



Nord Kivu, Pinga. An ICRC employee is explaining the basic rules of the International Humanitarian Law to soldiers of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Armed Forces.

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NEWSLETTER

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ICRC NEWSLETTER

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By Yoshinobu Nagamine
Head of office

Dear all,

Nearly two months have passed since the relief operations in Pakistan commenced and large parts of the country are still submerged in flood waters.

The Federation and the ICRC continue to provide assistance to the flood victims in partnership with the Pakistan Red Crescent, the former mainly on the east side of the Indus river and the latter on the west. So far, the ICRC has provided one-month food rations and hygiene supplies for 575,000

victims, as well as shelter items for a further 343,000 in selected areas. The ICRC is preparing to help as many as 350,000 people in rebuilding rural livelihoods over the coming months.

And yet, the biggest challenge for the ICRC remains the ability to work in an environment which is also affected by armed conflict.

Here, restrictions imposed by the authorities considerably weaken the ICRC's access to those in need, as well as its ability to enhance the capacity of the Red Crescent Society to deliver aid. Lack of access can also lead to mistrust by the general population, and create the perception of the ineffectiveness of humanitarian organizations. It is therefore important for the ICRC to emphasize the impartial and purely humanitarian nature of its activities so that all parties understand and accept the aid operations.

We call this ideal condition of working in an environment in which all stakeholders respect the neutral and impartial nature of humanitarian aid, "humanitarian space". How to define and expand humanitarian space will be the main topic of the symposium which the ICRC will co-organize with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 5 November 2010. The case study will be Afghanistan but the discussion should also provide responses to other current challenges.

On another topic, ICRC Tokyo is pleased

to announce the setting up of a website in Japanese language with the generous assistance of the Japanese Red Cross. It is part of the JRC website and can be accessed under <http://www.jrc.or.jp/ICRC>. It is our hope that the ICRC website contributes to the further understanding of our mandate and activities in Japan.

Clearly, information technology also has potentially harmful effects. Cyber attacks against power grids, hydroelectric dams or nuclear power plants may have the same devastating effect as physical attacks. Does International Humanitarian Law, which mainly addresses states and armed non-state actors, apply to these scenarios? Cyberterrorism will be the topic of a seminar in Beijing on 23 October jointly organized with the Chinese Society of International Law as an attempt to address this issue.

It is important that established rules, principles and procedures are interpreted coherently by States and other parties. After all, rules are not there for the sake of being respected but to protect people from harm and suffering caused by man-made or natural disasters and emergencies.



ICRC

Central African Republic/Sudan : seven children rejoin their families after escaping violence

Seven children have rejoined their families in Obo (Central African Republic) and South Sudan with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). They were separated from their families several years ago by the armed violence in the region.

"The children endured immense suffering and much of their childhood was taken away from them," says Alexandra Goodlad, head of the ICRC's office in the east of the Central African Republic (CAR). An ICRC plane took four children from Obo to Tambura in Southern Sudan, and then to Juba and Yei, before returning from Tambura to Obo with three children en route to their homes in the CAR. "Being reunited with their families is a first step on the long road to recovery," explained Goodlad.

David (17) and his younger brother Peter were abducted in 2008 when an armed group attacked their village in South Sudan. The brothers were separated and kept on the move, crossing first into the Democratic Republic of the Congo and then into the CAR. "We had to carry heavy loads barefoot through the bush every day," says David. "Anyone who became too weak would be killed or left behind without food. I've dreamt so many times of the moment when I could finally go home." But when David finally managed to flee he found himself far from home, in the north east of the CAR. He approached the Central African Red Cross Society, who contacted the ICRC. David was taken into care in Bangui and the search for his family in Sudan began.

When he returned to Sudan, David discovered that Peter had also made it back. "This is an incredible moment for us," says their elder brother. "We had given up all hope. We thought they were both dead."

Restoring family links is one of the priorities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Since the beginning of 2010, the ICRC and the Central African Red Cross Society have enabled the exchange of 417 Red Cross messages and have reunited nine children with their families. In Sudan, the ICRC and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society have carried more than 10,000 messages and reunited 13 children with their families.

Afghanistan : war casualties soar in Kandahar hospital

Geneva/Kabul (ICRC) – The number of war casualties taken to Mirwais Regional Hospital in Kandahar for treatment is hitting record highs. The hospital, which is supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), registered almost twice as many new patients with weapon-related injuries in August and September 2010 as during the same months last year – close to 1,000 compared with just over 500 during the same period in 2009.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg, as those who suffer other sorts of injuries or contract disease as an indirect result of the conflict far outnumber weapon-wounded patients," said Reto Stocker, head of the ICRC delegation in Kabul. Every day, there are mothers who bring their sick children to hospital too late because they are afraid to travel or are held up by

roadblocks, and relatives who take patients home before their treatment is completed. "The result is that children die from tetanus, measles and tuberculosis – easily prevented with vaccines – while women die in childbirth and otherwise strong men succumb to simple infections," added Mr Stocker.

The deteriorating security situation is affecting the Afghan people in many ways. Last week's bombing that left eight children dead in Kandahar, like other serious recent incidents, is an example of how the conflict keeps on raging in various parts of the country.

Meanwhile, the multiplication of armed groups in all parts of Afghanistan is making the tasks faced by the ICRC all the more daunting. "Our greatest challenge consists in maintaining access to the areas hardest hit by the fighting,

but the increase in the number of armed groups is making this much harder for us," said Mr Stocker. "Nevertheless, because the ICRC is engaged in dialogue with all parties to the conflict, it hopes to be able to maintain its presence among the displaced, the detained, the injured or the otherwise war-affected people of Afghanistan."



Operating theatre, Mirwais Hospital, Kandahar.

New customary IHL database

The results of research on customary humanitarian law conducted in 2005 are now available in database form. The new database provides rapid access to the rules of customary IHL and enables users to examine practice around the world. Regular updates will include further examples of national practice.

Part 1. Rules offers a comprehensive analysis of the customary rules of international humanitarian law identified by the Study and considered to be applicable in international and non-international armed conflicts.

Part 2. Practice provides a summary of relevant state practice including military manuals, legislation, case-law and official statements, as well as practice of international organizations, conferences and judicial and quasi-judicial bodies.

You can access the database on the ICRC website:

Home > Humanitarian law > Treaties and customary law > New customary IHL database



Yemen : ICRC and YRCS help people displaced by fighting in the south



Azzan, Shabwa governorate. Over 4,300 IDPs who had fled the nearby city of al-Hota because of fighting are benefiting from 89,000 litres of water per day.

The fighting that erupted in the end of September 2010 in southern Yemen has forced thousands out of their homes. In the north of the country, thousands more remain dependent on humanitarian aid. The ICRC is working with the Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) to supplying urgently needed assistance.

In Yemen's south-eastern governorate of Shabwa, thousands fled the city of al-Hota in search of a safe haven as fighting involving government forces and armed groups intensified in the end of September, leaving their homes, belongings and livestock behind.

"In no time at all, thousands of men, women and children found themselves leaving their homes with no idea where to go," said Myriam El Kholi, head of the ICRC's Aden sub-delegation. Although many joined their relatives in nearby areas, others had no relatives to help them. Seeing that the displaced had no one to turn to, local people took them into their homes, even though they had little themselves.



Bani Sureym, Amran governorate. Joint ICRC/YRCS teams distribute two-month food rations to nearly 2,100 IDPs from the district of Harf Sufyan (Amran governorate) and Sa'ada governorate.

Fighting seems to have calmed down now. Some of those who fled are starting to return home, but many others hesitate, not knowing what the future holds.

The ICRC has been following the situation in the governorate of Shabwa with great concern. The organization will continue to monitor the situation in close cooperation with the YRCS, to get a clearer picture of potential needs.

Meanwhile, in the northern governorates of Sa'ada and Amran, thousands of displaced persons affected by fighting over a number of years are also reluctant to return to their homes. Not knowing whether their houses are still intact, some have decided to continue living with relatives and friends, or in camps managed by the YRCS in Sa'ada governorate. The fasting month of Ramadan and the Eid festivities that followed were particularly tough for them as it was often difficult to find a decent meal to break the fast.

Most of the families who had fled the old city of Sa'ada have returned, although some are still living in tents or with relatives. A number of these "returnees" have lost their sources of revenue and most of their belongings, and remain dependent on humanitarian assistance from the ICRC and the YRCS.

In the governorate of Sa'ada, the ICRC and the YRCS are continuing to help displaced persons in six camps and elsewhere in the governorate. In the northern part of Amran governorate, the two organizations have distributed food to thousands of displaced persons in the areas of Houth, Bani Sureym, Khamer, Rayda and Khaiwan al-Hamra, to tide them over until they are able to support themselves again.

Supplying clean water

- supplied a total of 89,000 litres of water per day (more than 20 litres per person per day) to over 4,300 displaced persons through 16 newly constructed water points in Azzan, Shabwa governorate, in the south west of the country;
- finished repairing a rural water network in Aal Hamati, Sa'ada governorate, ensuring that 1,500 residents have clean water;
- is supplying diesel to the Sa'ada Water Board, providing 80,000 residents and returnees with clean water;
- continued to supply the 10,000-strong camp population in Sa'ada governorate with clean drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities;
- continued delivering water to more than 2,800 displaced persons located in the area of Aal Thabet (Qataber district, north-west of Sa'ada city) who are living in precarious conditions;
- finished building six water points in Hawazat and Harf Sufyan (Amran governorate), which are presently supplying 7,400 displaced persons and residents with water; etc.

Food and other essential items

- distributed one-month food rations to 16,000 displaced persons and residents in the governorate of Sa'ada;
- supplied basic household items to over 8,000 displaced persons and residents in Sa'ada and Amran governorates;
- ensured that nearly 11,500 internally displaced persons and residents in Houth, Bani Sureym, Khamer, Rayda and Khaiwan al-Hamra (in the northern part of Amran governorate) received one-month food rations.

Health care

- donated sufficient medical supplies to al-Jumhuiya Hospital in Aden City to treat 50 casualties;
- continued to support 11 YRCS health-care facilities in Sa'ada governorate, which held over 6,000 consultations;
- supported Khaiwan al-Hamra and Khaiwan al-Medina medical facilities (Amran governorate), which together held more than 1,200 consultations;
- working in cooperation with the Yemen Red Crescent Society and the Ministry of Health and Population, started first-aid training for 40 ambulance drivers and paramedics from Aden's Ministry of Health and from surrounding governorates in the south of the country; etc.

Israel-Palestine Media Mission Report

Israel and the occupied territories: Media Mission Report

Hitomi MAKABE
ICRC Tokyo Office
Communication Officer

The ICRC is active in more than 80 countries throughout the world, with its longest-running operations taking place in Israel and the Occupied Territories. Since the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, the ICRC has been deploying assistance and protection in its usual impartial and neutral manner to help those affected by the conflict to live with as much dignity as possible.

For about a week in early August, I visited Israel and its Occupied Territories jointly with ICRC Beijing communication officer. There, we conducted a field trip with both Japanese and Chinese media professionals, who are based in Jerusalem. Together with them, I could have a firsthand look at several projects implemented by the ICRC in the inhabited area of the West Bank and to listen to the experiences of colleagues working in the field.

The projects handled by the ICRC in the West Bank may not be spectacular, but most of them are long-term, implying close contact with people and a sustained response to the local needs. For a country in peace like Japan, fortunately we do not have to face situations requiring such protection or assistance activities. However, in Israel and the Occupied Territories, "the ICRC for when you need protection and assistance under situations of violence" is a firmly established reflex.

Based on my observations during the media mission, I will attempt to convey a sense of what the situation is like at the local level as well as to highlight the various projects managed by the ICRC and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society.

Harsh conditions in "Area C"

Living without threats to human dignity is difficult for the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, especially in the region called "Area C" in the West Bank. Encompassing more than half of the West Bank area, "Area C" includes Israeli settlements, is under the civilian and military control of Israel, and movements in this area are highly restricted. In many cases, the occupants of the area have to take a detour in order to avoid checkpoints and barricades, thus spending much more time than they should to reach their destinations. Ambulances run by the Palestine Red Crescent Society are not an exception as there have been cases when patients died during



In front of the ICRC office in Tulkarm: Palestinians holding pictures of imprisoned relatives calling for information about whether they are safe or not, and Japanese and Chinese media gathering materials

transport or when pregnant women have given birth at the checkpoints while waiting for permission to pass.

Hebron: a city under siege

In the West Bank area, the place where the level of tension between Israeli settlers and Palestinians seemed highest was a city located in the south: Hebron. There, more checkpoints exist than in any other city I visited. Although the ICRC has good relations with the local authorities, our vehicle was stopped several times; on occasion we were made to wait a long time inside the vehicle. The Palestinians must pass through this kind of checkpoints even when they go out to buy their daily food. They are also frequently harassed by settlers during these trips. In the old part of the city, everything was shuttered, and I saw almost nobody on the streets. Several shops had been closed down by the Israeli army; the economy is in a state of depletion and nothing is done to restrain poverty.

According to a study conducted by the ICRC last summer, among the people living in the old part of the town where moves are restricted, 86% are poverty-stricken. Each person has less than 100 yen to cover one month's clothing, food and housing expenses. Through a project aimed at enhancing self-reliance, the ICRC is providing them with rabbits, seeds for planting, training, facilities, etc as many Palestinians earn their living by doing agriculture or stockbreeding. In addition, a project called "cash-for-work" aims at generating employment involving the restoration and maintenance of roads and the

installation of irrigation pipes to ensure access to the fields and a bigger harvest.

Lives affected by violence and loss of freedom

In the Occupied Territories, many Palestinians say that they live their lives afraid of threats and violence from Jewish settlers. Following the second Intifada during September 2000, the Israeli army has been able to occupy once again most parts of the West Bank area by 2002. With the stated intention of protecting their country, the Israelis set up checkpoints and separation barriers in various places and increased the frequency of army patrols.

The Palestinians living in Area C of the West Bank are not authorised to build their houses with a free hand. In fact, in the West Bank area and East Jerusalem, within a 3-month span this year, not less than 14 houses were demolished by the Israeli authorities. Still, with the increase in population, many Palestinians continue to construct or extend their houses without building permits in this area, while being prepared that they may be demolished one day. This instability affects family structures; for



The ICRC's flood countermeasure project (Qalqillya)

example it may be difficult for young couples to live with their parents.

ICRC initiatives to ensure safe water

In Israel and the Occupied Territories, water is a precious resource. "The Israelis and Palestinians have been quarrelling over land. The fight over water is also a serious problem here" said a local resident. Actually, when I visited the ICRC Sub-delegation in Hebron, no water came out when I flushed the toilet. "This kind of thing often happens" said a colleague with a shrug. After my field visit when I returned to the sub-delegation, enough water had been saved so that we could use the toilet again.

Since the installation of new reservoirs in order to collect water is prohibited, the ICRC provides portable water storage tanks for the inhabitants of Hebron suffering from a serious lack of water. However, these tanks become empty within one week. In order to lessen the burdens in an already difficult life, the ICRC supports the installation of water storage facilities and equipment so that the people can enjoy safe drinking water. In the South of Nablus, a large-scale supply system is under construction, which will provide safe water to about 35,000 people in 11 villages.

Speaking of water, the ICRC project also includes flood countermeasures. The city of Qalqillya, where agriculture is a major activity, was hit in 2005 by heavy rainfall. The water could not drain away because of the separation wall, which resulted in flooding. The ICRC employed 1,100 local people and allocated about 80 million yen for the construction of a drainage canal. In the coming years, approximately 180 farms will benefit from the existence of the canal.

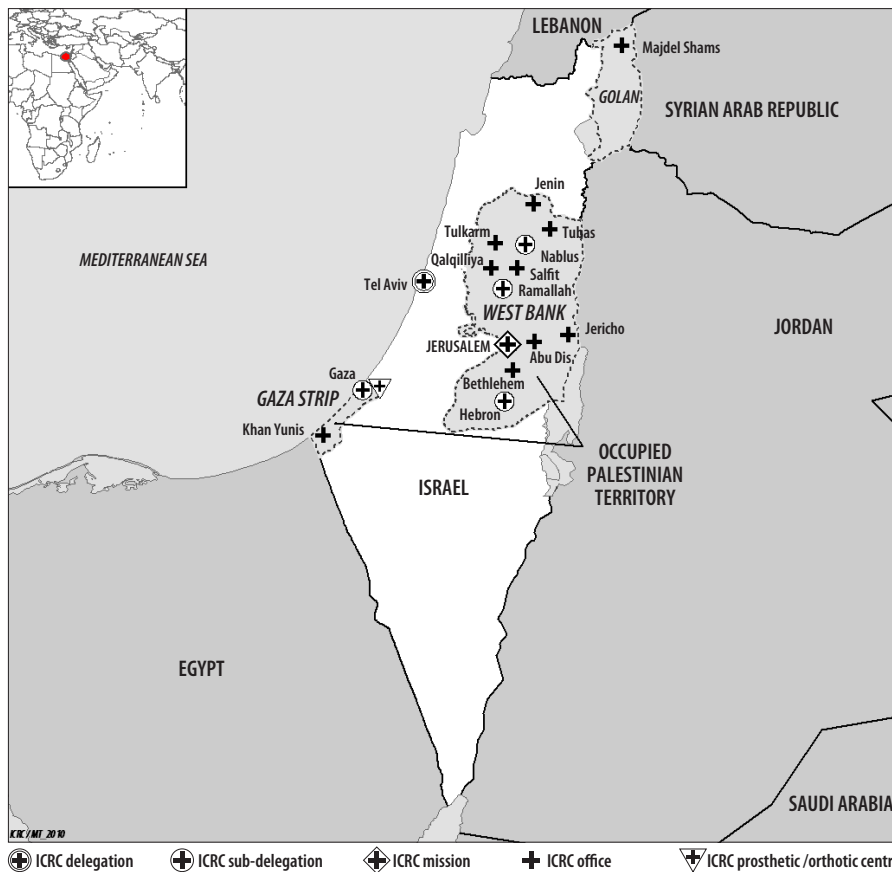
ICRC prison visits

The ICRC, whose independent and neutral character facilitates approval to visit places of detention, is monitoring the treatment and living conditions of the prisoners held by both the Israeli and Palestinian authorities.

From January to March of this year, the ICRC conducted almost 90 prison visits and visited about 1,600 detainees. Clearly, the number of detainees is exceeding the capacity of the prisons. The people of Nablus employ grim humour at this situation: "When something new is built in this town, it's not a university nor a school, but a prison!" The ICRC office in Jerusalem arranges for buses and organises visitation tours to several prisons everyday so that the immediate family members of the detainees can meet their loved ones. Other relatives can maintain communication with the detainees through Red Cross messages.

Confidential discussions with stakeholders

The ICRC periodically holds rounds of talks with the authorities in both Israel and Palestine, as



In Israel and the Occupied Territories, the ICRC has 17 operational sites including the Orthopaedic Centre which provides prosthetic limbs. ICRC delegations are located in Tel Aviv, Ramallah, Nablus, Hebron and Gaza. The ICRC Jerusalem office, where the media mission took place, is the operational base for the ICRC in the West Bank area

well as people possessing influence to improve the situation. During these discussions, the ICRC insists on the necessity of preserving the dignity of citizens.

More than half of the Palestinians live in the West Bank area. As Israel is an occupying power, it has the obligation under International Humanitarian Law to treat civilians humanely at all times. For instance, violence or destruction to the private property of civilians who are not participating in hostilities must cease. The ICRC delegation in Tel Aviv also holds talks with government organisations and the Israeli Defense Forces in order to find solutions which are acceptable under IHL.

Said a resident when asked if he could envisage tranquillity coming back to the area: "We see almost no glimpse of hope. But we do our best to live our daily life."

The troubled living conditions are not the only

issue. In a situation where the dignity of human beings is not protected, what is a life without hope? Thus among other considerations, the ICRC and similar organisations, as well as the international community, must continue to be cognisant of the suffering of civilians in this, and other regions of the world.



Rabbits provided as part of the self-reliance support project (Hebron)

Under international humanitarian law...

As the occupying power, Israel has an obligation to treat the civilian population humanely at all times. It must allow the natural growth of the West Bank's population and economy and must ensure that Palestinians have adequate access to water and health care. It must also refrain from any requisition of, destruction of, or damage to property belonging to civilians not required by imperative military necessity. The law specifically prohibits the transfer of the occupier's civilian population into the territory it occupies. Finally, the West Bank Barrier is contrary to IHL, in as far as it deviates from the "green line" (the Armistice Line of 1949) into occupied territory.

Historical Relationship between Japan and the ICRC

A new historical series about Japan-ICRC relationship

Japan Taking the First step for "International Humanity"

Accession to the Geneva Conventions

With persuasion from the Japanese Red Cross, in 1886 the Japanese government decided to sign the Geneva Convention, also known as "the Red Cross Convention", which defines the treatment of those wounded or captured during military conflict. The Convention not only marks the beginning of the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross, but it is also the very basis of the other Geneva Conventions

which follow. It was the two Siebold brothers (the sons of Dr. Philipp Siebold who was renowned for having introduced Western medicine to Tokugawa Japan) who were instrumental in this process. Japan therefore officially became a member of the Red Cross Movement, and by acceding to the Geneva Convention, Japan took its first step towards participation in international humanitarian assistance.

First Asian country to participate in Conference

Following approval by the International Committee, in 1887 the Japanese Red Cross participated in the 4th International Conference of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement held in Karlsruhe, Germany. This Conference is the supreme deliberative body of the Movement and Japan was warmly welcomed as the first Asian country to participate.

Japanese - Sino War and Japanese - Russo War

First assistance in conflict

The first assistance in conflict by the Japanese Red Cross happened during the Sino-Japanese war in 1894, when a medical team offered aid. With the report of the outbreak of the war, the Japanese Red Cross immediately urged the government to conclude an agreement with China concerning the protection of the injured (at the time, China had not yet signed the Geneva Conventions). Although it was unable to fulfill this request, the government

confirmed its respect for the principles of the Geneva Conventions and gave permission to the Japanese Red Cross to commit to relief activities. Though it had only been 19 years since the foundation of Hakuai-sha (the Philanthropic Society, which later became the Japanese Red Cross), 70,000 people assisted in the relief efforts. This successful assistance on the part of the Japanese Red Cross was widely recognised both domestically and internationally as a commitment to the

principles of the Geneva Conventions as well as a notable contribution to the humanitarian spirit of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Medical assistance during the Russo-Japanese War

The year 1904 marked the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War. The Japanese Red Cross, whose performance in the Sino-Japanese War was widely recognised, received a request from the Japanese government to send assistance to the field. In response, the Red Cross sent 152 aid teams as well as 5170 staff to Manchuria, Korea and Japan to work mainly in military hospitals. In addition, two medical ships, the "Hakuai-maru" and "Kosai-maru" were active in both Continental Asia and in Japan, and also contributed to the transport of Russian internees. Japan and Russia were both members of the Geneva Convention and the two countries worked together in humanitarian activities. At that time, ICRC couldn't set up the delegation in Japan for the geographical reason. So, it encouraged Red Cross societies of other countries to support Japanese Red Cross Society's mission and send the support fund to JRC.



The crew of the sunken battleship Rurik being treated at the Sasebo hospital.

Reference: "Jindou - Sono Ayumi Nihon Sekijujisha Hyakunenshi", Japanese Red Cross, 1979.

Tadao Inoue, "Sensou to Kyusai no Bunmeishi", PHP kenkyusyo, 2003.

"Nihon Sekijujishi Souritsu 125 shunen kinen shi", Japanese Red Cross, 2002.

"Nihon Sekijujishi Souritsu 130 shunen kinen shi", Japanese Red Cross, 2007.

1863	Establishment of the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded	1877	the battles of the Southwestern Rebellion Establishment of Philanthropic Society	1939	World War 2
1864	Signing on the First Geneva Convention	1886	Signing of the Second Geneva Convention	1941	the Pacific War
1867	The first Red Cross International Conference Paris World Expo	1887	Renamed JRCJ Joined in ICRC	1942	Establishment of representative office of ICRC in Japan
1871	Iwakura Mission	1894	Japanese-Sino War	1945	Atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki War's end
1873	Vienna World Expo Meeting of Iwakura Mission and Moynier, the Chairman of the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded.	1904	Japanese-Russo War	1949	Establishment of Four Geneva Conventions
1876	Renamed the International Committee of Red Cross	1914	World War 1	1953	Accedence of Japan to four Geneva Conventions
		1919	Establishment of IFRC	1977	Establishment of two Protocols
		1920	Three JRCJ nurses receive prized Nightingale Medal	2004	Accedence of Japan to two Protocols
		1931	Manchurian Incident	2009	Establishment of Japan Office of ICRC
		1937	Sino-Japanese War		

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

– JRCS activities as a part of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement –

IFRC President Konoe visits flood-affected areas of Pakistan

The record floods that struck Pakistan in July – August 2010 continue to take a massive toll on the country's population, particularly on rural communities and remote regions already reeling from armed violence.

In fact, the scale of the damage and impact on the population - over 20 million victims and 1.9 million collapsed houses - has been estimated as being much larger than that of the Haiti earthquake (2 million victims) and the Northern Sumatra earthquake (approximately 430,000 collapsed houses).

As of October 2010, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of some 37 countries, including Japan, have cooperated with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in providing emergency support intended for nearly a million people.

The JRCS supplied 14,500 plastic sheets, 25,000 blankets and 2,000 kitchen sets (worth 40 million yen including transport charges). In August and September, the JRCS dispatched doctors, nurses, and administrators, a few of whom worked together with a medical team organised by the French Red Cross Society.

IFRC President Konoe made an assessment visit to the devastated areas in Pakistan from 29 September to 1st October. While in

Charsadda (to the north-west of Pakistan), which was damaged severely by the floods, he pointed out that "flooded houses and fields are still covered with mud. Unless these layers of thick mud are removed, they cannot reconstruct houses and restart agriculture. I am very worried about the health of the people in shelters. What are essential for victims now include not only immediate relief items such as water, food and medical care, but also long-

term support."

President Konoe appealed to the international community for some 6.3 billion Japanese yen for long-term recovery initiatives such as medical care, water supply and sanitation. IFRC will assist in supporting temporary housing and rehabilitation for 130,000 families; however, there is a shortfall of approximately 1500 million yen.



IFRC President Konoe being briefed on the needs of people affected by the severe floods.

The 24th Red Cross Symposium

'The Red Cross Symposium' has been a part of 'NHK Helping Hands Campaign' co-organized by the Japanese Red Cross and NHK since 1987.

This year, the focus of the humanitarian assistance discussions will be on Africa, where some areas continue to be affected by political instability and natural disasters, thus increasing the vulnerability of women, children and other groups.



Date and Time : 2010 November 23 (Tuesday, Holiday) 14:30 – 16:30 (open at 14:00)

Venue : Omotesando Hills, main building B3F Space O
4-12-10, Jingumae, Shibuya-ku

Organized by Japanese Red Cross and NHK

Guests : Coordinator / Katsuhiko Hibino (Artist)

Panelists / Makoto Katsumata (Professor of Meiji Gakuin University, Department of International Studies)

Izumi Mori (Model, TV personality)

Mango Sakaki (Musician)

Field Reporter / Maki Igarashi (Japanese Red Cross Kenya Office)

On Air on TV (planned date) : December 4th, Educational TV, 16:00-17:00 "TV Symposium"
(there may be changes in date)

For any inquiries, contact the following : Japanese Red Cross International Department Planning and Coordination Division TEL. 03-3437-7087

ICRC Japanese Website is now open!

The ICRC's Japanese-language website was launched on 1st October, with the support of the Japanese Red Cross Society. It can be accessed via the JRC's website at the following address:

<http://www.jrc.or.jp/ICRC/>

This website contains the facts and figures regarding the ICRC's role and mandate; as well as its presence, activities and programmes in

Japan and the other countries. In addition, readers will be able to obtain the latest information about events, ICRC recruitment procedures and so on.

We invite readers to provide feedback on the website so that we can constantly strive to enhance its usefulness and relevance. Should you have any questions or requests, please contact us at the ICRC Tokyo office.



Humanitarian Assistance Seminar

– Challenge to Humanitarian Space –

The 2nd annual seminar on Humanitarian Assistance co-organized by the ICRC and Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will be held on Friday, November 5th in Tokyo.

Participants of the seminar will discuss how through assistance activities in conflict situations, a kind of "Humanitarian Space" can be created. Afghanistan will be a special focus of discussion. Representatives of Ministries and organizations such as the ICRC and the UN, as well as NGOs who play an active role in the frontline of the humanitarian assistance, will be invited to share their knowledge and experience.

From the ICRC, Mr Tobias Epprecht, Head of the Kuala Lumpur Regional Delegation (which is also in charge of the Tokyo Office) as well as Mr Jacques de Maio, the Head of Operation for South Asia, will be present. Formerly the Deputy Head of the Protection Division at ICRC Headquarters in Geneva, Jacques de Maio has field experience in conflict areas in more than 11 different countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uganda.

Date and Time

November 5th, 2010 (Friday)
14:00-17:30 (the hall opens at 13:30)

Venue

Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Northern International Conference Hall)

Panelists

Tobias Epprecht / Head of Regional Delegation, ICRC Kuala Lumpur
Rika Yamamoto / Chief of Operations, Peace Winds, Japan
Johan Cels / UNHCR Representative in Japan
Seema Ghani / Former Deputy Minister of Finance and Managing Director, Khorasan Charity Organization, Afghanistan
Kenji Isezaki / Professor of the Graduate School of Area and Culture Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan
Timothy Pitt / Head of Office, UNOCHA Afghanistan
Jacques de Maio / ICRC Head of Operations for South Asia

Moderator

Yukie Osa / Chairperson of Association for Aid and Relief, Japan and Co-Director of Japan Platform

For more details, contact

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Emergency / Humanitarian Assistance Division (Muraki, Kasai)
Tel: 03-3580-3311

The ICRC's Mission Statement

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organisation whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC 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 Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



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