



Egypt Activity Report 2016

ICRC Cairo Delegation, February 2017

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been working in Egypt, with some interruptions, for more than 100 years. During World Wars I and II, the Arab-Israeli wars and the 1956 conflict over the Suez Canal, the ICRC visited and assisted thousands of prisoners of war and civilian internees under the specific mandate conferred upon the organization by the Geneva Conventions. The organization also provided medical and food assistance to tens of thousands of war victims, helped restore broken family links, helped authorities transfer people across demarcation lines, and oversaw the repatriation of prisoners of war and mortal remains. In 1983, the ICRC opened its Cairo delegation and formalized its legal presence in Egypt by signing a Headquarters Agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



ICRC

ICRC President Meets with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

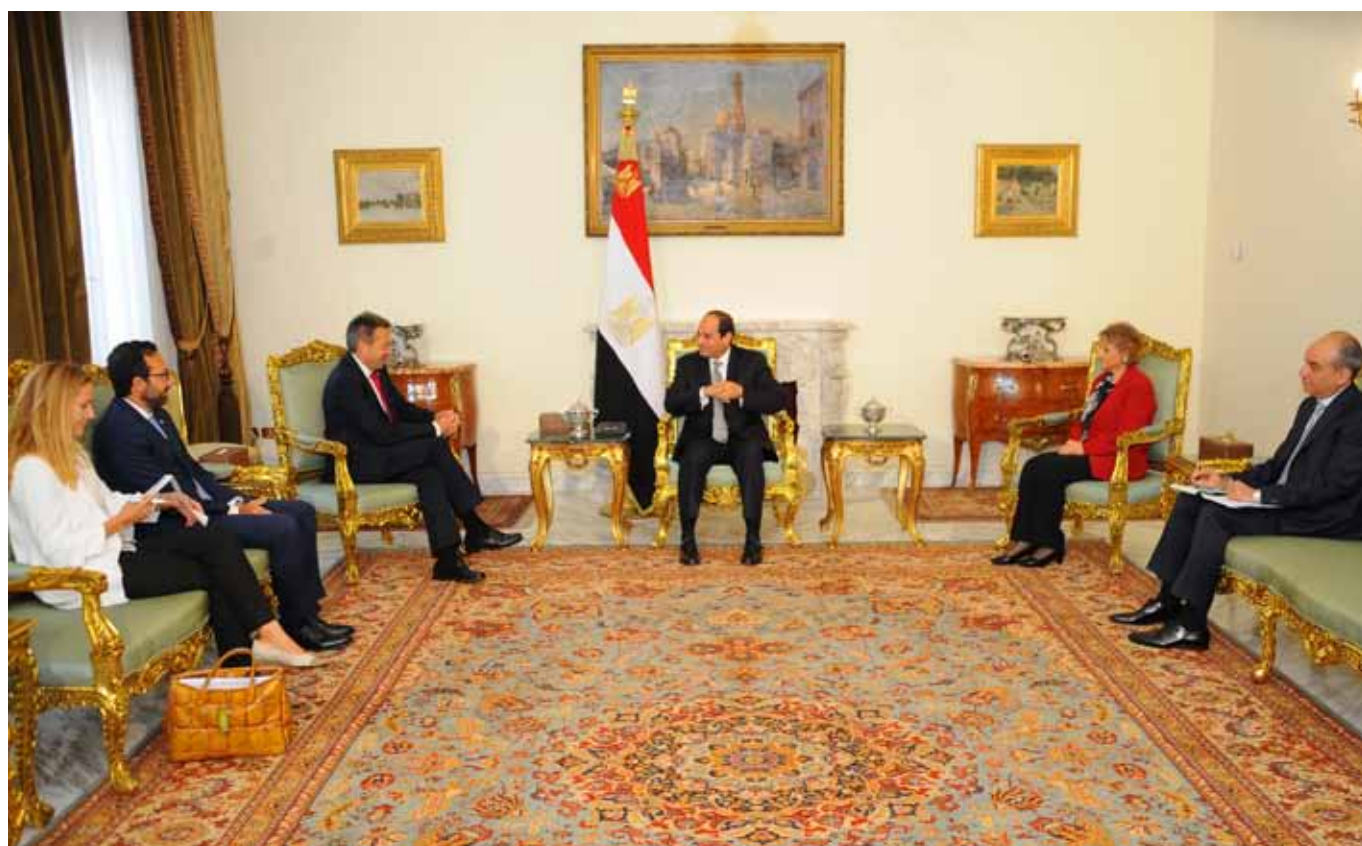
In August 31st, President Peter Maurer of the ICRC met with President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The leaders exchanged views on the situation in the region and discussed ways to enhance their cooperation. This is the first time an ICRC president has visited Egypt.

"Egypt is a key strategic player in regional and global affairs, especially in the conflicts in the Middle East where the ICRC is working," said Mr. Maurer. "Most of the world's bloodiest conflicts are taking place in this region, at a tremendous human cost. I value the cooperation of the Egyptian authorities in fostering greater respect for international humanitarian law and more effective humanitarian work in these conflicts."

Mr. Maurer acknowledged the role that Egypt's support had played in 2016 in the adoption of a Security Council resolution that strongly condemns attacks on medical

facilities, their staff and patients, and humanitarian workers, and demands that all parties to armed conflict comply fully with their obligations under international law. "Resolution 2286 is an excellent example of what we can achieve by working together on humanitarian issues, and I want to see this cooperation go from strength to strength. Political support is crucial for meaningful humanitarian work," said Mr. Maurer.

In the past, the ICRC has provided humanitarian services to tens of thousands of people in Egypt in major conflicts such as the two World Wars, the Arab-Israeli wars and the 1956 Suez conflict. Today, Egypt is a regional hub for the ICRC's work on international humanitarian law.





Assistance

In cooperation with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), the ICRC has focused on reaching people affected by situations of violence within Egypt and in the region, in order to address their humanitarian needs.

Since 2014, the ICRC, with the support of the ERC, helped more than 800 vulnerable Palestinian households (3,000 individuals) fleeing from Syria meet some of their essential needs by providing them with vouchers.

Additionally, the ICRC, in cooperation with Syria Al Ghad Foundation, assisted more than 1,100 Syrian and Palestinian children from Syria were assisted in Obour City by covering their school and transportation fees for six months.

The ICRC worked as well with the ERC to provide more than 700 Palestinian children with school kits and shoes vouchers.

Since June 2016, the ICRC, in cooperation with St. Andrew's Refugee Services' NGO (StARS), has assisted 500 unaccompanied female minors fleeing from different countries affected by situations of violence, through monthly distribution of food and hygiene parcels.

Health

The ICRC continued to promote joint initiatives with local healthcare providers and institutions in order to help them boost their capacities to respond to emergencies. It co-organized surgical and emergency room trauma courses and seminars for military and civilian doctors and nurses in coordination with the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Interior and Cairo University's Kasr El Aini Hospital.

Additionally, the ICRC continued to share with the Egyptian Ambulance Organization (EAO) and the ERC its expertise in order to improve their pre-hospital

services. Furthermore, the ICRC shared its institutional knowledge and expertise to enhance the capacity of some Egyptian institutions (EAO, ERC, Ministry of Defense, etc.) to respond to disasters and to deal with mass-casualty situations.

The ICRC has also donated medical supplies and protective equipment to the ERC and to the Egyptian authorities to treat people affected by situations of violence.



Restoring Family Links & Tracing Services

Using ICRC family links services, migrants (including asylum seekers, refugees as well as Egyptian nationals detained abroad or migrated to Europe) restored and maintained contact with relatives living in countries affected by armed conflicts and violence. Out of a caseload of 763 individual tracing requests currently addressed, 507 new demands were opened in 2016 by family members inquiring about the fate and whereabouts of missing relatives. So far, 109 persons were successfully located.

Additionally, 1,090 international phone calls were facilitated by the ICRC for family members separated by situations of violence or conflicts. The exchanges of 66 verbal messages (Salamat) as well as Red Cross Messages (unsealed letter with family news only) were facilitated between families living in Egypt and their relatives detained abroad.



Since November 2016, ICRC Cairo started using "Trace the Face", a new web tool used for tracing migrants in Europe (pictures of sought persons online for family to identify their loved ones).

The ICRC issued 1,955 travel documents that helped foreigners without valid travel documents resettle in third countries. 500 unaccompanied minors benefited from ICRC-funded psychosocial and educational activities conducted by StARS NGO.



Forensics

When people die during wars or disasters, or while migrating, their bodies must be handled respectfully and with dignity; and the remains of unknown individuals must be searched for, recovered and identified. Humanitarian work has come to include these tasks, for which forensic science offers matchless tools and expertise.

In that respect, the ICRC cooperation with state-affiliated Egyptian Forensic Medical Authority (EFMA) and other key forensic stakeholders was consolidated. Four National Working Group Meetings (NWGMs) on the "management of the dead in emergencies" were facilitated, jointly with EFMA, and the participation of the main Egyptian forensic stakeholders. The aim of the NWGMs is to establish national guidelines on the management of the dead in emergencies in Egypt.



In light with the joint cooperation with EFMA, an assessment visit was conducted by an ICRC expert in May 2016. The visit aimed at assessing the needs at the DNA labs in EFMA. Consequently, the ICRC will donate "Qubit System" and chemicals for the DNA labs as of 2017.

The ICRC also held a one-day workshop on the "Ante-mortem - Post mortem" database, in cooperation with EFMA.

Moreover, the ICRC organized the first national course on the "management of the dead", in cooperation with the EAO. The ICRC held as well sensitization workshops on the management of the dead, in addition to sessions on "restoring family links" at Cairo University's Kasr El Aini Hospital and the ERC respectively.

Finally, two advanced sensitization workshops on the management of the dead were organized at Kasr El Aini Hospital and the Armed Forces' College of Medicine.

Promoting IHL with Security & Armed Forces

In cooperation with the Ministry of Defense, courses and dissemination sessions on law enforcement, International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Training of Trainers (ToT) were carried out at military training centers throughout 2016. Furthermore, an IHL manual was drafted, checked and approved which is a positive step towards the integration of IHL into military education and then into the military doctrine.

The ICRC trained 2,911 officers/cadets as well as 96 officers assigned to peacekeeping operations on IHL and International Human Rights Law (IHRL), as well as on related issues.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, 25 senior police officers have been trained on IHL and its relation to IHR.

Regional Advisory Service on IHL

Since its inception in Cairo, the Regional Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law has become an important base from which the ICRC promotes its neutral and independent humanitarian action, and fosters national implementation of IHL among the 22 member countries of the League of Arab States.

The League of Arab States and the ICRC co-organize regional seminars and training courses on IHL for governmental officials, diplomats, military officers, academics, judges and prosecutors. Moreover, holding a cooperation program with the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union is aimed at promoting the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties and provisions by national parliaments.



Additionally, the Regional Advisory Service provides support to governments in Arabic-speaking countries to establish national IHL commissions, align domestic legislation with IHL provisions and adopt procedures for the dissemination of IHL provisions. The results of these efforts are documented in the biennial reports on the implementation of IHL in Arab states, the last edition of which was jointly published by the League of Arab States and the ICRC in 2014.

In 2015 and 2016, more than 50 academics and 150 civil servants from the region benefited from in-depth courses on IHL conducted by the ICRC and the League of Arab States in Beirut and Tunisia. Twelve of the participants came from Egypt.

In Egypt, the National Commission on IHL (NCIHL) brings together representatives of the Ministries of Defense, Interior, Health, Communications and Education, in addition to General Intelligence as well as the ERC and the ICRC. Since its establishment in 2001, it has facilitated the drafting and adoption of a number of IHL-related laws, as well as the incorporation of IHL in the training programs of the army, police, judges and diplomats.

The Regional Advisory Service is organizing this year in Cairo the first regional IHL moot court competition for Arabic speaking countries. This competition, through the national rounds that will take place initially in the Arab countries, is intended to target a big number of students in order to train them practically on the rules of IHL through a case study that will help participants apply legal theories to reality-based scenarios.

Egypt

FACTS & FIGURES

2016

1,955

Foreign nationals without valid travel documents were resettled in third countries with the help of ICRC-issued travel documents.

507

New tracing requests were opened.

109

Persons were located and restored contact with their families.

2,945

Palestinians who have fled from Syria to Egypt received vouchers to purchase food and other essential items on a quarterly basis in coordination with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC).

1,111

Syrian and Palestinian children from Syria were provided with schooling support in Obour City (Cairo), in cooperation with Syria Al Ghad Foundation.

738

Palestinian children were assisted through the distribution of school kits and shoe voucher.

500+

Unaccompanied female minors were assisted with food and hygiene parcels. In 2017, 100 additional unaccompanied female minors should be assisted bringing the total to 600.

131

Doctors/surgeons and nurses from the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior and Kasr El Aini Hospital have enhanced their skills and exchanged best practices on the management of trauma in the emergency room.

12

Doctors and nurses were trained to become Emergency Room Trauma Care Trainers

75

ERC volunteers were trained as first responders and will be part of the ERC Emergency Action Teams.

3

Psychosocial training sessions were provided to 75 Egyptian Ambulance Organization (EAO) personnel and replicated to 270 paramedics all over the governorates.

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310 EAO personnel were trained on “peer support and self-care”.
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310+ Military members, doctors and nurses were sensitized on “Health Care in Danger”.
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40+ EAO personnel were sensitized on “weapon contamination” and “safer access”, while 16 were trained on “mass casualty management”.
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46 Members of the Armed Forces were sensitized on “mass casualty and emergency preparedness”.
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160 Doctors and cadets from the Egyptian Forensic Medical Authority (EFMA), EAO, Armed Forces College of Medicine and Kasr El Aini Hospital were sensitized on the “management of the dead”.
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150 Body bags were donated to the EAO.
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2,911 Army officers and cadets, as well as 96 officers assigned to peacekeeping operations were trained on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and ICRC mandate.
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25 Police officers were trained on IHL and its relation to IHRL.
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200 ERC volunteers were trained on IHL and the principles of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.
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100 Journalists were trained on first aid by the ERC and gained a better understanding of IHL and the ICRC mandate.