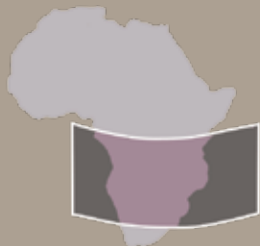




ICRC



Newsletter of the ICRC
Pretoria Regional
Delegation

LOOK OUT FOR...

Red Cross, Red Crescent Magazine. Youth on the move. No. 2, 2009. We report on the World Youth Meeting at Solferino in June 2009, where young volunteers celebrated the 150th anniversary of their Movement. Also in this issue: the main results of an ICRC study on the impact armed conflict has on civilians and a selection of photos taken by the agency VII in eight countries racked by war or armed violence.

Micro-economic initiatives: handbook. ICRC micro-economic initiatives are tailored to individual beneficiaries and designed in close consultation with them. This handbook features lessons that have been learned from previous micro-economic initiatives, describes best practices and proposes ways to meet inherent challenges.

These publications can be ordered from the website: <http://www.icrc.org/eng>. Please also visit the **Documentation Centre** at the Pretoria Delegation to view and order all publications.

MISSION Statement

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

Themba

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FOURTH QUARTER



A Fruitful Third IHL Commonwealth Meeting in New Delhi

From 26-28 October 2009 in New Delhi, India, the ICRC co-organised the Third Meeting of Representatives of National Committees on International Humanitarian Law of Commonwealth States. The meeting was generously supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the British Red Cross Society. Its location in India was due to India's current leadership in the Commonwealth Secretariat, and India's importance as a regional and global player. The meeting was well attended by countries from all across the globe.

Speakers during the three-day event included representatives from the ICRC and world experts on IHL. The aim of the conference was to bring together Commonwealth National IHL Committees to facilitate their interaction and experience-sharing in the implementation of IHL. It also sought amongst other things, to increase the capacity, commitment and activities of Commonwealth governments in the field of IHL, through the use of their National Committees.



Christopher Black: Regional Legal Advisor: Pretoria
and Harriet Lwabi: Director of Legislative Drafting: Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Uganda

The Pretoria Regional Delegation wishes to extend its support to our colleagues in Sudan and Chad and more particularly to the families of the ICRC staff members Gauthier Lefèvre who was abducted in West Darfur, Sudan, in October and Laurent Maucier who was kidnapped in Chad in November. We support the Delegations in Sudan and Chad in their continued efforts to find a positive resolution of the situation.

In 2009 the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement commemorated the 150 year anniversary of the battle of Solferino. It launched the 'Our world. Your move.' campaign which was a call to action. Our world faces unprecedented challenges, ranging from conflict and mass displacement to climate change, migration and a global financial crisis. The Campaign was therefore a call for a collective responsibility to make our world a better place.

We have included a special collage of all the celebratory activities for 2009, as well as pictures of the Delegation throughout the year. Special mention must be made of the SADC Brigade Field Training Exercise in which the Pretoria and Harare Delegations participated.

2009 also marked the 60th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. To mark the Anniversary, research entitled *Our world. Views from the field.*, was carried out by the Ipsos Agency in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Haiti, Lebanon, Liberia and the Philippines.

"Most of the roughly 4,000 people surveyed across the eight countries – 75% – say there should be limits to what combatants are allowed to do in the course of fighting," said the ICRC's Director for International Law, Philip Spoerri. "But when asked if they had ever heard of the Geneva Conventions, slightly less than half said they knew such rules existed. Among them, around 56% believe the Conventions limit the suffering of civilians in wartime."

The findings revealed broad support for the core ideas behind the Geneva Conventions, and IHL as a whole, by people who have actually lived in conflict- and violence-affected countries. It also showed that the perceived impact of the rules on the ground is far weaker than the support for them. The ICRC therefore views the outcome of the survey as a strong indicator that people in war-affected countries want to see better respect for and implementation of the law.

To all the staff and interlocutors of the Pretoria Regional Delegation, may you have a prosperous New Year and a peaceful Festive season.

Janine Mosetlhi

ICRC in music videos

South African musicians have used ICRC footage for two music videos. Kwela Tebza (pictured) who collaborated with Tuks and MXO for the award winning song "Better Days" used ICRC footage for their music video. RJ Benjamin also used ICRC footage for his music video for the song titled "Change the World".

Due to the positive feedback for both videos, within the Red Cross Movement, the videos will be used for one of the most important gatherings of the Movement this year. The Meeting of the Council of Delegates, which will be held in Nairobi from 23 – 25 November 2009.

The Council of Delegates is made up of the recognized National Societies (186 at present), the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Council will get the opportunity to enjoy the screening of the videos as they meet to discuss matters of concern for the Movement, its modus operandi and coordination between its components. It also addresses topical issues for the Movement, such as respect for diversity and non-discrimination; humanitarian assistance in situations of armed conflict and other situations of violence, and natural disasters, as well as international humanitarian law.

Both songs were performed at the World Red Cross Day Celebration, which was also the launch of the "Our World. Your Move" global campaign on 8th May. The videos can be viewed on YouTube (www.youtube.com).



Kwela Tebza and Tuks



RJ Benjamin with Red Cross volunteers

ICRC educates future Journalists

The manner in which journalists report stories can make a huge impact in societies. It is important for journalists to report accurately and factually. The Red Cross Movement is a complex one and the ICRC has taken the initiative to educate journalism students from different universities on the work of the ICRC and the different roles the components (ICRC, International Federation for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and South African Red Cross Society) of the Movement play in different situations.

For the past few years, the ICRC has given

lectures to Journalism students at different Universities across Gauteng. This year, lectures have been given to first year students at the University of Johannesburg, second year students at the Tshwane University of Technology and Postgraduate students at the University of the Witwatersrand.

The lectures are based on the history, the mandate, the different emblems and work of the ICRC worldwide. The Postgraduates were also given an in-depth presentation on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and how this law protects journalists and other

media practitioners working in a conflict situation.

Lecturers at the universities have realised the importance of educating students about the ICRC, so much so that the presentation session at the University of Johannesburg was turned into a practical assignment where students had to view it as a press conference in order to complete their assignment. The interest by the universities about the work of the Red Cross gives hope that future journalists will have a better understanding of how the movement operates at different times.

2009 SADC Brigade Field Training Exercise

From 08 to 23 September 2009, representatives from the ICRC Regional Delegations in Harare and Pretoria participated in the SADC Brigade Field Training Exercise, codenamed Exercise Golfinho, at the South African Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatla, 650km southwest of Pretoria. The exercise was organised by SADC to test its ability to deploy a multi-dimensional peacekeeping force in a complex emergency. It was the first time that the exercise included all the key players in peacekeeping missions namely military, police and civilians. The exercise was previously conducted in Zimbabwe (1997), in South Africa (1999), in Tanzania (2002) and in Botswana (2005).

During the exercise, the 'ICRC Lohatla Delegation' simulated the full range of the institution's activities including dissemination

to armed forces and armed opposition groups, assessment of and assistance to internally displaced persons, visits to and assessments of places of detention. The ICRC team faced a number of significant challenges in the early stages of its deployment as it sought to clarify its role and outline working modalities.

By the end of the exercise, the ICRC was able to significantly improve the perception and understanding of the ICRC through these activities. The institution's participation helped to create a standard for future cooperation between the ICRC and SADC in operational circumstances, as well as clarify the ICRC's ability to assist individual armed forces to improve knowledge of and respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) amongst their soldiers.



The Opening Parade of the SADC Brigade



ICRC and military vehicles in the field



Kedir Awol: Protection Delegate: ICRC Pretoria and Christophe Deschard: Delegate for the Armed Forces: ICRC Pretoria; speaking to a member of the Special Police Force, about IHL and the work of the ICRC



Tendayi Sengwe: ICRC Harare, after disseminating to the troops on conduct during hostilities.

ICRC supports medical facilities in Waziristan

The ICRC Delegation in Pakistan set up a programme in April, around the time military operations began in Malakand Division, because most analysts predicted that South Waziristan would be next. Access to the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) has always been difficult, so a decision was taken to assist the existing ministry of health facilities rather than for the ICRC to go in on its own. Since late April the ICRC has been providing them with medicine and supplies, all the while focusing on the most heavily-affected areas.

In total, the ICRC Delegation supports 24 facilities in the FATA, including eight in Waziristan. While the ICRC can not get its own staff in there, it does speak to the doctors by phone every week to stay abreast of their needs. Of the population that has stayed behind in South Waziristan, they are the most vulnerable in need of food, health care or clean water.

The facilities supported by the ICRC receive two or three patients with bullet

or shrapnel wounds per day. According to the health delegate who has been running the support programme, Rosanna Magoga, "This is a heavy caseload, especially since most of the staff have fled the fighting themselves. We greatly

admire those dedicated doctors and nurses who have chosen to stay behind to help their communities. We're providing them with medical supplies every month, in accordance with the needs they communicate to us."



Rosanna Magoga, who has just returned from working as a health delegate in Pakistan, poses next to one of the vehicles the ICRC uses in the field.

Funding National Societies

Every country has one – well, out of the 194 recognised states only 9 do not – but how do Red Cross / Red Crescent Societies survive financially in tough economic times? The short answer – with difficulty.

There are many misconceptions about the Red Cross Movement – and these can make life difficult for the National Societies (NS). Common assumptions are that the Movement is rich, or that NS are government departments and with guaranteed budgets – wrong on both counts. The RC Movement has to work for every cent and is, rightly, accountable to the different donors, whether corporate, public or private or even another member of the Movement family, such as ICRC. Many NS, as auxiliaries to their governments, do succeed in winning state funding, but usually only for project activities – so how do they keep the office lights on?

National Society funding is always a challenge, particularly meeting all those boring costs associated with keeping a dispersed, national structure going – the phone bills, vehicle

repairs, building maintenance, training... Finding money to carry out humanitarian work can also be tough. While the public responds generously to high profile, sudden emergencies such as floods and earthquakes, most people will not even know about the day-to-day work that the National Societies carry out at community level all over the world. Home visits by care givers, hygiene education, immunisation campaigns, helping separated families to reunite, supporting displaced people in camps – it all takes funding.

The volunteers who help those in need may give their time and their efforts freely, but the first aid kits and blankets, vegetable seeds and fuel that they rely on to do their work must be bought. NS have to ensure that volunteers are well trained, properly equipped and effectively managed; information must be collected and reports written. This is the reality for serious humanitarian organisations today.

Happily, the Red Cross / Red Crescent is full of ideas and initiatives. Fundraising ranges from the traditional collection tin to golf days,

sponsored parachute jumps, music CDs, first aid training and special appeals launched in the national media. Corporate support is increasingly important, but very competitive, with even governments sometimes relying on private sector partnerships. Another key element of income for all NS is the annual dues from members – the catch here is that membership is open to everyone and no-one should be excluded because they cannot pay, so the cost of membership has to be kept modest.

To deal with all these constraints, yet still to be able to respond whenever they're needed, RC National Societies aim to diversify their income as much as possible, increase membership and inform their public as much as possible about their humanitarian programmes.

So next time you are approached to make a contribution to your Red Cross, put some money in the tin, or better still, join as a member, and know that you are making a difference to a vital national institution – helping those in need, without discrimination, whenever disaster strikes.



Pretoria Delegation activities for 2009

2009 AU IDP Convention

On October 23, 2009, AU Member States at a Summit in Kampala, Uganda, adopted the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention). This Convention is the first international treaty for the protection and assistance of IDPs, and as such is a significant achievement.

The Kampala Convention has been signed by 17 States (out of the 53 members of the AU), but requires 15 ratifications to enter into force. The 17 signatory States are: Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ethiopia, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

International Humanitarian Law, the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two additional Protocols of 1977, and the ICRC itself, are all expressly referred to in the Convention. State Parties repeat their obligations to “respect and ensure respect” for IHL, and in particular they restate the IHL prohibition against forced displacement unless for imperative military reasons or the security of civilians, and undertake to prevent “war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law”. Furthermore, the Kampala Convention states expressly that it is without prejudice to the human rights of internally displaced persons under international humanitarian law.

Apart from armed conflicts, generalised violence, violations of human rights and natural or human-made disasters as reasons of displacement and part of the definition of IDPs, the Kampala Convention also explicitly covers displacement due to development projects carried out by public or private actors (Art.10). It goes further than IHL treaty law on certain aspects, such as regarding returns, compensation & reparation, and personal documentation. The Kampala Convention foresees the establishment of a Conference of States Parties to monitor and review the objectives of the Convention and it also repeats in many provisions that it is primarily the States’ duty to ensure protection and assistance to IDPs.

The Implementation Of Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) At Mountview High School

In September 2009 a monitoring visit was paid to Mountview High School which is one of the Nine Safe Schools identified by the South African Department of Education for the implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) modules. The primary learning goal of EHL is to help young people embrace the principles of humanity in their daily lives. The curriculum contributes to developing social awareness in young people and sharpens their sense of civic responsibility. The teaching materials emphasize the importance of protecting life and human dignity during armed conflict and, by extension, at all times. The curriculum makes a distinctive contribution to citizenship education.

The school is situated in Hanover Park, a section of Mitchell’s Plain. The area has a high level of violence and drug abuse, and gangsterism is a way of life for many young people in the area. Some of these groups have infiltrated schools, taking their battles to school grounds.

The aim of the programme is to eliminate a culture of violence and drug abuse by promoting human dignity and a human rights based culture in the school. It is envisaged that the young people from Mountview High School could later be ambassadors of peace and human rights in their community.



Students of Mountview High School working on an EHL exploration

2009 Anti-personnel Landmines Conference

Following the article in the last edition of the Themba a Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Convention will take place in Cartagena, Colombia, from 29 November to 4 December 2009. It will be known as the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World.

The Cartagena Summit will follow the 3rd Continental Conference of African Experts on landmines which was held in Pretoria from 9 to 11 September 2009 by the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation in collaboration with the African Union, and supported financially by the European Union.

The aim of the conference, ahead of the Cartagena Summit, was to provide African States with an opportunity to discuss the progress made in ensuring that Africa

becomes a mine-free continent. It was also an opportunity to adopt an African common position in preparation for the Second Review Conference. One decade after the Convention’s entry into force, the Cartagena Summit will provide a crucial opportunity to take stock of the progress made in implementing the Mine Ban Convention, and the remaining challenges on the road towards a world free of anti-personnel mines.

The results of the Cartagena Summit will affect the fulfilment of the Convention’s humanitarian objectives by developing new goals and action plans. At this time, the ICRC seeks to draw the attention of political authorities, civil society and the public at large to the fact that the landmine problem remains a serious humanitarian challenge globally, but especially in Africa.

It is a problem which can only be solved by ensuring full implementation of and universal adherence to the Mine Ban Convention.

The ICRC’s key message for the Cartagena Summit is that greater efforts need to be made to ensure that the Mine Ban Convention delivers on its promises to mine victims. The majority of victims are today still not receiving adequate care and assistance in most mine-affected countries.

To date the Mine Ban Convention has 156 States Parties, including 49 African countries. Further information, on the Mine Ban Convention and priorities for the Cartagena Summit can be found at : <http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/mine-factsheet-011109>

Annual training of African Academics

From the 2nd to the 11th of November 2009, the Pretoria Regional Delegation, in conjunction with the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, hosted the 8th annual All Africa Course on International Humanitarian Law. This year there were 24 participants from 12 African countries.

The objective of the course was to introduce the participants to the means and methods of introducing IHL to their institutions. Apart from an introduction to the ICRC and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, other topics covered were those traditionally associated with IHL (such as ius ad bellum versus ius in bello; classification of a conflict; non-international armed conflicts; protection of the wounded, the sick and shipwrecked; protection of civilians; customary IHL).

In addition, the following topics were also addressed: International Criminal Tribunals; Suppression and punishment for grave breaches of the laws of war and IHL and Islam. The format for the presentation was a formal lecture followed by a case study. The presenters were drawn from academics and legal practitioners, either from the ICRC or academic institutions from Southern and West Africa.

On the 5th of November the participants attended an evening lecture at which they were able to interact with members of the Movement, the Diplomatic and academic communities. On the evening three presentations were given on the History of the battle of Solferino, the 60th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions and the work of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as well as of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.



Professor Frans Viljoen: Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria; Catherine Gendre: Head of Delegation: Pretoria Regional Delegation; Professor Garth Abrahams: Legal Advisor to the Academic Legal Circles: ICRC Pretoria



Catherine Gendre: Head of Delegation: Pretoria Regional Delegation; Mandisa Kalako-Williams: Secretary-General of the South African Red Cross Society; Mr Modisha: President of the South-African Red cross Society; Francoise Le Goff: Head of Zone - International Federation of the red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.



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*THEMBA is the Zulu & Xhosa word for "Hope"



Introduction to the Durban Muslim Community

The Head of the Regional Delegation, Catherine Gendre and the Focal Point on the Islamic Circles, Nasira Mohideen, undertook a mission to KwaZulu Natal in October. They met with a number of key figures of the Muslim Community based in KwaZulu Natal and they paid a courtesy visit to the Premiere of KwaZulu Natal, Dr Zweli Mkhize.

The purpose of the mission which was undertaken with the support of the Provincial Manager of the South African Red Cross Society, Derrick Naidoo, was to introduce the ICRC and the Red Cross Movement to key figures of the Durban community. The first meeting was with the Director of the Islamic Interfaith Research Institute, Mr Rafeek Hassen, who is the head of a newly formed organisation concerned with amongst other things the



Derick Naidoo: Provincial Manager:South African Red Cross Society; Dr Zweli Mkhize: Premier of KwaZulu Natal; Catherine Gendre Head of Regional Delegation; Nasira Mohideen: Focal Point on the Islamic Circles-ICRC Pretoria

monitoring of religious conflicts and in engaging in a dialogue with the authorities.

A second meeting was with Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, the Founder of the Gift of the Givers. This international organisation, works in both natural disasters and war, where the need arises for humanitarian aid. For instance in the months to come a group of surgeons will be sent to Gaza to perform hip replacements.

The Baphalali Workshop 2009

In September, the ICRC Regional Delegation, Pretoria, took part in a workshop organised by the IFRC, International Federation of the Red Cross Society in Swaziland. The workshop was aimed at helping the Divisional Committee of the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society to better understand the Red Cross Movement and the different activities that each component carries out.

The workshop was structured into two days, with the ICRC giving the first presentation on the Origins of the Red Cross and a brief overview of the components that form part of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. This was positively accepted as some of the Committee members were new to the Red Cross and therefore needed to know how the idea of the Red Cross came about. It also served as a refresher for those who knew about the Red Cross.

The IFRC was represented by Mesfin Halefom Abay who gave a presentation on how the IFRC works with the National Society. Important issues were raised during the discussion session such as the reporting and supervision of certain tasks and on the difference between governance and management within the National Society, this was followed by an exercise to see if the Committee could differentiate what the duties of the governance and the management were.

The ICRC also did a presentation to explain their different activities and the relationship of the ICRC and the NS in terms of capacity building and the support offered to the NS.