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## ICRC media brief November 2011

*Advance notice of ICRC activities and events, plus information on new footage, films and photos.*

### AFRICA

**Somalia:** The consequences of armed conflict and drought continue to take a heavy toll on the population. The ICRC has started to distribute food with the aim of assisting some 1.1 million drought- and war-affected people across the hardest-hit areas of the southern and central parts of the country. At the same time, it is maintaining its support for outpatient therapeutic feeding programmes and mobile health clinics run by the Somali Red Crescent Society and for hospitals in Mogadishu. For more information, have a look at: <http://www.icrc.org/eng/where-we-work/africa/somalia/index.jsp>. If you have further questions, please contact Nicole Engelbrecht, ICRC Geneva, at [nengelbrecht@icrc.org](mailto:nengelbrecht@icrc.org) or on +41 79 217 32 17.

**South Sudan:** A new ICRC film is available on ICRC.org. In 2008, farmer Lucas Takido Kuma arrived home to find that his youngest daughter, Jacqueline, had been seized by an armed group operating on the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. The film shows that Jacqueline is back with him after the ICRC traced her in the DRC and organized her return. For more information, please contact Nicole Engelbrecht, ICRC Geneva, at [nengelbrecht@icrc.org](mailto:nengelbrecht@icrc.org) or on +41 79 217 32 17.

**Sudan:** The ICRC continues to assist conflict-affected people in Darfur. An operational update on recent activities in behalf of displaced people and residents will soon be available on <http://www.icrc.org/eng/where-we-work/africa/somalia/index.jsp>. For more information, please contact Nicole Engelbrecht, ICRC Geneva, at [nengelbrecht@icrc.org](mailto:nengelbrecht@icrc.org) or on +41 79 217 32 17.

**Niger, Mali:** Herders in the Sahel, especially in desert areas and insecure areas in northern Mali and Niger, are again facing harsh conditions. The ICRC plans to launch a new large-scale animal vaccination campaign. More details will be available in an operational update. For further information, please contact Steven Anderson, ICRC Geneva, at [sanderson@icrc.org](mailto:sanderson@icrc.org) or on +41 79 536 92 50.

**Côte d'Ivoire:** Life for civilians in the Western part of the country remains difficult. The ICRC assists returnees in rural areas and organizes family reunifications for unaccompanied children who stayed for months as refugees in neighbouring countries. An operational update

about the humanitarian situation and the ICRC's response will be available on our website in the second half of November. For further information, please contact Steven Anderson, ICRC Geneva, at [sanderson@icrc.org](mailto:sanderson@icrc.org) or on +41 79 536 92 50.

## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

**Syria:** Five Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers explain why they chose to work in the humanitarian field. They speak about their motivations and refer to events in their daily lives. Their stories will be available on our website in early November. An operational update highlighting the current situation and the impact on the population of the ongoing violence, particularly in terms of access to emergency health services, will be published around 15 November. It will also present the efforts being made by the ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to meet needs. For further information, please contact Hicham Hassan, ICRC Geneva, at [hihassan@icrc.org](mailto:hihassan@icrc.org) or on +41 79 536 92 57.

**Yemen:** Fighting is spreading and affecting vital services. An operational update to be issued in the second half of November will describe the main obstacles facing Yemenis as they attempt to live normal lives in major cities such as Sana'a and Taiz. For further information, please contact Hicham Hassan, ICRC Geneva, at [hihassan@icrc.org](mailto:hihassan@icrc.org) or on +41 79 536 92 57.

**Libya:** The ICRC's priority is to obtain access to and visit people recently arrested and held by the transitional authorities and military councils. After having visited 6,000 detainees in Tripoli, Misrata and other cities nearby over the past two months, the ICRC needs to carry out further visits without delay in order to check on the treatment and conditions of detention of newly detained people. Providing support for the management of mortal remains in order to ensure that the bodies can be identified by their families is also a key activity, especially in Sirte, as is raising awareness of the dangers of unexploded ordnance. Assistance activities are continuing as well. Read the interview with the ICRC's head of delegation in Tripoli: <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/interview/2011/libya-interview-2011-10-27.htm> For further information, please contact Steven Anderson, ICRC Geneva, at [sanderson@icrc.org](mailto:sanderson@icrc.org) or on +41 79 536 92 50.

**Iraq:** At the end of his two-year assignment, Magne Barth, the ICRC's outgoing head of delegation in Baghdad, shares his views on the situation of civilians in the country and the ICRC's priorities for 2012. Read his online interview on 9 November. For further information, please contact Hicham Hassan, ICRC Geneva, at [hihassan@icrc.org](mailto:hihassan@icrc.org) or on +41 79 536 92 57.

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**Afghanistan:** The ICRC and the Harvard-based Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research are co-organizing a live web seminar on 4 November at 2.30 p.m. Geneva time on the topic: "Challenges to the application of international humanitarian law to Afghanistan." The discussions will focus on:

- the role of international humanitarian law in regulating hostilities, particularly issues related to targeting, status of individuals, and the question of the geography of armed conflict;
- the current nature of detention operations in Afghanistan, and the legal framework(s) by which these operations are regulated;
- the state of humanitarian operations, the role of humanitarian organizations such as the ICRC, and the challenges of obtaining access to vulnerable people.

For further information, please contact Christian Cardon, ICRC Geneva, at [ccardon@icrc.org](mailto:ccardon@icrc.org) or on +41 79 251 93 02 or +41 22 730 24 26.

**Australia:** In cooperation with the Australian Red Cross and the University of Queensland, the ICRC will hold a conference on "Protecting health care in armed conflict" in Brisbane on 3 November. The aim is to stimulate thinking and debate on the subject among experts from the medical, academic, military, government, humanitarian, legal and media communities. For more information, please contact Jeremy England, ICRC Sydney, at [syd\\_sydney@icrc.org](mailto:syd_sydney@icrc.org) or on +61 2 93 889 039, or Philippe Stoll, ICRC Geneva, at [pstoll@icrc.org](mailto:pstoll@icrc.org) or on +41 79 536 92 49 or +41 22 730 31 40.

**Japan:** On 3 and 4 November, the ICRC and the Japanese foreign ministry will hold a round table in Kyoto with 12 other East and South-East Asian countries to discuss issues linked to the interpretation and application of the 1977 Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. To know more about the event, read the interview with Yoshinobu Nagamine, the head of the ICRC's Tokyo office: <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/interview/japan-roundtable-interview-28-11-2011.htm>. A news release and an interview with Hideaki Ueda, Japan's ambassador for human rights and humanitarian affairs, will be published on our website ahead of the round table. For further information, please contact Philippe Stoll, ICRC Geneva, at [pstoll@icrc.org](mailto:pstoll@icrc.org) or on +41 79 536 92 49 or +41 22 730 31 40.

**Indonesia:** A feature to be published on 4 November on our website explains how the organization is strengthening partnerships with Islamic schools to teach young generations principles of humanity and international humanitarian law. At a seminar organized in October by the ICRC and the Darunnajah Schools together with the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs, about 50 education professionals from *pesantren* (Islamic internships) discussed the pedagogic and methodological content of the ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme. Read more about the programme on <http://www.icrc.org/eng/what-we-do/building-respect-ihl/education-outreach/youth/overview-education-programmes-young-people.htm>. For further information, please contact Philippe Stoll, ICRC Geneva, at [pstoll@icrc.org](mailto:pstoll@icrc.org) or on +41 79 536 92 49 or +41 22 730 31 40.

## EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

**Russia:** At a round table to be held on 1 and 2 November in Moscow, representatives of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and of the ICRC will discuss contemporary humanitarian challenges and legal aspects relating to the use of force in armed conflicts and other situations of violence. More about this event can be found on <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/news-release/2011/russia-news-2011-10-31.htm>. An interview with the ICRC director-general, Yves Daccord, currently on a visit to Moscow, will also be published on the ICRC website. Mr Daccord will talk about ICRC activities worldwide and in the Russian Federation, in particular in the Northern Caucasus. For further information, please contact Vassily Fadeev, ICRC Geneva, at [vfadeev@icrc.org](mailto:vfadeev@icrc.org) or on +41 22 730 34 53 or +41 79 536 92 48.

## OTHER TOPICS

**Humanitarian work and security:** When humanitarian organizations endeavour to help people in a place racked by war or natural disaster, or both, their staff are inevitably exposed to a multitude of risks. Dominik Stillhart, the ICRC's deputy director of operations, explains how the ICRC deals with this problem in an interview to be posted on our website early November. For further information, please contact Dorothea Krimitsas, ICRC Geneva, at [dkrimitsas@icrc.org](mailto:dkrimitsas@icrc.org) or on +41 79 251 93 18.

**One Day on Earth, 11 November 2011:** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is teaming up with the One Day on Earth project to capture the power of humanity on film on 11/11/11. Our aim is to collect video from every country on Earth of people helping others, including Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers and staff in-action. Filming must take place on 11 November and can be done by anyone with a video camera (from a mobile phone to professional equipment). Journalists, members of the Red Cross Red Crescent and the general public are encouraged to participate in this worldwide endeavour. See the news release for more info: <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/news-release/2011/one-day-on-earth-news-2011-08-30.htm>

Also visit: [www.onedayonearth.org](http://www.onedayonearth.org). For further information, please contact Didier Revol, ICRC Geneva, at [drevol@icrc.org](mailto:drevol@icrc.org) or on +41 22 730 36 81.

**Multiplying the Power of Humanity, TEDx event:** The Red Cross and Red Crescent's first-ever TEDx event will take place on Sunday, 27 November. Called "TEDxRC<sup>2</sup>," the two-hour event will feature eight riveting talks about tomorrow's humanitarian challenges and opportunities. Hosted by the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the main programme will take place in Geneva under the banner "Multiplying the Power of Humanity." The European director of TED, Bruno Giussani, will be our host and master of ceremonies. Attendance at the event is by invitation only. However, the talks will be webcast in real time in English, Arabic, French and Spanish. For more information go to: [www.tedxrc2.com](http://www.tedxrc2.com) or contact Anna Nelson, ICRC Geneva, at [anelson@icrc.org](mailto:anelson@icrc.org) or on +41 22 730 20 63.

**International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent:** The 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent will take place in Geneva from 28 November to 1 December 2011. The Conference convenes every four years and brings together States party to the Geneva Conventions and all the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – the ICRC, the National Societies and their International Federation – with the overall objective of strengthening international humanitarian law and humanitarian action. This year, the conference will focus specifically on strengthening legal protection for victims of armed conflicts, strengthening disaster law, reinforcing local humanitarian action and addressing barriers to health care. The Movement and key partners will launch a four-year initiative, aimed at improving security for patients and health-care workers and facilities alike, by mobilizing States, the health community and others. The documents of the conference are available on <http://www.icrc.org/eng/who-we-are/movement/international-conference/index.jsp>. A news release will be issued and a press conference held ahead of the event. For more information, please contact Nicole Engelbrecht, ICRC Geneva, at [nengelbrecht@icrc.org](mailto:nengelbrecht@icrc.org) or on +41 79 217 32 17.

## DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE ICRC

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ICRC media room: [www.icrc.org/eng/media-room/index.jsp](http://www.icrc.org/eng/media-room/index.jsp)

ICRC video newsroom: [www.icrcvideonewsroom.org](http://www.icrcvideonewsroom.org)

*For ICRC news footage, contact Jan Powell at [jpowell@icrc.org](mailto:jpowell@icrc.org) or Didier Revol at [drevol@icrc.org](mailto:drevol@icrc.org)*

*For films and archive footage, contact Marina Meier at [mmeier@icrc.org](mailto:mmeier@icrc.org) or Florence Zurcher at [fzurcher@icrc.org](mailto:fzurcher@icrc.org)*

ICRC photo collection: [www.icrc.org/eng/resources/photos/index.jsp](http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/photos/index.jsp)

*For photos, contact Fania Khan Mohammad at [fkhan@icrc.org](mailto:fkhan@icrc.org), Sabine Haberler Kreis at [shaberler@icrc.org](mailto:shaberler@icrc.org) or Thierry Gassman at [tgassmann@icrc.org](mailto:tgassmann@icrc.org).*

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