulate the activities of her combatants.

The last known record of internal crisis that is in the dimension of non-international armed conflict was recorded in Nigeria some 40 years ago during the Nigerian Civil War. Prior to this Nigeria had ratified the Geneva Conventions so the internal hostilities then were to a large extent guided by Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions. Nigeria has not witnessed any crisis in the dimension of non-international armed crisis since 1977. This has been achieved largely through conscious efforts of both the leaders and the citizens, so Nigerians may not be in a position to determine how

effective the additional protocols have been within the context of Nigeria.

However, efforts are on by stakeholders to domesticate the Additional Protocols (I & II) into the Nigerian Laws. One of such efforts is the initiative taken by the ICRC to help to review and update the Geneva Conventions Act of 1961, which was enacted 46 years ago and has not been reviewed till date. The review and update had been done by some legal eggheads and about now, should be on its way to the National Assembly.

Yet another effort in domesticating the Geneva Conventions and its Additional Protocols (I & II), is the continuous teaching through workshops & seminars of the Nigerian Armed Forces and the Nigeria Police, Universities and the general public.

Plans are also on to incorporate basic tenets of the international Humanitarian laws into the education curriculum of the nation's secondary school syllabus. This is geared towards making every Nigerian child aware of the tenets of humanitarian values and peaceful co-existence.

## Conclusions

Globally the condemnations suffered by the rules of war (inclusive) of the Additional Protocols have been that, of what use are they if they are neither applied nor enforced?

I submit that the real value of the Additional Protocols is not in the little they might have achieved, but rather in the bigger and greater evil, they have helped to prevent. Today there is a growing recognition that wars now have limits, not least in the specific duties of care required towards a civilian population.

It should be noted that it was public pressure, and the collective shame of governments in failing to stop the carnage in both the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, that led to the establishment of the two ad hoc criminal tribunals for those countries in the mid 1990s. Despite their constraints, the tribunals represented a major step forward in ending the impunity of war criminals. Moreover, with the coming of the international Criminal Court (ICC) in 2002, we can say we are on the path of actualizing all the intents of the Additional Protocols.



Nick Danziger/ICRC

Homes of Civilians should never be targeted at during conflicts

# What's Additional Protocols I & II to some Nigerians?



**Mrs Chinwe Uwandu;**  
**Federal Ministry of Justice, Abuja**

**A**dditional Protocols I & II have to a large extent filled the gaps that existed in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 by strengthening the legal safeguards available to the persons who come within the contemplation of the Conventions in times of conflict.

Fundamental guarantees covering respect for the dignity of the person and including an enumeration of prohibited acts such as torture, corporal punishment, mutilation, outrages upon human dignity, etc have been covered under Protocol I.

Protocol I further provides legal safeguards in situations where a person is arrested for an offence related to the conflict, for example the right to be informed in a language which he understands, of the acts of which he is accused. In addition, if a sentence is passed, it must be pronounced by an impartial court applying a regular judicial procedure.

For states to be bound by the additional Protocols, they will have to sign and ratify or accede to them. It goes without saying that the additional protocols will enjoy full significance only when they enjoy effective force in national statutes.

It is in fulfilment of her obligations under the various IHL Treaties that Nigeria continues to endeavour to take the necessary steps in order to ensure that those Treaties are fully implemented in her domestic jurisdiction.

**Mr. Benson Chinedu  
Olugbuo  
Coalition for the  
International Criminal  
Court (CICC), Abuja -  
Nigeria**

I believe it gives better working explanations to provisions of the Geneva Convention e.g. the provisions of Article 59 on non-defended localities. More so, in the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks, protection of the civilian populations and objects and the conduct of combatants during hostilities. The ameliorations are that whatever their nationality and the territory in which they live, relief actions for vulnerable individuals covering food, medical supplies clothing, etc. must be permitted. Women and children are the object of special respect and are protected against any form of indecent assault. The reunion of dispersed families and the compulsory facilitation of exchange of family news are provided for in the Protocols. Above all, each person affected by armed conflict is entitled to his/her fundamental rights. These rights and guarantees are equally valid in non-international armed conflicts.

**Dr. M.O. Unegbu  
Senior Lecturer- Faculty of Law, Abia State University**

Experiences from recent conflicts around the world reveal that many provisions of these Protocols are constantly breached by combatants, war commanders and national authorities. From the Former Yugoslavia to Rwanda, from East Timor to Sierra Leone, from Palestine to Congo Democratic Republic, from Iraq to Darfur in Sudan, from Chechnya to Somalia, stories of widespread atrocities abound. Most prominent among such atrocities is indiscriminate attack on civilians. Others include systematic rape and indecent assaults of women, torture and inhuman treatment of civilians and Prisoners of war, and recruitment of child soldiers in active hostilities.

It must be noted that most conflicts in the past three decades were non-international in character. In such conflicts, rebel soldiers and militia groups play a very important role as combatants. This is one of the major reasons why atrocities are on the increase. Rebel soldiers and militiamen are usually recruited hurriedly upon the outbreak of hostilities. Not having the prior benefit of adequate training on the rules guiding armed conflicts, they ignorantly fight with the erroneous notion that, amidst the clash of arms, the law is silent. Extending the knowledge of the rules to prospective combatants outside the regular armed forces of various nations is a major challenge facing the law of armed conflicts.

Moreover, we suggest that the Additional Protocols should go further to specify punishments for infringement of its provisions relating to various offences such as those mentioned above. This will enable perpetrators of war crimes to appreciate the fact they are truly accountable for their actions. Punishment should be specified in the primary instruments. Mere prohibition is not enough.





# The two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949: journey from draft to adoption

Sheba Corti, ICRC Communication Delegate

## Additional Protocols; filling the gap

In 1949, the Four Geneva Conventions were negotiated in only four months, in a remarkable atmosphere of consensus between members of the international community. World War II, and all its devastating consequences, was no doubt very present in the minds of negotiators at the International Diplomatic Conference of 1949.

Contemporary concerns of a different nature were at play at The Diplomatic Conference held in Switzerland from 1974 to 1977, when the international community agreed to update the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Three factors can be mentioned:

First, the world was increasingly facing independence wars, internal armed conflicts, sometimes with foreign interventions, and revolutionary-type wars. These conflicts were disastrous for civilians, who constituted up to 80 % of deaths. The conduct of hostilities by the fighters or insurgents in these emerging types of armed conflicts did not always correspond to the usual rules and customs of warfare. It was obvious that the Geneva Conventions adopted in 1949 did not cover all aspects of human suffering in modern conflicts. Media coverage of the Vietnam War, and other conflicts, brought home to the general public bloody images and tearful testimony of the suffering of civilians reinforced by images of napalm and chemical defoliants.

The second factor was that the so-called Hague Law (on methods and means of warfare) had not

undergone any significant revisions since 1907. Indeed, in the 1970's the Hague Regulations respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land of 1907 were still regulating the modern types of armed conflicts. The rules, for example, on protection against air bombings, were either outdated or did not cover the increasing security threats of new weapons, such as atomic, bacteriological and chemical weapons. There was thus an urgent need to update this set of rules.

A third important motivation for the international community to update IHL was the situation of the newly independent "Third World" countries, most of which had gained their independence in the years following the Diplomatic Conference of 1949. As many of the ongoing armed conflicts in the 1970s occurred in such states, it was seen as important to take into account their interests.

These three factors were not new; indeed they had been expressed during the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement held between 1965 and 1969 and at United Nations Conferences. The forces for change were gathering.

## The ICRC and Additional Protocols; from draft to adoption

In 1968, the United Nations Secretary General established contact with the ICRC with a view to cooperating on a joint study on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflict. At that stage, it was proposed that the updating of IHL would take the shape of two Additional Protocols to the existing Geneva Conventions.

Under the patronage of the ICRC, several meetings with governmental experts were organized to elaborate the preliminary drafts of the two new Protocols; the first one regulating the protection of the victims in



Developments in weapons technology have changed means and methods of warfare



international armed conflicts, the second one concerning the protection of victims in non-international armed conflicts.

The ICRC drafts took into account most views given by the different international experts consulted, though they did not follow them entirely, especially when some proposals were contradictory. In elaborating the draft Protocols, the ICRC endeavoured to give priority to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, at the same time balancing these with the political and military constraints. For example, in the beginning the ICRC advocated a parallel approach to the rules governing internal and international armed conflicts. However, quite rapidly, the ICRC had to abandon this innovation as some States were not prepared to extend to "rebel" forces the same rights and obligations as those accorded to the regular forces of enemy States.

As the question of conventional weapons, (which may cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering or indiscriminately strike civilians) could have been delicate, the ICRC did not include in the drafts any prohibition and specific limitations. Rather, it reiterated the fundamental principles of Hague law and of the St Petersburg Declaration in the introduction of the aforesaid drafts.

During an international expert meeting, some states delegation proposed to include the regulation of conventional weapons in the draft Protocols. This proposition was dropped later as it was decided that

the issue of the use of Conventional Weapons would be the object of a separate convention. Later, States made good on this plan in adopting, in 1980, the Convention on Prohibition or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects, widely known as the Conventional Weapons Convention.

The draft Protocols were sent to governments by June 1973, accompanied by detailed commentary, reports of previous conference of government experts and various proposals put forward by these experts.

Under the auspices of the Swiss Government in its capacity of the depositary of the Geneva Conventions, a Diplomatic Conference on the reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian law applicable to armed conflict was convened in Geneva. Four sessions were held between 1974 and 1977. States party to the Geneva Conventions and members of the United Nations were invited to attend, bringing the number to 155 states. Several national liberation movements, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participated as observers.

Perhaps not surprisingly, negotiations were often balanced between political and humanitarian requirements. For example, numerous newly independent states insisted that armed national liberation movements should be

treated just like regular armed forces. This proposal led to much debate on the scope of application in the first article of Additional Protocol I (hereafter AP I). This led to certain modifications in Additional Protocol II (hereafter AP II). Indeed, once the problem of liberation wars had been settled within AP I, there were not many voices left in favour of a full, coherent set of rules applicable to so-called civil wars contained in AP II. Therefore the draft of AP II was to suffer several cuts and deletions. Articles relating to rules on the conduct of hostilities, humanitarian assistance, medical missions and implementation mechanisms were dropped during the different meetings of the commissions.

Finally, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, 1977 the 150 articles constituting the two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 were adopted almost by consensus among all the states present; only 14 articles needed a formal vote of two third majority.

## Some Achievements of AP I and II

The achievement of this laborious treaty-making work was significant. The codification of the rules in AP I and II brought great hope to many victims as States agreed to reaffirm and develop their obligations arising from the conduct of hostilities. In reality, these two instruments go well beyond the objectives of complementary characters to the Geneva Conventions. On certain points, the 1977 Additional Protocols updated existing law and arguably even introduced bold innovations, such as the rules applicable in complex cases of wars of liberations and guerrilla fighters. AP I and AP II contained mixed rules including humanitarian principles which aim to protect and spare human life with rules on how to conduct hostilities.

An example of a major breakthrough for API was the



First Diplomatic Conference, Geneva 1864

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# REUNIFICATION OF FAMILY LINKS: Help for separated families

Umar Mairiga, NRCS Disaster Management Officer

"In my few years as a responder, working with the Emergency and First Aid Teams and other volunteers in large, medium and small-scale emergencies, the need for tracing of the missing has always been part of the challenges we face as a humanitarian organization", says Biodun Odejimi, an EFAT member. "We have seen smiles on the faces of disaster affected people who either received first aid, food or non-food relief assistance from the Red Cross but the biggest smile comes from families that we were able to reunite with a missing family member. Their joy usually knows no bound".

Biodun remembers with joy the case of seven-year-old Emmanuel Joseph who was re-united with his parents a week after he went missing in the ensuing commotion resulting from the tragic "Lagos bomb blast" of 2002. "Little Emmanuel and his parents had joined the horde of people running helter skelter with no particular destination in mind but anywhere far from the blasts. Unfortunately, he was separated from his parents who ran in different directions". Two days later, when situation became quieter and people began taking stock of their losses; more than 1,000 people had died in the Oke-Afa canal in their attempt to run to safety. The parents of Emmanuel had given him up for dead until he was found and brought to them hale and hearty by the Nigerian Red Cross.

On 26 December 2006 at Abule-Egba in Ifako Ijaiye Local Government Area of Lagos State, there was an oil pipeline explosion, and within minutes of the explosion, more than 200 people were killed while 65 people were

hospitalized in various government and private clinics around Lagos and Ogun States. Hundreds more who ran to different directions in search of refuge were later declared missing.

The Nigerian Red Cross established a tracing center where members of the Abule Egba community could register missing relations. Another Red Cross Team was registering and collecting addresses and pictures of the survivors at various hospitals and treatment centers to enable link-ups with their families.

Mrs. Margaret Nnugi, a grandmother of 67 years old whose photograph was brought to the Red Cross center as missing, was later found and reunited with her family. Mrs. Nnugi, who was living with her son in an apartment in the area, was left at home with her grandson on that fateful day. The grand son went out of the house to play but didn't come back home on time, so she went out to look for him, then came the big explosion and in the ensuing commotion, she was swept along by the current of a flowing mass of humans seeking refuge from the raging fire. She and her grandson were found by a Red Cross team two days later and returned to their home.

The Red Cross staff and volunteers have facilitated scores of tracing and family reunification in a number of disasters ranging from the Kaduna Religious conflict of 1999 which displaced over 150,

000 people, the Plateau Ethno-Religious conflict of 2001, the Lagos Munitions depot explosions of 2002, the cartoon riots in parts of the country to the Yelwa-Shendam crisis in Plateau State.

Like Biodun said, the fulfillment at the end of the day comes from seeing the smiles or tears of joy on the faces of the families reunited. Sometimes the feeling get infectious and the Red Cross member or volunteer shares freely whatever feeling the family reunited is expressing. "As a Red Cross volunteer, one is used to seeing situations like this which sometimes cause tears to run down your face. These tears of joy are always the result of the fulfillment of being able to facilitate and even share in the happiness of others".



Madam Margaret Nnugi was reunited with her family by the NRCS

NRCS

# A student's experience at the Arusha Moot Court Competition

Maduka, Emmanuella Ngozi

**B**efore I took part in the ICRC law students' competition at Arusha Tanzania in November 2006, my notion of the International Committee of the Red Cross and its activities was all about volunteer workers in remote camps with sick, wounded, lost and starved civilians or fallen soldiers with little or no food and medical aid. As long as I was concerned, it was a risky job.

However, all that changed with my participation in the competition.

As law students, taking part in contests is not new deal since we are meant to take part in as many as possible before graduation. Nonetheless, this competition was not just any average competition we are used to, it was more than what any of the students ever expected. This one competition had seminars, lectures on IHL and ICRC activities, excursion to war crimes tribunals to watch on-going trials and other additional benefits. My experience is best summarized as follows:

## CHALLENGING

Each day of the competition was so challenging it required hard work to cope. The challenges differ each day and so is the experience. The role-plays centred on the activities of the ICRC and the practice of IHL principles and law.

## EDUCATIVE

The ICRC competition did not just expose us to ICRC and IHL, but it helped participants to learn how to work as a team which is very essential not only for the competition but for everyday life. The aspect of lectures, seminars and sharing of educational materials, which were discussed during and after lectures greatly enhanced one's knowledge of IHL. We went through training on how to think fast, act smart and above all, how to work as a team. This is very important for anyone who wants to work with people and win competitions. We visited the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to witness on-going trials of people alleged to have committed war crimes. Sound discussions and exchange of ideas which the participants shared before, during and after each role-play also helped to expose us to the activities of ICRC. I am proud to say that I presently know much about the ICRC and its activities that I can easily pass for an ICRC delegate.

## ENJOYABLE

The competition was most of all enjoyable not just, because it was an all expense paid trip with comfortable accommodation and good food, but the ICRC

delegates who organized the competition were very warm and made us feel like family.

I was glad to know that my notions about the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross were better than I thought. For me, the most crucial aspect of the ICRC activity is that of visiting prisoners of war, to know their conditions and lend a helping hand in alleviating their sufferings:

In addition, the ability of the ICRC to trace and re-unite lost family members and friends who lost contact in conflicts is also impressive. The experience we had at the competition is something one would like to have over and over again.

*Maduka Emmanuella is a final year Law student at the Abia state University, Nigeria*

## Till the last day

*(For the children who lost their lives to wars they knew nothing about)*

When the pall-bearers tire  
The poet will bear the homage  
On her pen's shoulders.

When the mourners' dirge die  
The potter's fire will leave  
The night lucent

When the world's memory is beaten  
By the forgetfulness of time  
The artist will brush dust  
Off the canvas

When the hypocrites slump to bed  
The saints will keep awake  
Singing their wreaths  
Laying them wreaths  
Till the last day of infinity.

*By Ify Agwu, culled from one of her  
Published works titled "They Run Still"*



# Nigerian Red Cross: giving rural women an opportunity to formal education

Patrick Bawa, NRCS Assistant Director, Communication

**A**smawu Usman is a young and exuberant woman of 20 years old, wife and mother of two. Her formal education ended prematurely in primary three because her parents could not afford to pay for her education any further.

Since then she has not had another opportunity to further her education and to make matters worse, "I was married off by my parents at the age of 14 to a man almost the age of my father", she laments.

This is the story of many young women in most rural communities in Nigeria.

Like Asmawu, they all at one point had their dreams and aspirations, however, those dreams were cut short by family and social circumstances.

In order to assist such young women, the Nigerian Red Cross Society through its Mothers Club program, is working with women in rural communities in order to address these problems especially, in the areas of health and security as well as uncertainties arising from the need to earn a living both individually or as a group.

The choice of what activity to embark on is taken by these women based on their needs while the Nigerian Red Cross simply assumes the role of a facilitator.

For the women of Gurusu in Chanchaga Local Government Area of Niger State, formal education was a pressing need for the women and girl child of the community. Hence, the Mothers club unit in that community, having realized that education was a contributory factor to self-realization and awareness, organized the women into adult



Asmawu and her colleagues at the adult education class

education groups coordinated by the Mothers Club Coordinator, Mrs. Habiba J. Umar, assisted by a few other educated women.

The classes, which hold twice weekly, started with only 28 young women, have so far attracted the interest and participation of more than 60 young women.

The students are taught to read and write, counseled on exclusive breast-feeding, as well as given tips on personal hygiene and environmental health.

The program caught on so well with the community that the Village Head of Gurusu, who is patron of the scheme, mandated all married men in the community to ensure that their wives and female children attend the twice-weekly adult education classes.

According to Asmawu Usman, "the adult literacy classes being organized by the Nigerian Red Cross Mothers Club is a very

profitable scheme in the sense that they provide women like me the opportunity to acquire basic formal education which will assist us to realize part if not all of our vision as rural women".

The most radical aspect of this initiative was the paradigm shift that, in principle, opened up new ways of providing help and created opportunities for a community prepared to look after itself.

The outlook was far-reaching, but the resources available to the women were not enough to meet the educational needs of the vulnerable class. The process proved difficult at first, because trying to change the attitude of people towards formal, especially girl child education proved problematic. For them, it was a departure from an age-long norm, but with perseverance, the initial obstacles were surmounted.

# WHAT'S IN THE FUTURE?

## A REJUVENATED FEDERATION

**T**he global challenges confronting the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (The Federation) are mounting everyday. HIV/AIDS is killing over 8,000 everyday. More than 1 billion people live on less than USD 1 a day. Every day, 30,000 children under the age of five die. Far too many of them are killed by preventable diseases. Access to basic health services and clean water is still a dream for the majority of the world's population. Moreover, each year, millions of people are affected by natural disasters. Vulnerable communities look to the International Federation and our network of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies to address these global challenges, increase the scale and scope of our work and show the results and impact of our actions and advocacy.

The Federation is a leading actor in humanitarian action. Our network of millions of volunteers is unique in the world. Thus, the expectations are enormous and we have a fundamental obligation to meet those expectations.

The Federation of the future project is about how we can achieve this. It is a reflection of the outcomes of a two-year process of consultation and analysis about the main external and internal issues facing the Federation, with the aim of improving its functions in order to achieve the aims of our Strategic Development Plan - Strategy 2010 and remain relevant and effective as an organization. The Federation of the future is about renewing our commitment to scale up our work everywhere, today and tomorrow.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is represented in Nigeria by Stephen Omollo, who is also the Head of the West Coast Regional Office. The Regional Office for the Federation in the West Coast of Africa is located in Lagos, Nigeria. The Regional Office is responsible for overseeing operations and providing support to Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo National Red Cross Societies.

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*Contd. From pg.7*

substantial progress achieved in the rules relating to the conduct of hostilities, that is, the authorized methods and means of warfare (art. 35 API). This also ensures better protection of the civilian population against the collateral effects of hostilities. AP I clearly states that "the right of the Parties to the conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited".

AP II is the first IHL treaty of International humanitarian law relating specifically to non-international armed conflicts. Its adoption was an innovation in itself.

The main achievements of AP II were without doubt the detailed enumeration of prohibitions such as those on taking hostages, collective punishments, acts of terrorism, and enrolling children in armed forces or armed groups below the age of 15 years old. Others include the protection of rights of persons whose liberty has been restricted and the various judicial guarantees, such as the rights to be informed of the offence without delay and to have the necessary means of defence. This in some aspects even goes beyond the hard core of human rights law. AP II also contains the prohibition of attacks against the civilian population (art. 13), a core rule which is widely accepted, if not always respected, today.

### Are the Additional Protocols still relevant 30 years later?

Debate continues on the real relevance of IHL rules in present-day conflicts, and on the adequacy of these rules. Yet the continued suffering of civilians in armed conflicts, for example, may result mainly from the lack of respect for the existing rules of IHL, rather than to inadequacies in the rules themselves. Who can deny that the core rules of IHL, as found in the Additional Protocols, are based on fundamental humanitarian values which are timeless, to be safeguarded by every generation?

The relevance of any set of legal rules can be judged by its application. This is no less true for IHL. In recent years, the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Criminal Court, as well as growing numbers of national courts, have been prosecuting perpetrators of war crimes, on the basis of rules in the Additional Protocols. Thus, it is clear that the long journey of the Additional Protocols, which started 30 years ago, will continue.



# NRCS: Rising to the Challenges of Nigeria's April 2007 Elections

Attah Benson, NRCS Assistant Director, Disaster Management

By 1999, the growing difficulties in the economy of Nigeria as well as the increasingly precarious political and social environment that was a result

Like other situations of internal violence, election violence poses serious security threats and risks to the lives of humanitarian agencies as they deliver humanitarian

to the victims in situations that would guarantee their own safety and security.

As usual, the Branch Secretaries, Disaster Management

Coordinators and the Emergency and First Aid Teams (EFATs) of the 37 State Branches were mobilized to monitor the general situation in their various states. They were also ready to provide humanitarian assistance in the event of possible need for humanitarian intervention. The various EFATs were strategically positioned with their First Aid Posts, some distance away from the Polling areas, but near enough to react in case of need for emergency first aid assistance. The EFAT members worked in coordination with other agencies while all available means of



NRCS First Aid Team (EFAT) attending to a victim of violence

of many years of Military rule began to give way to the yearnings and aspirations of the Nigerian people to return to democratic governance. Nigerians' made a choice in the general elections of that year, and they chose democracy as a solution to an unfavourable situation.

Eight years on, April 14 & 21 2007 to be precise, it was time again for elections that would mark the first transition from a democratically elected government to another democratically elected government. However, this did not come without some humanitarian challenges as violent situations erupted in some parts of the country especially in areas not previously designated as high-risk election violence spots.

assistance. A major strategy of the Nigerian Red Cross operational plan was to ensure that its volunteers and staff had safe access

of emergency first aid assistance. The EFAT members worked in coordination with other agencies while all available means of



NRCS volunteers arriving a scene of violence



communication were employed (GSM phones and VHF radios) to establish contact with different officers and team members during the exercise.

The National Headquarters Disaster Management Directorate coordinated the activities of the Zones, Branches and the EFATs ensuring that all staff members and volunteers involved in the exercise adhered strictly to the National Society's Security Rules and Guidelines for intervention in emergency and disaster situations. They were also well equipped with first aid kits, identification and protective materials distributed to all the Emergency and First Aid Teams through the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The voting exercise was peaceful in most parts of the country at the early stages of the exercise especially during the April 14

elections. But same could not be said of the Presidential and Parliamentary elections of April 21 as there were hitches and hiccups due to delay in the commencement of the exercise. Tempers were high and in some situations monitored, violence occurred resulting in the loss of lives, injuries, and destroyed buildings.

The components of the Red Cross Movement in Nigeria were well prepared and mobilised to provide humanitarian assistance wherever it was needed.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross provided the necessary support. They provided their vehicles, which were well equipped with communication means to complement the National Society and all the Branches in the South West Zone.

The National Headquarters vehicles were mobilised to support the

Abuja, Federal Capital and Lagos State Branches while vehicles were also available as back-up to neighbouring branches such as, Nasarawa, Niger, Kogi and Kaduna with those in Lagos serving Ogun, Oyo and Osun State Branches.

The National Headquarters logistics/communication was sourced from the emergencies funds provided by the British Red Cross, which also assisted the six Zonal Disaster Management Officers in monitoring and coordinating their branches.

In the northern state of Kano, there was an outbreak of violence between some armed groups and Security forces. The Kano State Branch staff and volunteers reacted promptly to the situation and assisted hospital personnel in providing first aid to the victims. The Branch also provided dressing materials to the hospital for the treatment of the victims.



NRCS volunteers visiting a victim of a violent clash

# A chance to walk again for disabled children

Blessing Ejiolor, ICRC Media Officer

"I cannot remember how it happened", recalls Wisdom, a nine-year-old boy at the Marist Brothers Centre- Uturu Imo state, "I woke up in a hospital with my leg already cut off".

challenges have given popularity to the use of motorbike as a cheaper, faster and easily accessible alternative to moving people and goods around but with grave consequences.



Wisdom standing tall on his artificial limb

Wisdom was a happy go lucky child before a motorbike (okada) accident threw him into the challenging world of disability at the tender age of seven and greatly reduced his chances in the society.

His right limb was so badly damaged as a result of the accident that the medical team that attended to him at the time decided that amputation was the best option. He was given clutches to assist him walk but the stress and pains of using clutches for a child his age proved too much to handle.

However, looking at Wisdom in his native attire walking down the corridor to his room at the Centre, nothing in his posture would suggest that he had an artificial limb.

There is a saying in Nigeria that one out of every three cases of suspended limbs or broken joints in most orthopaedic hospitals around the country results from a motorbike accident. This is because inadequate means of modern transportation coupled with other development

happened to be one of the lucky disabled children at the Marist Brothers Centre where the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD) is involved in facilitating the provision of artificial limbs to alleviate the suffering of disabled people and accelerate their reintegration into the society.

With the prosthesis, Wisdom has received back his mobility, and more importantly, his youth and future. He presently attends a primary school within the centre and hopes to become a doctor.

Fourteen-year-old Lillian is another lucky one. A truck driver knocked her down on her way to school in the neighbouring state of Anambra.

Unprofessional handling at the early stage led to the painful amputation of her left leg. "I used to be very sad seeing other children walk around while I could not," said Lillian, "but now, I am very happy, I can stand on my legs without clutches and join my friends to go wherever they want us

to go".

Again, one more child regained her place amongst her peers with artificial limbs.

## Commitment to physical rehabilitation of the disabled

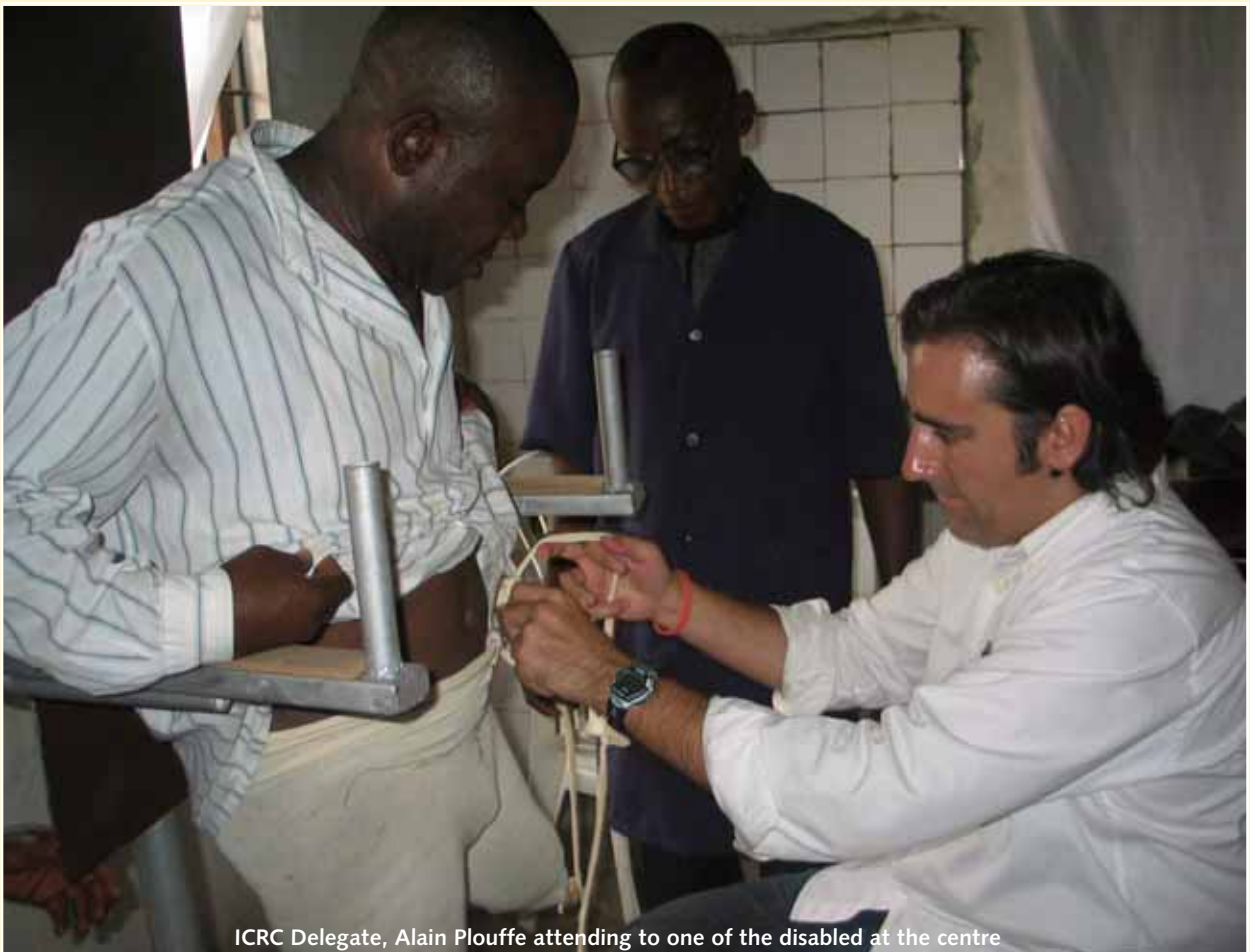
The ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD) serves to equip orthopaedic centres and help alleviate the sufferings of disabled people in developing countries or in centres where the ICRC once operated but had after the conflict, handed over either government or other appropriate agencies.

Marists Brothers Centre located in Uturu, Imo State is one of the two centres in Nigeria; the other is the Enugu Orthopaedic Hospital.

As consultants, the ICRC brings in the technology for making artificial limbs, donates the materials for making prosthesis and builds the capacity of local personnel to be able to sustain the project.

Before the partnership with the ICRC's SFD, in 1993, the centre was using the wooden technology meaning that the centre was on its way to extinction because the wooden technology has its attendant challenges. "The existence of the workshop up to date is a testimony to the usefulness of the ICRC / SFD intervention," says Brother Lazarus Onusoro, Head Orthopaedic Workshop Department of the Marists Brothers Centre.

The artificial limb technology revolutionized by the ICRC is based on a light, cheap, recyclable and hygienically advantageous material. It makes for the supply of low cost, good quality prosthesis by developing the polypropylene systems. It is readily available all over



ICRC Delegate, Alain Plouffe attending to one of the disabled at the centre

Blessing Ejirofor/ICRC

the world and allows, if necessary, a largely self-manufacturing spare parts.

Depending on the volume of cases, the Orthopaedic workshop of the Marists Brothers Centre has the capacity to fix about five artificial limbs a day and most patients come from lower socio-economic groups.

Nevertheless, since majority of the materials used in the centre are donated through the Special fund for the Disabled, the centre offers its services at a subsidized rate and in some cases, give out artificial limbs free if established that a patient does not have the means to pay. "This is one thing we would never forget about the ICRC," says Brother Lazarus.

### Technical visits

Visiting the centre twice a year is an essential part of the partnership. This is usually the time to follow up on the recommendations on the previous report, do on site training if necessary and help manage difficult or specific cases.

"The experience generally is that when they know we are coming, they try to find difficult and complicated cases that they do not feel comfortable dealing with," says ICRC's ortho-delegate, Alain Plouffe.

On this visit, Alain was confronted with a case of a sixteen-year-old boy badly deformed by polio since he was a child with "the community watching, expecting me to have the magical answers and solutions", says Alain.

The boy either drags himself on the floor to move about or be carried by someone. A wheel-chair was eventually casted for him with which, he achieves some measures of mobility and independence.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the centre, Lillian and her friends were busy with different

activities at an open space at the back of their home. One was washing clothes, the other eating lunch while the rest were talking and laughing.

Looking at the excitement on their faces, Brother Lazarus earlier comment that, "patients at the centre receive something to hold on to" reverberated.

Lillian's ambition is to become a successful lawyer one day and with her mobility restored, the sky may well be her springboard.



Lillian with her friends at the centre

Blessing Ejirofor/ICRC



# The 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Sybil Sagay, ICRC Communication Assistant

Children are legally protected by International Humanitarian Law from recruitment and participation in armed conflict. However, reports on the impact of Armed Conflict on Children have estimated that thousands of children were serving either in government armies or in opposition forces. Facts have shown that more than half of them would become victims. They end up losing all their family members or even their own lives. Many are seriously injured and some are forced to flee their homes to become refugees in other countries, thereby being deprived of their childhood.

With the appearance of new types of conflicts, means and method of warfare have become more deadly and sophisticated, so much so that, the widespread impact and consequences of armed conflict on

children have unfortunately been most severe given their vulnerability and inability to protect themselves.

Consequently, more concrete actions had to be taken to ensure their protection and assistance as children victims of war.

In recent times, several legislations have been put in place to protect them. Through these various legislations, children are accorded general and special protections.

Some of these legislations include-

- The 1949 Geneva Conventions and its Additional Protocols of 1977, which provides general and special protection to children from effects of war, by prohibiting their direct or indirect participation in hostilities.
- The 1989 Conventions on the

Rights of the Child, which highlighted the fundamental rights of the child.

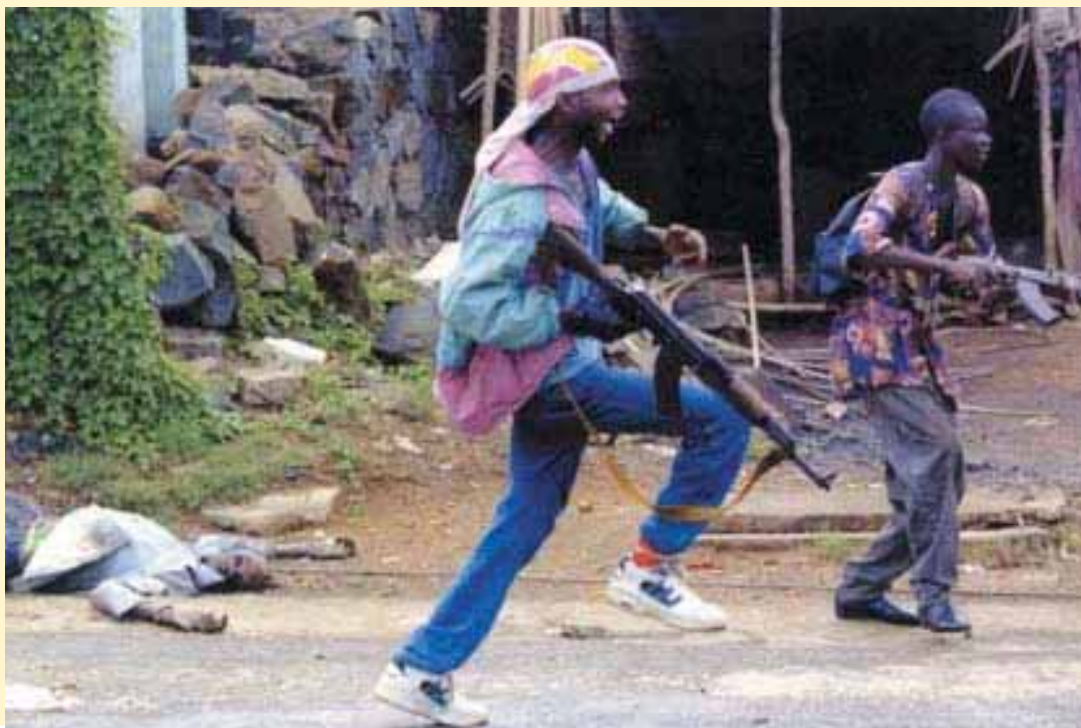
- The 1998 Rome Statute of International Criminal Court, which lists as a war crime, the conscription and enlisting of children under the age of 15 in active hostilities.
- The African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child, which protects the rights and welfare of the African child.
- The 2000 Optional Protocol to the Conventions on the Rights of the Child, which sets the limits on children taking part in hostilities.

The 1989 Conventions on the Rights of the Child makes provisions for the fundamental rights of the child and extends its field of operation to non-international armed conflict.

It also urges States party to take measures to ensure that persons aged 15 or less do not take a direct part in hostilities, while priority is given in recruitment to the oldest of those aged between 15 and 18 years old.

However, the aim of the Optional Protocol, adopted on 25 May 2000, is to further strengthen the implementation of rights in the 1989 Convention on the rights of the child.

It increases the protection for children



Recruiting children as soldiers is a violation of their rights

in armed conflict by prohibiting compulsory recruitment into armed forces of persons under 18 years and directs States to take feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not reached 18 years of age do not take direct part in hostilities.

The protocol further defines "a child as every human being below the age of 18".

The protocol ensures that States party and the armed forces are aware of these provisions and are encouraged to take measures to prevent such recruitment, as well as using legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalise such acts.

The protocol stipulates that armed groups as distinct from the armed forces of a State should not under any circumstances, recruit on a

compulsory or voluntary basis, persons under the age of 18 in hostilities.

The protocol provides that States ensure that persons within their jurisdiction already recruited or used in hostilities, contrary to the provisions of the Optional Protocol, are demobilised or released from service.

Nevertheless, with these legal protections, there are still some instances in which children are used in armed conflict and it is the duty of the States to put a stop to these practices. This they can do by ratifying and implementing treaties protecting children involved in armed conflict, while putting mechanisms in place to ensure that violators are prosecuted.

The adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court is a welcome development as the court has jurisdiction to prosecute and punish people who are responsible for such crimes.

To ensure compliance and respect of this law, States are expected to make efforts to promote its knowledge by dissemination, especially to its armed forces.

Nigeria signed the Optional Protocol on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2000.

To know more about this issue, visit [www.icrc.org/childreninwar](http://www.icrc.org/childreninwar)



Children at the ICRC supported centre for child ex-soldiers in Goma, DRC

# Guide to the New First Aid Protocols

Benson Agbro, NRCS National Training Officer

In November 2005, Resuscitation Councils published revised guidelines on resuscitation. The changes are based on the European Resuscitation Council guidelines. Representatives of Voluntary Aid Societies, including the Red Cross, met to discuss how these new guidelines would affect First Aid Manuals. The Societies, all leading First Aid providers, endeavor to ensure that First Aid manuals reflect the relevant guidance from informed authoritative sources, which are current at the time of publication. A decision was made by the Nigerian Red Cross First Aid unit to upgrade all first aid trainings to incorporate the new guidelines. The updates as they affect resuscitation are outlined hereunder:

## RESUSCITATION

Adult, child and infant resuscitation protocols have been updated following considerable research. This research showed that unnecessary interruptions to chest compression were having a negative impact on resuscitation attempts. Research clearly shows that if the heart has stopped the oxygen levels in the blood stay adequate for some time. Chest compressions delivered early will therefore help to circulate this oxygen around the body.

Evidence from Resuscitation Councils also shows that when presented with a non-breathing casualty, even those who have been trained in basic life support may be reluctant to carry out rescue breathing. It is also recognized that skill acquisition and retention are aided by simplification of the procedures. This is why adult, child and infant resuscitation protocols

have been simplified not only to help with skill retention but also to encourage the rescuer to do something rather than nothing.

## SOME IMPORTANT ITEMS TO NOTE:

The revised resuscitation guidelines highlight the importance of assessing normal breathing in an unconscious casualty. A casualty who is either not breathing or has "agonal" breathing will require resuscitation in the form of chest compressions followed by rescue breaths. Age group classifications have changed. A child is now age one to puberty. It is neither necessary, nor appropriate to check if a child has reached puberty. The age range for infants remains age 0 to 1 year.

## ADULT RESUSCITATION

- Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the most common causes for an adult casualty to become unconscious and stop breathing.
- Early access to AED improves survival. Whilst waiting for an AED to arrive, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) should be performed.
- Emphasis is placed on the importance of giving chest compressions with minimal interruptions.
- The CPR ratio is now 30 compressions to 2 breaths.
- Within the context of assessing an unconscious casualty all references to breathing will become normal breathing.
- An initial check for

obvious obstruction of the airway is no longer recommended for adults.

The procedure for finding the hand position when performing chest compressions has now been simplified, measurement is no longer required. It is now advised that you place both hands in the centre of the chest. Do not apply pressure over the ribs, bottom and of breastbone or the upper abdomen. Allow the chest to recoil completely after each compression.

It is possible to identify the correct hand position without removing the casualty's clothes. References to stopping CPR if the casualty makes a movement or takes a spontaneous breath have been removed.

If there are two rescuers available, with knowledge of CPR, change every 2 minutes with minimal disruption to giving chest compressions. This avoids fatigue and ensures that



Boris Heger/ICRC



effective chest compressions are maintained.

- A rescue breath is given over 1 second rather than 2 seconds, to minimize disruptions to chest compressions and avoid over inflation of the chest. Allow the chest to deflate before giving the next rescue breath.
- Make no more than two attempts at rescue breaths each time, before returning to chest compressions.
- References to effective rescue breaths have been removed instead references is now made to initial rescue breaths or attempts at rescue breaths.

### CHILD RESUSCITATION

- The most probable reason for a child's heart to stop is a breathing problem; such as choking or respiratory failure.
- Child CPR ratios are now 5 initial breaths followed by alternating 30 compressions and 2 breaths.
- The description of a child has changed to age 1 to puberty; however, it is neither necessary nor appropriate to check if child has reached puberty.
- It is especially important to do something rather than nothing;

therefore, it is recommended that adult CPR be used if rescuer has no knowledge of child CPR.

- Rescuers are recommended to call an ambulance and get an AED immediately if a child, who has a known heart disease, collapses suddenly.
- The position of the hand on the point of the child's chin has been highlighted. Do not push on the soft tissues underneath the child's chin as this may block the airway.
- A rescue breath is given over 1 second rather than 2 seconds, to minimize disruption to chest compressions and avoid over inflation of the chest.
- Make up to five attempts to achieve rescue breaths. Even if you still cannot achieve rescue breaths, start chest compressions.
- In the case of a small child, use the heel of one hand to apply pressure during chest compressions. For larger children, compressions may be achieved most easily by using both hands as in adult CPR.
- Keep your fingers raised so that you press only the breastbone.
- Do not apply pressure over the

ribs, bottom end of the breastbone or the upper abdomen.

- It is possible to identify correct hand position without removing the child's clothes.
- If you are alone, resuscitate for 1 minute before calling an ambulance.
- References to effective rescue breaths have been removed. Instead, reference is now made to initial rescue breaths or attempts at rescue breaths.

### FIRST AIDERS SHOULD ALSO NOTE THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

#### AGONAL BREATHING

This is described as short, infrequent gasps for breath that occur before breathing ceases in a casualty suffering from cardiac arrest. If agonal breathing is present CPR should be started immediately.

#### CHEST COMPRESSION ONLY CPR

When a rescuer is unable or unwilling to give rescue breaths, they should give continuous chest compressions at a rate of 100 compressions per minute.

#### INITIAL BREATHS

When resuscitating a child or an infant who is unconscious and not breathing, attempt to give five initial rescue breaths, after opening the airway. If you do not see the chest rise when giving initial breaths check the victim's mouth and remove any obvious obstruction and ensure there is adequate head tilt chin lift. Make no more than five attempts before continuing with chest compressions.



# HARALD SCHMID DE GRUNECK:

## 35 fascinating ICRC years

Blessing Ejiofor, ICRC Media Officer

His memory is filled with people and events spanning three and a half decades of working in many ICRC delegations cutting across more than fifty countries.

A journey, which he started as a young delegate in 1972 in Israel and the occupied Territories, took him two years later to Cyprus where he became the head of the delegation within a year of his stay. Since then, Harald Schmid de Gruneck has not looked back on his partnership with the ICRC. He is currently the last from that class of delegates that joined the organization in 1972.



Harald, with some of the Moroccan Prisoners of War released in Sept. 2003

His duties have taken him to four continents and caused his path to cross with many victims of conflicts. Now, at age 62 and warming up to retirement in October, Harald simply describes his thirty-five years of service with the ICRC as, "420 meaningful months, some frustrating, some sad, some exciting but all worth sharing with the victims of man's inhumanity to man".

Over the years, he functioned as the Head of the Regional Delegations in South East Africa, West Africa, North Africa, East Asia and presently Nigeria.

He was also at various times Head of ICRC Delegations in Israel and the Occupied Territories, Iran, and Guantanamo. He was from 1981 to 1987, the delegate to International Organizations, based in New York as observer at the United Nations and the Organization of American States in Washington.

He equally worked at the ICRC Headquarters in Geneva as Deputy Delegate General for Africa for four years, and then as Head of the Division of External Resources (fund raising), for two years.

The irony of Harald's life with the ICRC is that this Swiss national, a holder of Bachelors of Law degree from the University of Geneva, never planned to work for the organization for more than two years at the onset.

The idea he said "was to work for 2 or 3 years and then join the Swiss Diplomatic Service". However, in his second year, war broke out in Cyprus and he was called to proceed there for three months. Still within his personal timetable to prepare the exams for the diplomatic service in Switzerland, he willingly accepted. "I went there for 3 months and stayed 2 years", Harald added.

Working in ICRC operational delegations brings one up close with human tragedy as well as with the reality of the violent world we live in.

Harald was confronted with such violence during the Yom Kippour war between Israel and the Coalition of Arab States in 1973 as well as in Cyprus during the 1974 war; there he experienced for the first time the bloody consequences of armed conflict. "entering villages that had been occupied by military forces only hours ago", he recounts, "we were surrounded by scary silence, soon to be replaced by the scenes of raped and shattered women, abandoned elderly persons and looted homes. Tragic scenes, personal lessons: right for states to use force, duty also to avoid unnecessary suffering and one priority for the



Harald at the palace of HRH, Obong of Calabar for a networking meeting with authorities in the Niger Delta

Bernard Mettraux/ICRC

ICRC: help people survive and restore their dignity".

One man that might not forget the ICRC in Cyprus at that time is Giorgios K, whom Harald had met soon

after his arrival on the Island.

Giorgios was very helpful to the delegation when it came to tracing activities and Red Cross message distribution. However, one day, he was picked up and no one, to the despair of his family, could account for his whereabouts including the Turkish army that was alleged to have arrested him.

With the help of the former Vice President of Cyprus, Mr. Rauf Denktash, Harald was able to trace Giorgios in a detention centre in Nicosia. "What a relief when I saw Giorgios in his cell and what a reward to ICRC's perseverance. Try always, never give up". Giorgios was released a couple of months later.

By the time Harald left Cyprus for the Regional Delegation of South East Africa based in Lusaka, the urge to quit as planned had begun to wane. "In spite of low moments, feeling useful and being passionate keeps you going on. Therefore, you continue loving people and restoring their shattered lives, while remaining humble and realistic as to ICRC's limits"

Harald experienced a good dose of low moments at this point because he was heading a Regional Delegation in charge of the Frontline States, those States that surrounded the apartheid regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa.

His duties were mainly to spread the knowledge of the rules of the law of war and to convince both regular armies and liberation movements to abide by them. "It was frustrating sometimes," says Harald and one needed to be highly adaptable to cope.

He arrived in Lusaka with two suitcases. One was his personal effects and the other a mobile Secretariat. "I was everything: administrator, radio operator, delegate, secretary; everything, with a small budget on top". It was difficult but his flexibility saw him through.

There was also the learning experience to working in such delegation. For instance, on the list of the "security detainees" that Harald regularly visited in South Africa and Rhodesia were names of extraordinary people like Nelson Mandela, Govean Mbeki, Walter Sisulu and Toivo ya Toivo. "It was a humbling experience, you feel so little in front of those great men".

Similarly, in the Tunis Regional Delegation, Harald was a fortunate Head of Delegation to witness the release of some 2000 Moroccan prisoners of war. It was a rare privilege for him to accompany those PoW's, who had been in detention for up to 25 years, back to their families. "Captain Ali N; you and your comrades in arms will remain for ever in my heart as towering examples of physical courage and moral determination in the face of never ending adversity".

Working in ICRC delegations where there are

operational activities afforded him the privilege of enjoying such results; however, it may be a different scenario in non-operational delegations such as Nigeria, where Harald is presently the Head of delegation.

Fifty percent of the work of the ICRC in Nigeria is preventive action, such as promoting International Humanitarian Law (IHL) within the armed forces, the police force, political authorities and universities. The other fifty percent is devoted to supporting the Nigerian Red Cross Society and building its capacity. These activities take longer time before results can be achieved or even perceived. "If you take the priority list of governments" Harald remarks, "IHL is deep down on the list behind political, economic, environmental and social issues...it is very easy to sign or ratify conventions, it is much more difficult to have them implemented. Our job here is to see that these conventions are not only ratified but implemented".

Armed only with candour and moral authority, the ICRC struggles to convince governments of the absolute necessity to impose a humanitarian space in the midst of the socio political and economic interplay; this struggle is daunting, yet only such space will enable the ICRC to deliver a neutral and independent humanitarian action.

Harald is of the view that the ICRC has evolved in these 35 years from "a small organization deeply rooted in history and international humanitarian law, with little finance and human resources, into a highly professional and innovative organization".

When asked what he intends to do after his retirement in October, he said, "At 55, you look forward to retiring at 62, come 62, your state of mind changes. I shall be looking for opportunities to continue being active in my field, at least on an ad-hoc or part-time basis. When you have been trotting the globe for the last 35 years, certain habits die hard".



Harald with his daughter, Sophie



**STEP DOWN TRAINING ON HIV/AIDS FOR YOUTH PEER EDUCATORS**

In furtherance of its fight against HIV/AIDS, the Nigerian Red Cross recently embarked on a step-



down training exercise for its Youth Peer Educators in several states of the federation. The states, which benefited from the training facilitated by the six Zonal Health Officers, include Ogun, Benue, Taraba, Imo, Enugu, and Kano.

NRCS

**RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS RESPOND TO COMMUNAL CLASHES IN ANAMBRA STATE**

Members of the Emergency and First Aid Teams of the Anambra State Branch of the Nigerian Red Cross Society were called to action recently in the state when a violent communal clash ensued between the Ogbunike and Osile communities of Idemili North Local Government Area. Over 6,000 people were displaced with more than 60 residential buildings destroyed and over 4 lives lost while 52 people were injured.



NRCS

The Red Cross team evacuated and administered first aid to the injured while urging members of affected communities to embrace dialogue instead of violence to deal with issues of misunderstanding. The team also supported affected persons with non-food relief items courtesy of the British Red Cross Disaster Management Relief Fund.

**LAGOS STATE BRANCH VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT MILITARY SECURITY EXERCISE**

Eighteen volunteers of the Lagos State Branch of the Nigerian Red Cross Society in March participated in a two-day joint Military security exercise tagged "Irapada Alafia", organized by the Headquarters, 81 Division, Nigerian Army in Lagos. The internal security exercise was designed by the army to refresh the knowledge of its troops and their ability to manage emergencies. The exercise also witnessed fire fighting and casualty evacuation simulations.

**THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY ASSESSES ITSELF**

Earlier in April, the Nigerian Red Cross Society received the report from a team of consultants, which it appointed in February to assess its future and redefine its priorities.

The self-assessment, which is justified from a technical point of view and the Movement's laid down criteria for a well-functioning National Society, was necessary in order to ensure the Society remained relevant. The findings and recommendations of the consultants covered among others, areas of structural strengthening of the Society's operational performance, institutional planning and strategy development, operational and strategic analysis to enhance public image and a clearer vision and restructuring for strategic partner dynamics and community focus. Though the findings and recommendations generated controversy, it nevertheless showed that the pendulum of an eventual positive change within the Society has begun to swing.

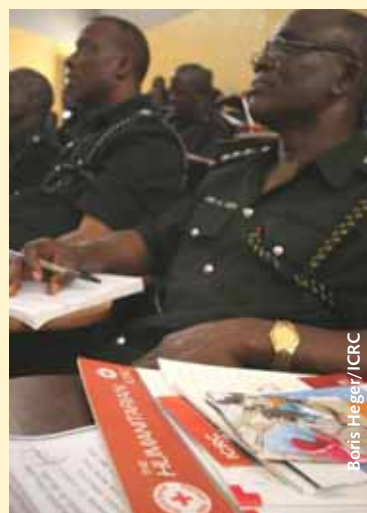
**INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR OFFICERS OF THE NIGERIAN ARMY**



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A welcome opportunity to further spread the knowledge of International Humanitarian Law to various cadres of the Nigerian Army in the last three months came up first, for officers and soldiers of the 33 Artillery Brigade, Bauchi on February 28, 2007. Subsequently, for officers participating in the Junior Staff Course held in the Armed Forces & Command College, Jaji on March 15, 2007 and also for participant's at the Commanding officer's Workshop held on March 23, 2007 at the Headquarters 1 Division, Nigerian Army, Kaduna. These occasions were also avenues to present the Red Cross (activities, principles and the Red Cross Movement) and to address the issue of internal security operations carried out by the Nigerian Army against the backdrop of the legal framework International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

**TRAINING POLICE INSTRUCTORS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES IN PROFESSIONAL POLICING CONCEPTS**



Boris Heger/ICRC

A nine-day training programme for 21 police instructors selected from 9 Nigerian Police training institutions and the Force Headquarters took place in

Police Staff College, Jos from January 30 to February 9, 2007 with the support of the ICRC.

The Nigerian Police intervenes to restore law and order during internal crises, hence the course is aimed at building their knowledge on human rights and humanitarian principles in professional policing concepts in order to enhance their overall efficiency. It is also in line with the memorandum of understanding (Mou) signed between the ICRC and the Nigerian Ministry of Police Affairs in July 2005.

**BRIEFING PEACE KEEPERS LEAVING FOR SOMALIA & DARFUR**

About four peacekeeping battalions of the Nigerian Army currently involved in both Somalia and Darfur regions received briefing by the ICRC on IHL and Humanitarian Principles before their departure. This knowledge will hopefully influence their actions when confronted with humanitarian situations in those war torn countries.

**TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR MILITARY INSTRUCTORS**

In pursuance of its responsibility to sensitize arms carriers of their responsibilities in the conduct of hostilities, the ICRC conducts training of trainers (ToT) course for the military.

The ICRC from March 26 to April 4, 2007 trained



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about 26 officers from the Armed Forces Command & Staff College, Infantry Corps Centre & School and Depot Nigerian Army.

These officers were exposed to the basics of the law of war as well as encouraged to integrate those rules into their military teaching.



**CHAD:** Rising to the Humanitarian Challenges of Violent Upsurge

The combination of internal armed conflict between the Chadian National Army and the main armed opposition groups in the border area, violent inter-community clashes and the spill over of insecurity from Darfur have afflicted Chad with a growing humanitarian crisis culminating in more than 100,000 displaced Chadians and



many wounded and dead.

The ICRC has, since March, evacuated some of the wounded

by ICRC aircraft to the nearest hospital in Goz Beida and has taken about five serious cases to Abeche, where ICRC surgical teams operated on them. About 147 people fleeing the scenes of attack were evacuated to safety by ICRC teams in trucks and land cruisers.

**ISRAEL:** Minimizing the negative impact of the West Bank Barrier

The ICRC continues to address the humanitarian consequences stemming from the construction of the West Bank Barrier in the districts of Hebron, Qalqilia and Salfit. One of the ways the ICRC is employing to minimize the negative impact on the affected communities is through livelihood support and cash for work programme. Livelihood support programmes allow households to develop new ways of generating income despite restrictions on movement imposed by closures, settlements or the West Bank Barrier. ICRC's assistance generally includes materials such as greenhouse items, professional kits, livestock or material for the rehabilitation of boats. ICRC has also paid the labour for 4,867 days of



work in various infrastructure or agricultural projects across the West Bank. Similarly, ICRC's family visit programme

allows families from Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Occupied Golan to visit relatives held in Israeli places of detention.

**SOMALIA:** Treating the war wounded and assisting families forced to flee their homes.

The ICRC has stepped up its humanitarian operations in Somalia by providing medical support to 23 Somali Red



B. Schaeffer / ICRC

Crescent clinics in central and southern Somali, building and repairing water-supply facilities, carrying out agricultural and livelihood projects as well as restoring family links through tracing services and Red Cross messages.

Since the beginning of the year, Medina and Keysaney hospitals treated 2,080 wounded persons. Medical facilities supported by the ICRC in central and southern Somali, including Mogadishu, treated 3,150 persons.

**IRAQ:** Bringing succour to victims of a conflict that spares no one

The Iraqi Red Crescent estimates that 106,000 families, which amounts to approximately 600,000 people, have been displaced inside Iraq since February 2006, when the upsurge in sectarian violence began after a Shiite shrine was bombed. Same estimate states that two-thirds of the displaced are women and children, often living in female-headed households. The ICRC distributes emergency aid to 60,000 people every month in Iraq, primarily to the worst affected displaced persons, while also focussing on the needs of resident populations.

ICRC is also providing medicines and surgical supplies sufficient to treat and operate up to 3,000 war-wounded victims at various health facilities, including five hospitals in Baghdad and other centres around the country.



Reuter/Namir Noor-Elddeen



**AFGHANISTAN:** Rehabilitation for the disabled

Since 1988, the ICRC has been involved in orthopaedic and rehabilitation assistance to disabled people, from landmine victims to those with motor impairment. Currently, the ICRC runs six orthopaedic centres in Kabul, Mazar, Herat, Gulbaher, Faizabad and Jalalabad. In these locations, a home care service for spinal cord injury patients has also been set up to offer the paraplegics and their families medical, economic and social support. Between January and March 2007, the six orthopaedic centres:



- registered over 1,100 new patients and made about 3,000 prostheses and orthoses;
- provided almost 33,400 physiotherapy treatments;
- granted micro- credits loans to 161 patients to start their own business ventures, while 61 were trained in various jobs.
- assisted almost 900 patients with spinal cord injuries. In Kabul alone, more than 500 homecare visits were carried out.

D. Sanderson / ICRC

**COLOMBIA:** Assisting Internally Displaced People through a food voucher scheme

Forty years of armed conflict in Colombia has left the country with problems of unrelenting violations of humanitarian law in the form of displacements, disappearances, armed attacks and hostage taking. For many years, the ICRC assisted IDPs by handing out food parcels. However, the ICRC has launched a project whereby families receive food vouchers that can be directly exchanged in shops and supermarkets involved in the scheme. The advantage of this system, which kicked off in the city of Bogotá, is that displaced families can buy their own food directly in shops in accordance with their usual eating habits. It also allows them to participate in the local economy, making the process of integration in their new environment more dignified and less traumatic.



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**DARFUR:** Providing water to isolated areas

The Darfur conflict has severely disrupted the lives of millions of people, with cruel consequences on their livelihoods. Access to water is an ongoing concern for the people of Darfur, particularly during the dry season. Alleviating this problem is an urgent matter for the ICRC.

In the last one year, the ICRC has provided nearly 575,000 people with clean drinking water in 220 Darfur towns and villages. It has also repaired 346 hand pumps, rehabilitated 38 wells and 29 water yards, which are mechanized water points. It also provided support to repair the water production and distribution systems of four towns in Darfur as well as maintained water supply systems serving about 80,000 people in four camps for displaced people.



C. Goin / ICRC

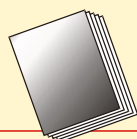
**ZIMBABWE:** Supporting health authorities combat malaria in remote communities

In Zimbabwe, malaria is the second biggest killer after aids. The ministry of health has developed an effective strategy to combat the disease but does not have the resources to carry it out, so the ICRC is providing support in order to achieve that. In accordance with the needs expressed by the ministry of health, the ICRC donated 30,000 mosquito treated nets with long lasting insecticide to households in rural districts of Tsholotsho, Chivi and Makoni.

The ICRC is also helping the ministry of health organize and run courses on malaria prevention and treatment using new, more effective drugs as well as partnering with the local communities to repair or build latrines, boreholes and waste management systems.



ICRC



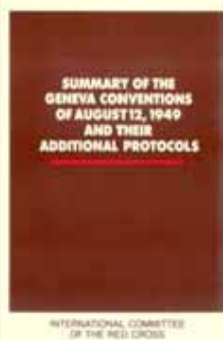
## Publications

### PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 12 AUGUST 1949

The 1949 Geneva Conventions neither provide for adequate protection of the civilian population against the effects of hostilities, nor cover modern forms of warfare. The work of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts, held in Geneva from 1974 to 1977, resulted in the adoption of the two Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions.



### SUMMARY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 12 AUGUST 1949 AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS



This booklet is not an abridged commentary on the Conventions and their Additional Protocols, but a summary of their main provisions, with references to the relevant articles. It is meant for all categories of readers.

### DISTINCTION : PROTECTING CIVILIANS IN ARMED CONFLICT

The cornerstone of the 1977 Additional Protocols is the principle of distinction. This leaflet provides a concise overview of the requirements of all parties to an armed conflict to distinguish between civilians and combatants, civilian objects and military targets. It describes the protection afforded by the Additional Protocols to both those not taking part in the conflict, as well as the protection entitled to combatants.



### HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS 1945- 1955: FROM YALTA TO DIEN BIEN PHU

From Yalta to Dien Bien Phu recounts the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross during the decade following the Second World War- the era of conflicts related to decolonization in south east Asia, Palestine, etc. - and to the Cold War, in Korea. Using ICRC archives only recently opened up to the public, this book looks at how the ICRC, weakened by the Second World War, responded to these new challenges.

### LATEST EDITION OF THE RC/RC MAGAZINE

Published jointly by the ICRC and the International Federation of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent, the latest issue of this quarterly magazine deals with the mobilization of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement during the Lebanon crisis. Other items: the struggle by the Mapuche Indians in Chile to have their rights respected; sex, drugs and HIV in Central Asia; and how security conditions are limiting the Movement's access to those affected by the conflict there.



### INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

One of the latest editions of this specialized periodical on humanitarian debate in law, policy and action focuses on **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**.



The goal of any truth and reconciliation commission is the overriding desire for victims to regain a sense of dignity and be assured of a better future. The needs of individual victims must be balanced against the society's broader short and long-term goals, and harm to individual survivors should be minimized while maximizing efforts to achieve those goals. Articles featuring in this edition X-rays Truth and Reconciliation Commissions.

The Review promotes knowledge, critical analysis and development of IHL and offers a forum for discussion on contemporary humanitarian action. It is published quarterly.

All articles, as well as previous issues of the Review, can be found online at [www.icrc.org/eng/review](http://www.icrc.org/eng/review)

## CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

This publication is the result of a major international study into current state practice in international humanitarian law in order to identify customary law in this area. Presented in two volumes, it analyzes the customary rules of IHL and contains a detailed summary of the relevant treaty law and state practice throughout the world. In the absence of ratifications of important treaties in this area, this is a publication of major importance, which identifies the common core of international humanitarian law binding on all parties to all armed conflicts.



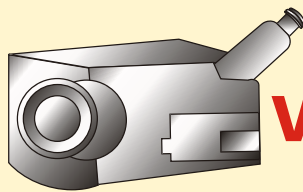
## DISTINGUISH: COMBATANT OR CIVILIAN?

This colour poster is designed to raise awareness of the vital need for distinction between combatant and civilian in modern armed conflicts. International Humanitarian Law says that civilians must be spared and protected and this poster is a visual reminder that these rules must be respected.



## PATHWAYS TO MANAGING HIV / AIDS: A Book of Readings

This book provides a stimulating overview of various dimensions of dealing with HIV and AIDS. It represents a good example of how global organizations can partner to make a major difference in the health and lives of people who are infected with, and affected by HIV and AIDS. The book brings together in one volume, three brochures earlier published on HIV/ AIDS by the Nigerian Red Cross Society in collaboration with Nestle Nigeria between 2003 and 2005.



## Videos

### LIBERIA: HOME COMING IN GORLU

After 14 years of war, the villagers of Gorlu in Lofa County are finally starting to come home. However, life is hard, especially for the women. In this 8 minutes DVD, Lofu, grandmother of seven, was forced out of the village 10 years ago and she has lost everything. Nevertheless, with tolerance and humour, she is determined to put down her roots again. With some assistance from the ICRC, her new house gradually takes shape.



### CONGO KINSHASHA: THE HIDDEN BATTLEFIELD

Rutal rape has become commonplace in some parts of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, an area plagued by warring groups who prey on local people with little fear of retaliation. The consequences for women are harrowing. Many are mutilated after being raped and need extensive surgery. Many also suffer social stigma and rejection. What help do women need following a violent sexual attack? What can be done to end the horror of such abuse? This 8 minutes DVD provides an insight.



### AFGANISTAN: SURVIVING THE PEACE

Travelling on roads, working in the fields or even walking to school is fraught with danger in many parts of Afghanistan. After decades of war, the country is littered with landmines and explosives, which continue to kill and maim. Among recent victims is 15- year old Kabir who returns to the scene of his accident to tell the story in this 8 minutes DVD.



## WOMEN FLEEING WAR

An armed conflict displaces people from their homes and livelihoods. Women often have to cope with the loss of close relatives and find new way to support themselves and their families. This 20 minutes film illustrates how the ICRC works to understand the specific needs of women displaced by war, in order to better help them.



# RED CROSS FAMILY IN NIGERIA

## WELCOME

The Red Cross Family in Nigeria welcomes its new staff members:

Stephen Omollo, Head of Regional Office, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Abtidon Ahmed, ICRC Cooperation Delegate

Dr. Michael Charles, Regional IFRC Health Officer

Mrs. Elizabeth Enedu, IFRC Regional Finance Officer

Ademola Alao, IFRC Regional Reporting Officer

Mrs. Abiodun Noah, Personal Assistant to Head of IFRC Regional office

Miss Whitney O. K Isiolu, IFRC Front Desk Officer.

## RED CROSS BABIES

The family also warmly welcomes the arrival of the following princesses:

- 1 Victoria, to the family of ICRC's Mr and Mrs Victor Chinwokwu
- 2 Francisca, to NRCS Mr and Mrs Bremboba Bob Manuel
- 3 Nana Fatima, to NRCS Mr and Mrs Saidu Mohammed
- 4 Beborah Oiwoya, to NRCS Mr and Mrs Ohons Okochi
- 5 Aisha Mariam, to ICRC's Mr & Mrs Camara Meta



# SUPPORT THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS

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We cannot undo the damage caused by disasters; but we can bring relief to the survivors in the immediate aftermath.

As we expect that disasters will always occur that will need our intervention, the Nigerian Red Cross is asking supporters to give just one hour of their salary/time every month, in the same time it takes to earn this money, we can respond to emergencies and save lives.

We cannot do it alone, but with your support, we can reach the most vulnerable people who are victims of these disasters.

Through your help, the Nigerian Red Cross will continue to give practical and emotional help to those affected.

Join the mission of mercy. Contribute to its funds so that it can continue to fulfill its humanitarian obligation to the most vulnerable people.

**For your donations and enquiries on how to become a member, please contact:**

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e-mail: [nrcs@nigerianredcross.org](mailto:nrcs@nigerianredcross.org) or [nrcs2003@yahoo.com](mailto:nrcs2003@yahoo.com)

**OR The Nigerian Red Cross Society branch in your state.**



## *Weary Legs*

**One of the paintings displayed at *inhumanity*, an art exhibition on war and its limits in Abuja.**

By: Osahenye Kainebe



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