



Newsletter of the ICRC Pretoria Regional Delegation

LOOK OUT FOR...

The latest edition of the International Review of the Red Cross, issue no 860 which focuses on Communication.

The full Review is available on the ICRC website where articles can also be found in French.

The ICRC annual report is featured in this edition of Temba. The full version of the report is available on the ICRC website at www.icrc.org

The Pretoria Regional Delegation Library is open to the public during business hours from 8am to 4:30 pm. Contact Fundiswa Buthelezi for more information on 012 430 7335.

MISSION Statement

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Seminar reviews latest developments in IHL

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Pretoria Regional Delegation held its Sixth Annual Regional Seminar on the ratification and implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) from 12 - 14 June 2006, in Pretoria.

The Seminar was opened by South African Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs Sue van der Merwe and co hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Republic of South Africa. Governmental representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Police and/or Defence from seventeen countries in Southern and Eastern Africa, namely Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Kenya, Lesotho, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe attended the three day seminar.

During the seminar, focus was placed on the ratification and implementation of IHL and to furthering a regional dynamic for the full implementation of these instruments. It was an opportunity to develop links with and between both government Ministries and existing national bodies on IHL and to promote the creation of such bodies in other countries. It was also an opportunity for participants to discuss and exchange working methods as well as discussing the challenges and problems in implementation among the represented States.

Latest developments in IHL were discussed and attention was given to weapons conventions including the Ottawa Treaty on Landmines, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and the Biological Weapons Convention, as well as the ongoing work of the International Tribunals and IHL and Peacekeepers, and the prevailing concern of children in armed conflict.



South African Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs Sue van der Merwe receives a gift from Mrs Françoise Krill, Head of the ICRC Pretoria Regional Delegation after she opened the Sixth Annual Regional Seminar on IHL in Pretoria.

In addition, the seminar provided an opportunity to emphasise the significance of the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent which took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 20 and 21 June. The conference was the last step towards a comprehensive and lasting solution to the emblem issue and follows the adoption in December 2005 of Additional Protocol III creating an additional emblem to the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, the Red Crystal.

The participants adopted a set of conclusions and recommendations at the end of the seminar which included: to give publicising, applying and promoting respect for IHL a higher priority in their policy and programmes; that States accede to IHL treaties to which they are not yet party; to examine existing legislation and, where necessary, that States adopt appropriate, effective legislation to implement those IHL treaties to which they are a party; and to consider establishing effective National Committees on IHL where such committees do not yet exist and to strengthen those so far established.



ICRC Delegates during the Sixth Annual Regional Seminar on IHL. Mr. Len Blazeby (ICRC Nairobi), Mr. Chris Harland (ICRC Geneva), Mrs Françoise Krill (ICRC Geneva), Mr. Peter Herby (ICRC Geneva) and Mr. Jamie Williamson (ICRC Pretoria)

21 June 2006 was a historical day for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) with the incorporation of the additional emblem into the Statutes of the Movement and the recognition of two national societies. You might recall, as reported in the last Issue of Temba, with the adoption during the December 2005 Diplomatic Conference of the Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, an additional emblem, known as the Red Crystal, was created. With this additional emblem, which will have the same international status as the existing emblems enshrined in the Geneva Conventions, the way was paved for National Societies that find it difficult to use either the red cross or the red crescent to become members on the Movement.

Following the successful outcome of the Diplomatic Conference, the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the last step towards a comprehensive and lasting solution to the emblem issue, took place on 20 and 21 June 2006 in Geneva. A total of 178 National Societies and 148 States Parties to the Geneva Conventions participated to the Conference and agreed to amend the Statutes of the Movement to incorporate the additional emblem of the red crystal. In addition, the International Conference requested that the ICRC and the International Federation recognise and admit the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) into the Movement.

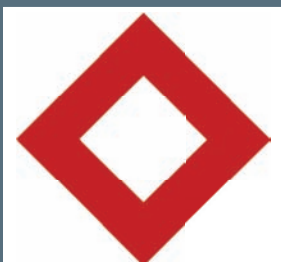
As a consequence of this successful outcome the ICRC has now recognised the PRCS and the Israeli National Society, the Magen David Adom (MDA) and the International Federation has admitted both National Societies.

The acceptance by States party to the Geneva Conventions of the Movement's amended Statutes also means that National Societies can benefit from the flexibility afforded by the Third Additional Protocol in the use of the red crystal or of a combination of emblems recognized by the Conventions. The use of the red crystal will also provide additional protection to war victims and humanitarian workers in conflict situations where the red cross or the red crescent cannot be used, and extends the Movement's principle of Universality.

In the region, there is also much to talk about. In May, the Delegation hosted its annual dissemination workshop with the National Societies of South Africa, the Seychelles, Mauritius, Lesotho, Swaziland and the Comoros. In June, the Pretoria Delegation held its Sixth Regional Seminar on IHL in Pretoria, co hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of South Africa. The Seminar brought together governmental representatives emanating from seventeen countries in Southern and Eastern Africa. The event served as a regional forum to discuss the latest developments in IHL, weapons conventions, the ongoing work of the International Tribunals, IHL and Peacekeepers, and children in armed conflict. With the release of the ICRC's 2005 Annual Report, which brought to the fore the grim realities of modern day conflicts and the suffering of civilians, the importance of the Seminar cannot be overemphasised. The regional dynamic and commitment of States are vital if we are to ensure the universal respect for IHL, irrespective of the nature of the conflict.

Finally, our congratulations go out to a team of students from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and from Rhodes University who came second in the annual Jean Pictet competition on IHL which took place in March in Serbia Montenegro.

Jamie Williamson



The International Committee of the Red Cross' (ICRC) Annual Report 2005 was released on 1 June 2006. It paints a grim picture of the impact of armed conflict and violence on civilians. They face killing, injury, displacement, rape and sexual harassment, forced labour and recruitment, detention, and the destruction of property and of the means of survival. The collapse of basic services in areas such as health, water and education exacerbates their suffering.

While the Annual Report 2005 notes favourable developments and a reduction in the level of violence for individuals and communities in some conflict areas, in others there is cause for growing concern, in particular western Sudan (Darfur), southern and central Somalia, northern Uganda and large parts of Iraq.

Although most of today's conflicts

are internal, they often affect entire regions, thus assuming international dimensions. In his introduction to the Annual Report, ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger acknowledges that "ensuring the protagonists in today's conflicts behave in a manner consistent with international humanitarian law (IHL), particularly in internal conflicts, remains one of the most daunting challenges". Lack of respect for IHL has a devastating effect on the lives and security of civilians.

President Kellenberger refers specifically to the publication in 2005 of a major study on customary international humanitarian law, carried out by the ICRC as part of its constant effort to promote and reaffirm the rules governing warfare. The study found that a substantial number of customary rules are applicable also in internal armed conflict, an area where treaty law is less well developed. Almost all the conflicts in 2005 were in fact non-international



Sri Lanka, Kamulamunai school. The ICRC and the Sri Lankan Red Cross working together to help the victims of the tsunami across the country restoring contact with their families, by enabling them to telephone relatives in Sri Lanka or abroad. ICRC/BARRY J.

armed conflicts, and the ICRC President declares that the study represents a significant addition to IHL.

2005 will be remembered as a year of major natural disasters. The aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami and the South Asia earthquake affected sensitive regions beset by armed conflict or lack of security where the ICRC, being already present, was able to deploy emergency

aid rapidly. In both contexts it worked closely with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the National Societies of the countries concerned. In Pakistan the ICRC had provided some 212,000 people with food, shelter materials and household items by the end of 2005.

During the year the ICRC extended its activities for internally displaced people

(Continued on page 3)

toll on civilians

(Continued from page 2)

(IDPs), working on their behalf in 35 different contexts around the world. It endeavoured to prevent population movements by protecting vulnerable groups, promoted self-reliance, and facilitated IDPs' return to their homes wherever possible.

The end of the year saw the adoption by the States party to the Geneva Conventions of Additional Protocol III recognizing the red

crystal. "Devoid of any political, national or religious connotations whatsoever, the additional emblem will first and foremost enable the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to become truly universal. The ICRC has spared no effort to attain this goal; it remains committed to bringing the process to completion", President Kellenberger concludes.

The Annual Report is available in full on the ICRC website at www.icrc.org.

FACTS AND FIGURES

In 2005 the ICRC;

- provided food for a million people
- provided emergency supplies such as tents and blankets for 3 million people
- aided 11 million people with water and sanitation activities and other construction work
- supported health care facilities which benefited an estimated 2,4 million people
- visited 528 000 people deprived of their freedom in 2 600 places of detention in 76 countries
- exchanged almost a million messages between family members separated by hostilities and other crises together with National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies across the world



Sri Lanka, Perrianiavanai, near Kalmunai. Fetching water from a tank. ICRC/BJÖRGVINSSON J.

ICRC's annual Cooperation workshop

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Pretoria Regional Delegation held its annual Dissemination workshop for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean from 29 May – 1 June.

Dissemination representatives from the South African Red Cross Society, Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society, Lesotho Red Cross Society, Seychelles Red Cross Society, Comoros Red Crescent Society and Mauritius Red Cross Society participated to the 4-day event which focused on energising dissemination programmes in the region and to widen the knowledge of international humanitarian law (IHL), on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (consisting of the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), and of the Fundamental Principles.

The workshop created an ideal platform to share and evaluate best practices of successful examples of well-functioning, energetic and dynamic dissemination programmes in the region and emphasised the importance of dissemination as an activity of each member of the Movement and the challenge that goes with

this obligation. Attention was also given to recent developments in the Movement, specifically the recent adoption of the Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions and its additional Emblem (known as the Red Crystal), which will soon be integrated into dissemination activities.

The workshop agreed that knowledge of the

Movement and its Fundamental Principles is needed first and first and foremost starts "at home" in each National Society. There is still a great challenge to integrate dissemination of IHL, the Movement, and its Fundamental Principles systematically in all National Society functions and programmes, from the Governing Boards down to every department and to each volunteer-, first aid-, and disaster training.



Participants of the ICRC annual Cooperation workshop with staff from the ICRC Pretoria Regional Delegation.

PRETORIA Delegation

Head of Delegation:

Françoise Krill

Protection Delegate/Deputy Head of delegation:

Maziar Mostafavi

Communications:

Annemarie Watt

Exploring Humanitarian Law:

Camille Karangwa

Information Centre:

Fundiswa Buthelezi

Co-operation Delegate:

Martin Hahn

Regional Legal Adviser:

Jamie Williamson

Tracing:

Henrietta Nthathé

Legal & Universities:

Garth Abraham

Delegate to the Armed Forces:

Christoph Schild

Delegates to the Police:

Erling Melkjorsen

Peter Dnistrianskyj

Administrator:

Marcel Zumsteg

CONTACT THE Delegation

If you would like to receive further issues of TEMBA, or to be on the mailing list, please contact the Communications Unit. Or for additional information concerning various ICRC programmes, please contact us at:

Tel: (27) – 12 430 7335/6/7

Fax: (27) – 12 430 4471

E-mail: icrcpre@wn.apc.org

<http://www.icrc.org>



Southern African team ends second in IHL competition

A southern African team, sponsored by the Pretoria Regional Delegation, came second in the annual Jean Pictet competition on international humanitarian law (IHL).

The sponsorship is one of the objectives of the Pretoria Delegation in order to ensure that the present and future leaders and policy makers of a country are familiar with the fundamental principles of IHL and that they understand the necessity to respect and develop it.

The competition, named after one of the principal experts on the subject, encourages participants practically to apply their knowledge of IHL through simulation exercises and role playing. This year's competition was held from 4 to 11 March in the town of Vrnjačka Banja in Serbia Montenegro. The team representing the region was made up of two undergraduate students from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), Deborah Casalin and Mzukisi Kota, and one undergraduate student from Rhodes University (RU), Rujeko Jena. The southern African team, one of only three teams from the African continent, were competing against 47 other teams representing many of the great universities of the world.

In the past, the best position held by the southern African team was the final six. This year's team, along with the teams from the University of Singapore and the University of Brussels, made it to the finals of the competition where the

southern African team ultimately gained second place to the team from Belgium.

Team member Deborah Casalin said the preparation was intensely challenging as the team had never before studied IHL. "Every day, teams went through numerous simulation exercises set in the context of a fictitious armed conflict. These were designed to test knowledge of the law and ability to apply it, negotiation skills, and ability to work as a cohesive team. The format varied from mock UN meetings to interviewing prisoners of war, advising governments and negotiating with rebels. There was relatively little time to prepare for each task, so quick thinking was vital. We also had to tailor carefully our legal and political arguments according to our roles and those of the jury."

"For this life-changing opportunity to represent our country, we are extremely grateful to the Pretoria Delegation of the ICRC and to those at our universities who supported us and are only overjoyed that we were able to rise to the challenge" Casalin said.

The Pretoria Delegation extends sincere congratulations to the team and is very proud of their effort. The support and coaching of the academic interlocutors at the two institutions, Mr David Abrahams at the NMMU, in particular, and Mrs Sarah Driver at RU is also to be commended.



On Friday 30 June the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Regional Delegation in Nairobi handed the Lopiding Hospital in Lokichokio (northern Kenya), over to the Kenyan authorities. Lopiding, 2003: Medical staff from around the world have worked at the hospital in its 19 years of existence. ICRC/HEGER B.