



Marçal Izate/ICRC

# NEWSLETTER

ICRC - WINTER 2013

## CHANGING MEDIA AND ITS CHALLENGES

### MEDIA, CONFLICT REPORTING AND THE ICRC



Even as inspiring images from the Tahrir Square protests were beamed all over the world, sharing in the euphoria of a new generation demanding change, disturbing reports of sexual abuse and violence, including against women reporters surfaced. The most recent case was of a young woman reporter who barely survived an attack during the latest wave of protests underscoring how media professionals, women and men, alike continue to be targeted for the work they do.

The year 2012 was dubbed the deadliest year for journalists by the Committee to Protect Journalists and Reporters Without Borders with at least 107 journalists killed in the course of their work, reflecting a 33% increase from the previous year. 2013 hasn't done much better with over 60 journalists, bloggers and citizen journalists around the world killed and approximately 340 imprisoned this year alone, all of them while performing their professional duties. While it is worrying that many of these attacks were perpetrated by police and security personnel, as well as non-state actors, what grants further impunity to such acts is the fact that few investigations have led to convictions.

Violence against media persons is an excessive form of censorship. The media shape what we see and hear about conflict and thereby, can play a powerful role in helping to change people's beliefs, attitudes, and behaviour. Thus, as a responder to armed crises, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sees today's media as being not just a messenger but a vital catalyst in shaping HOW the world responds to humanitarian needs.

Media professionals - including citizen journalists - are ever more on the front lines today and hence, under increased scrutiny and at risk of being directly targeted. The ICRC, deeply concerned by increasing acts of violence against journalists and other media professionals, has made a permanent hotline available not only to journalists, but also their employers and relatives to report a missing, wounded, or detained journalist and request assistance in areas where the ICRC is conducting its humanitarian activities. Since August 2011, over 60 media professionals working in conflict zones or other areas affected by violence have requested and received some kind of assistance from the organisation. The evacuation, in August 2011, of more than 30 journalists from the Rixos Hotel

in Tripoli by the ICRC received extensive media coverage, but most efforts take place out of the public view.

In recognition of the enormous contribution of the media as honest carriers of stories, sentiments and conditions from the humanitarian landscape the ICRC endeavours to be constantly engaged with them. The recently concluded Regional Senior Editors' Conference in New Delhi is one of many such forums where media professionals particularly from Asia and all over the world find the space to discuss, debate and deliberate on the constraints and challenges they face while reporting from situations of conflict and violence. The Regional Delegation has, over the years, also been acknowledging the work of journalists who report on humanitarian issues under difficult circumstances. Capacity building, awareness campaigns and training programmes for young journalists continue to remain central to our interactions with the media.

**Mary Wertz**  
Head of the Regional Delegation  
New Delhi



**ICRC**

# EDITORS' CONFERENCE

## SENIOR EDITORS DEBATE THEIR ROLE IN CONFLICT REPORTING

The media of South Asia has an important role to play in covering conflict, violence and the challenges faced by vulnerable groups. At times, reporting on these issues can influence the humanitarian situation on the ground. Bringing together senior editors of media organizations from the region, the ICRC along with the AJK Mass Communication Research Centre and the Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution of the Jamia Millia Islamia University hosted the Regional Senior Editors Conference in New Delhi from 8 to 9 October 2013.

More than 20 senior editors from media organizations in South Asia and South-East Asia gathered to advance discussions on challenges of reporting on violence and conflict and share best practices.

"The most important aspect of journalism in the context of conflicts is ethical reporting. There should be proper adherence to journalistic ethics; biases and prejudices should not interfere with ethical reporting," said Prof. S.M. Sajid, Vice Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, formally inaugurating the two-day conference.

Speaking during the inaugural session Mr Adam Roberts, South Asia Bureau Chief of The Economist, who was also the Guest

of Honour said, "Journalists have a strong responsibility of distinguishing between news and propaganda. There needs to be a fine balancing done by the journalist alone."

The inaugural session was followed by three thematic sessions spread over one and half days where students, academics, diplomats and journalists debated on different dimensions of violence and conflict in relation to the media. "Media do not just report news, they also form opinions – and that, in turn, shapes events," said Ms Mary Werntz, Head of the Regional Delegation of the ICRC in New Delhi. "It is interesting to discuss with top professionals from South Asia how reporting can help address humanitarian consequences of violence and conflict," she added.

also deliberated on whether journalists continue to be impartial observers in present conflicts. Elaborating on this, Mr Narayan Swamy, Chief News Editor of Indo-Asian News Service pointed out that 'minimum impartiality' should be present in the sense that "the opinion of the other side must be in your report."

The post-lunch session on the first day of the conference debated on issues and challenges of reporting armed violence or war. Moderated by Mr Bharat Bhushan, Senior Editor, the session saw participation of senior editors from Australia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The issues floating across the discussion table ranged from accuracy and verification challenges of social media news in conflict



Rahimullah Khan Yusufzai, Resident Editor, The News International, Pakistan delivering a talk during the Conference



Prof. S.M. Sajid, Vice Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia delivering the inaugural address

The first session discussed the importance of doing a balancing act while reporting armed violence or war. Chaired by Ms Pamela Philipose, Director and Editor-in-Chief of Women's Feature Service (WFS), and with speakers from India, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Afghanistan, the first session created the platform for the following sessions as it touched upon the relations of Media and the Military, the State, Non State Actors and International Organisations, all of which have been topics of debate in conflict reporting. The first session

situations to the media's role in bringing forth post-conflict challenges.

Mr Rahimullah Khan Yusufzai, Resident Editor of The News International, Pakistan while reflecting on challenges faced when reporting from conflict situations said, "Very often journalists get caught between the government pressure and the immense threat from non-state actors. Even kidnapping of journalists is an equally serious problem." Cautioning about the emerging trends of social media news in



Members of audience (consisting of students, academics, diplomats, senior editors and journalists) listen to the panellists

conflict situations, Mr Peter Cave, Retired Foreign Affairs Editor of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation noted that the social media is becoming an ideological battlefield and a source of overt and covert propaganda.

The final session mapped the changing media landscape. It threw light on the evolving dynamics of conflict reporting in South Asia while simultaneously emphasising on the role of social media. Speakers from India, Bangladesh, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan and Maldives shared their diverse field experiences. The discussions during the session were dominated by the question of impartiality of media houses.

Speaking on the changing dynamics of conflict reporting in South Asia, Ms Patricia Mukhim, Editor of Shillong Times brought an interesting perspective to the session when she said, "The media is over-reporting violence and what is needed is more of peace reporting. We need peace education syllabi in all journalism courses." She added,

"There needs to be more investment in capacity building. Journalists have least education in conflict and peace reporting."



A member of the audience poses a question to the panellists during the interactive session

Highlighting the role of the New Media which includes social sites, mobile phone etc, Mr Rinzin Wangchuk, Editor of Kuensel Corporation, Bhutan said, "The New Media has helped in national cohesion. National dailies that took a couple of days to reach the southern most areas are easily accessed through the internet." The conference came to an end with the concluding session where the organisers shared their vote of thanks.

The discussions during and after each session attracted a variety of questions and queries from students of journalism and conflict studies who attended the conference with great enthusiasm. These question and answer sessions provided a vibrant space for lively interactions between the students and senior editors. Over the past few years, the ICRC has cultivated its relationship with the media in South Asia and beyond, hosting similar events in Manila in 2011, Dhaka in 2007 and New Delhi in 2006.

Know more about these events on the ICRC Facebook page



**REPORTING ON VIOLENCE AND EMERGENCIES:  
A FORUM FOR MEDIA IN ASIA**

You can also log on <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/event/2013/10-03-south-asia-media-conference.htm>

# MEDIA AWARDS

## “STOP BEING CARELESS ABOUT CAREGIVERS....”

“It is a great honour. The discussion gave me new perspective on under-reported aspects of conditions of work and risks to medical personnel and health workers in areas affected by conflict and the effect of this on communities”, said a visibly excited Anumeha Yadav, The Hindu’s Jharkhand correspondent, just after winning the PII-ICRC Awards 2013 in New Delhi.

Her news report on the threat to medical doctors who had to deal with a corpse

received. While Mini Thomas got the award for her story on harassment that female health care workers face in hospitals, Imran Muzaffar earned appreciation for his story in the Greater Kashmir where he wrote on ambulance drivers risking their own lives to save those of the patients.

Addressing the media persons at the inaugural of the press awards ceremony, Mary Werntz, Head of the ICRC in New Delhi said, “Today as we recognise the

prize he said, “This award means a lot to me, to my sense of being a journalist and to my family. This award is a hope to get going, doing journalism, in the real sense.”

The function was preceded by a panel discussion on the theme of the awards for this year - “Violence against Health Care Services and Personnel: Operating in The Face of Danger” - moderated by P.N. Vasanti, Director of the Centre for Media Studies. The panellists who were also the jury members included Pamela Philipose, Director and Editor-in-Chief of Women’s Features Service; Jaya Shreedhar, Founding Member of the Centre for Security Analysis, and A.J. Philip, a senior journalist.

The panel discussion greatly engaged the diverse audience, which included diplomats, academics, aid workers, journalists and students on different healthcare challenges in areas of conflict. The emphasis of the discussion was on how violence against health personnel and services also adversely affects global public health programmes.

The discussion concluded with an emphasis on a clear need to build a community of concern to mobilise visibility and support for medical personnel who risk their lives to save others. The closing remarks by Dr Shreedhar clearly reverberated as a cautionary note when she said, “We have to stop being careless about caregivers...”

Into its sixth year now, the PII and the ICRC have been collaborating to recognise the great work done by Indian journalists to bring to light, through their stories, the human suffering and extraordinary resilience of people in the face of the tragic consequences of armed violence worldwide.



The three award winners of the best print media article on a humanitarian subject pose for pictures with their trophies. From left to right are Imran Muzaffar, Greater Kashmir (Joint Second Prize), Anumeha Yadav, The Hindu (First Prize) and Mini P Thomas, The Week (Joint Second Prize)

containing an improvised explosive device (IED) after an encounter in a Jharkhand village in January 2013 won her the award.

At the press awards ceremony organised by ICRC and Press Institute of India in New Delhi, Mini Thomas of The Week and Imran Muzaffar of The Rising Kashmir were jointly awarded the second prize. The winners were chosen from amongst the 40 entries

contributions of media personnel, we also reiterate the critical role that you, as journalists, can play by using the power of your pen. We rely on you to remind all of us of the gravity of the suffering of those denied services.”

For Imran Muzaffar, the young journalist from Kashmir, the recognition reflected a sense of achievement. On receiving the



Panellists - seated from left to right are Pamela Philipose, Director and Editor-in-Chief, Women’s Feature Service; P. N. Vasanti, Director, Centre for Media Studies; A. J. Philip, Senior Journalist; Dr Jaya Shreedhar, Founding Member, Centre for Security Analysis

## NORTH-EAST JOURNALISTS' WORKSHOP IN ASSAM



Inaugural Session of the Journalist Training in Assam where Smt Renuka Devi Bakataki, Chairperson, IRCS Assam along with Mr B.J. Mahanata, ADG are addressing the participating the journalists

A day long workshop for working journalists was held on "Media, Conflict Reporting and International Humanitarian Law", at the National Law University and Judicial Academy in Guwahati, Assam Organized jointly by the Centre for Advanced Research and Training in International Humanitarian Law in collaboration with the ICRC and Journalist Forum Assam (JFA), it was attended by more than 50 journalists from

the North-eastern states of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland.

Among the eminent personalities who spoke at the inaugural function were Mr D. N. Chakraborty of Sankar Jyoti (daily) and Prag Jyotish (weekly) - who at 85 years was the oldest working journalist in India representing JFA - Ms Renuka Devi Barkataki, Chairperson of Indian Red Cross Society

(Assam) and Mr B.J. Mahanata, Additional Director General of Police, Assam.

The workshop touched upon major issues pertaining to International Humanitarian Law (IHL) followed by practical session on conflict reporting and IHL. Aimed at providing vital information on the issue to the working journalists of the North East region, the workshop provided ample space for participating journalists to discuss and debate the topic with the speakers. Interestingly some of the journalists who participated in the workshop had come from remote rural areas negotiating difficult terrains.

Speaking during the workshop Mr D.N. Chakraborty said, "There is a tremendous need for more such practical guidance oriented workshops in this region, more so because of the limited exposure to such trainings."

The concluding session of the workshop was followed by a question and answer session, which opened the floor for discussing some of the challenges in reporting from difficult places in the field. This workshop was in continuation of similar courses that ICRC has been conducting to train journalists for the past several years.

## ICRC NEW DELHI CHIEF MEETS BHUTAN PRIME MINISTER

Ms Mary Wertz, Head of the Regional Delegation of ICRC for India, Bhutan and the Maldives met with the Honourable Mr Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan, at the Gyalong Tshogkhong during her two day visit to Bhutan on 6th and 7th November 2013. The Head of Delegation was accompanied by Charles Sabga, ICRC Regional Legal Advisor.

Ms Wertz discussed a wide range of issues with the Prime Minister, including the ICRC's opportunities for collaboration with Bhutan in areas relating to health, disaster management and the promotion of IHL. During the visit, Ms Wertz also met with Mr Lyonpo Rinzin Dorje, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan and several other senior government officials.

During such meetings, the ICRC recognised the positive contribution of Bhutan towards the promotion and

dissemination of IHL and the long-standing relationship between the ICRC and Bhutan.



Courtesy: Bhutan Observer

# FIELD DIARY

## RED CROSS PROVIDES RELIEF IN UTTRAKHAND

It was death and destruction everywhere. About 25 days after the flash floods had wiped off villages, towns, thousands of people, animals, roads, bridges, buildings and probably everything that came its way, the sky continued to look gloomy. The furious river still wore a fearful look. Increasingly termed as one of the worst natural disasters to have hit the Indian

District). The aim was to install water purification units in Phata and to promote household water treatment and best hygiene practices in the communities. Negotiating the tough terrain was the beginning of challenges that awaited our days. It took us over two days to cover the difficult terrain of 280 kilometres from Dehradun to Phata as the monstrous landslides had gobbled

schools to spread awareness about the hygiene practices.

Over the next few days, our mission was all about consoling emotionally drained flood victims while carrying on with our principle aim of providing access to purified water and conducting hygiene promotion sessions in the schools. Gradually hundreds of students from various schools had been exposed to the training sessions.

During my mission from 10 to 22 July 2013, there were several instances where I witnessed examples of extraordinary human courage. In one of the nearby villages that I visited, I met a middle-aged shopkeeper whose son had gone missing during the floods. When we met him last, it was already over two weeks and he still had no news of his son. That was just one of many similar stories. As we drove back from Phata, we carried memories of some challenging moments and examples of some brave locals who were fighting against all the odds and still trying to cope with life.

*By Jitin Jose Tom,  
ICRC Cooperation Field Officer*



Red Cross and local community workers distributing water after installing the Water Purification Unit in Phata, Rudraprayag

state of Uttarakhand, I was very sure of how challenging it would be, to be part of the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT)/ National Disaster Water Sanitation Response Team (NDWRT).

On the invitation of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), I joined the NDRT/ NDWRT team and headed to Phata (in Rudraprayag

up most of the roads. The destruction this disaster had caused to the community was beyond any possible human imagination.

At Phata, the first thing done was the installation of a water purification unit with the help of local community volunteers. Eventually, as the purification unit began functioning, the team started visiting



A Red Cross member promotes best hygiene practices amongst school students in Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE ICRC

The ICRC has drawn up a “sustainable development framework,” which commits us to integrating sustainable development into our humanitarian work. The aim is to minimize the negative impact of ICRC activities on the environment, while making best use of financial resources and being a socially - responsible humanitarian agency.

The Sustainable Development project in New Delhi was started last year as one of the

four pilot delegations selected by Geneva. The delegation so far has adopted measures for energy efficient lighting, efficient heating and air conditioning systems, initiated paper and cartridge recycle programmes and continues to spread awareness about water and electricity saving in daily practises among the staff members.

The delegation also plans to adopt recycling mechanisms for e-waste and identify ways

to carry out effective segregation of waste, both dry and wet. Behavioural changes for reducing carbon footprint such as promoting private car pools and reducing car wash water usage are also being initiated.

Meetings of the working groups are also being undertaken periodically to effectively implement the low carbon plans.

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS - LIFELINE FOR REFUGEES

"This travel document ignites a hope to see my family share smiles all over again", says Lal Zuali, a 37 year-old Burmese refugee in New Delhi while pointing to the travel document that she received from the ICRC to join her husband in a re-settlement country. Zuali's moist eyes light up as she looks at the document and then the faces of her four teenage daughters. As they walk away from the ICRC office into a warm New Delhi afternoon, the precious documents are protected inside a bag well-guarded in the hands of Zuali, symbolising the hope and dreams that she has been safeguarding and nurturing for better days.

The story of Zuali is just one of many refugees and displaced or stateless persons who do not have appropriate identity papers and therefore cannot return to their country of origin or residence, or go to a country willing to receive them. The ICRC travel document brings them closer to their hopes to start a new, though difficult journey through the process of resettling temporarily or definitively in a third country. Conceived in 1945, ICRC travel documents have been welcomed by many states that have been requested at various times to stamp exit, transit or entry visas on it.

*"Interestingly, ICRC India has been the second highest provider (Egypt being the first one) of these travel documents in the last few years."*

Since 1945, over 500,000 refugees, displaced or stateless persons carrying ICRC travel documents have been able to reach the country of their choice thanks to the

understanding of the government authorities concerned. Interestingly, ICRC India has been the second highest provider (Egypt being the first one) of these travel documents in the last few years. Since 1994, the ICRC New Delhi office has issued about 11,000 travel documents thereby assisting in meeting the hopes of these people.

Though the main destinations are traditional resettlement countries such as USA, Canada and Australia, those seeking these documents are mostly from countries



An ICRC staff member issuing travel documents to a refugee family

such as Sudan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria etc. Issued free of charge, mostly on submission of an official acceptance letter from the country of resettlement and on the basis of a refugee certificate issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the ICRC travel document is limited to the period sufficient

for preparing for the journey and for the single journey itself.

For most of the applicants, these travel documents mean much more than a piece of paper. Narrating his experiences, Pau Tawng (70), another Burmese refugee says, "Being a refugee is very difficult and life is a constant struggle. And therefore receiving the travel papers which is not easy either, comes with chance of starting a new life all together." Tawng who also suffers from partial vision impairment, has been living in New Delhi along with his wife and two children and the travel documents that he receives from ICRC

will now help resettle him and his family in Australia. Talking about new promises and avenues that await his family, Tawng says, "This travel paper, means everything to me. My new days will have my kids getting educated and even I want to study, grow and improve my life."

Jean-Paul Corboz, Protection Coordinator, ICRC New Delhi says, "The New Delhi office of ICRC receives a great number of applications for travel document from refugees of varied background ranging from Afghanistan to Myanmar and all of them have their own stories of pain, hope and bliss to share. ICRC's delivery of travel documents is very well appreciated by them."

Echoing similar emotions, Zuali says, "I shall forever remain thankful to the Government of India, UNHCR and ICRC for facilitating this journey of my family. I am looking forward to meet my husband and start life afresh".

## DOCUMENTATION CENTRE, ICRC NEW DELHI

The Documentation Centre at the Regional Delegation of ICRC in New Delhi has a rich collection of publications focussing on international humanitarian law, the challenges of humanitarian work and issues of humanitarian concern in war, and the history and development of armed conflict.

The centre, which is open for consultations for researchers and academics from Monday to Friday (during office hours of 08:30-17:00 hours), also houses publications on other topics such as international criminal law, human rights, weapons, detention, refugees and displaced persons.

## NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY WINS 9TH REGIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

In 2001 when the ICRC Regional Delegation for South Asia initiated the Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition, with the aim of promoting better awareness of IHL among law students at universities throughout India, it was just a beginning. The Moot Court Competition in India has grown steadily since its inception and has included more than 64 teams, representing universities from across the country. And the progressive development was clearly evident in the recently held India National Round of the 13th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Competition followed by Regional Moot Competition, both jointly organised by the Regional Delegation of the ICRC in India and the Indian Society of International Law (ISIL). For both the competitions, legal luminaries, legal officers and academicians served as judges.

The India National Round was won by the National Law University,

Jodhpur which went on to represent the country at the 9th Regional Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Competition in New Delhi where it emerged victorious over the teams from Bangladesh, Iran, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

This year, the ICRC commemorates 150 years of its existence and as a 'custodian of international humanitarian law' has constantly been engaging with contemporary challenges to IHL. These moot court competitions eminently contribute to generate interest in IHL and humanitarian issues amongst students and teachers.



The winning team presenting their arguments during the 9th Regional Moot Court Competition at ISIL, New Delhi

## Interview



**Ali Akbar Siapoush**  
Jury Member at the competition

On the sidelines of 9th Regional Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Competition we spoke with Ali Akbar Siapoush, PhD Candidate of Public International Law, Shahid Beheshti University, Iran who was one of the judges at the competition to unravel why these competitions are important. Excerpts from the interview:

### How do you define the significance of Moot Court competitions?

Generally, Moot Court competitions provide the ground necessary for students to stage abilities they have attained through academic studies and help them to learn the law outside the books. Accordingly, any student can find his/her main field of interest to pursue his/her studies. That is what actually happened for me. Taking part in the national and regional moot court competition was an important turning point in my academic life. Not only did it give me the opportunity to have a better understanding of international criminal law and IHL, but I have also learned much about International Law. It has led me to pursue my PhD dissertation in this field.

### From being a participant to judging the participants, you have seen things from the entire spectrum. Your thoughts?

At the 9th Regional Henry Dunant moot

court I had the experience of being a judge for the first time, which is very interesting as well. The students were highly motivated and well prepared. All of them have come a long way to reach this round. The arguments were well reasoned and supported by case law, and they all had a good performance of advocacy, all of which made it very difficult to choose the winner

### Your suggestions on making these competitions better and bigger?

One thing that I would like to suggest to the organizers is to get feedback from participants on the performance of the judges. That would help to assess whether the object and purpose of the moot court have been achieved. The same is true for the students as well: they also need a detailed evaluation of their performance to find the best, and the less good of what they have done.



# OUTREACH

## VIDEO SERIES: WATER AND HABITAT, IN CONFLICT AND DISASTER

The year 2013 marks the 30th anniversary of the ICRC's Water and Habitat Unit. Their engineers help ensure that people have access to this vital resource using affordable technologies and sustainable solutions. To mark the celebrations ICRC is releasing a series of videos that explain how the ICRC brings water, shelter and sanitation to people affected by conflict and disaster. Viewers can follow us on the link - <http://www.icrc.org/eng/what-we-do/water-habitat/water-habitat-video-series.htm>



Readers can also get a glimpse of recent ICRC history from a "WatHab" perspective through a richly illustrated booklet that recalls some of the Unit's achievements

during the conflicts of the past 30 years. The link to the resource is - <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/publication/p4123.htm>

## THE ICRC AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVES: A HERITAGE FOR HUMANITY

By the very nature of its mandate, the ICRC has a duty to keep a careful record of its work and be accountable for it to everyone involved in or concerned by humanitarian action. Together with the other members of the Movement, it is committed to preserving the historical and cultural heritage of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Since the end of the 1990s, the ICRC has undertaken ambitious projects to conserve and digitize its archives, both on its own and in partnership with others. The archives are accessible at the ICRC

headquarters in Geneva and our archivists can help people find what they are looking for. And taking it to next level, in 2014, the ICRC will be making its audiovisual archives available online, via a special portal on the ICRC website. For the first time, sound recordings, photos, film footage and videos will all be accessible from the same place. It is the ICRC's intention to share its heritage with as many people as possible. To keep a track on this, follow - <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/feature/2013/10-23-audiovisual-heritage-archives.htm>



## PUBLICATION HEALTH CARE IN DANGER MAKING THE CASE

This publication draws attention to one of the most crucial yet overlooked humanitarian issues of today: violence against health care. Attacking health-care structures, personnel and ambulances, as well as deliberately obstructing the efforts of the wounded to find help, are common features of conflicts throughout the world. The ICRC has been documenting violence against health-care facilities and personnel, and against patients, since 2008 in 16 countries where it is working.



The number of incidents that have been recorded is striking. But statistics represent only the tip of the iceberg: they do not capture the compounded cost of violence – health-care staff leaving their posts, hospitals running out of supplies and vaccination campaigns coming to a halt. The ICRC is launching a major campaign to raise awareness of this pressing issue, and mobilizing a community of concern. This global initiative will last four years and aims at making a crucial difference for people affected on the ground. Read more about this here - <http://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/publications/icrc-002-4072.pdf>

# EVENTS

## WHEELCHAIR FITTING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The ICRC Physical Rehabilitation Programme in cooperation with the Centre for Empowerment and Initiatives (CEI) organised a wheelchair-fitting programme on 25th June, 2013 at CEI Orthopaedics Centre in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The activity was done with the main objective of assembling and fitting wheelchairs, and providing proper training on mobility skills to people with disabilities.

The ICRC donated three-wheel active wheelchairs with a large rubber castor wheel and long wheelbase, which allows for safe and stable propulsion over uneven ground. Two female and six male users were amongst the eight beneficiaries who received these wheelchairs. The assessment, measurement, assembly and delivery of wheelchairs to the users was done with the full participation of the CEI team.



Achille Otou-Essono, Physical Rehabilitation Project Manager, ICRC New Delhi with one of the beneficiaries who received a wheelchair

Dalbir Singh/ICRC

## SEMINAR ON HEALTH CARE IN DETENTION

A two-day seminar on "Health Care in Detention" was recently organized by the ICRC in collaboration with J&K Prisons Department and Directorate of Health Services in Srinagar and Jammu. The seminar was aimed at providing a platform to discuss, share and learn about experiences and challenges related to issues of health care in prisons.

On the occasion, Director Health Services, Jammu, Dr Baljeet Singh Pathania spoke about the importance of coordination between the Prisons Department and Health Department to meet the medical requirement of the prison inmates.

The event was attended by representatives from the Prisons Department, Directorate of Health Services, Government Medical College, Social Welfare Department, Jail Superintendents, medical officers visiting prisons and psychiatrists. The discussions

were spear-headed by ICRC's Dr. Raed Abu Rabi, who is a Geneva based expert on health care in detention.

The discussions during the event emphasized the importance of medicare in prisons for proper maintenance of the health of inmates. The ICRC has been working in places of detention across the world for nearly 100 years and has gathered vast experience over the years in dealing with issues of health care in prisons. In India, the ICRC has been visiting prisons since 1995. The seminar

therefore was held as part of efforts to better address the health needs of detainees in prisons and provide for adequate means and methods to achieve this goal.



Dr Baljeet Singh Pathania, Director Health Services, Jammu addressing the participants at the Seminar

ICRC



ICRC

## NOTIFICATION

ICRC Delegation in India has moved its office from 47 Sunder Nagar, New Delhi 110003  
The changed address is C-6/6, Safdarjung Development Area, New Delhi 110016

## SOUTH ASIA TEACHING SESSION ALUMNI MEETING



Mr GK Pillai, Former Indian Home Secretary addressing the Alumni Meeting

The first South Asian Teaching Session (SATS) Alumni meeting was organised in New Delhi on 7 September 2013 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The one-day meeting involved the participation of 35 delegates from three countries,

including India, Bhutan and the Maldives. Delegates included representatives of the Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, academics, NGO representatives and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

The inaugural session of this day-long meet was followed by two panel discussions. While the first one deliberated on 'Legal Protection in Armed Conflict and Situations of Violence', the session post lunch debated on 'Means and Methods of Warfare in Contemporary Armed Conflict'. The concluding session focussed on feedback from participants. This was an hour-long deliberation, which resulted in a series of very interesting suggestions that ranged from turning the alumni meeting into an annual event to the creation of IHL "Centres of Excellence" with SATS Alumni members.

The ICRC coordinated this meeting with

the principal objective to create a forum for dialogue on IHL and to share perspectives on its development. Through such an initiative, ICRC New Delhi intended to strengthen existing contacts with SATS alumni and facilitate the establishment of a network.

The SATS was initiated in 1999. Over its 15-year history, SATS has developed into a prestigious and regionally recognised event, with participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. During this biannual academic forum, the ICRC in collaboration with various institutes and universities disseminates and shares perspectives on IHL with public officials, members of the Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies, Academics, Red Cross/Red Crescent representatives and Non-Governmental Organisation representatives.

## ICRC PARTICIPATES IN CONGRESS OF THE AFRICAN FEDERATION OF ORTHOPAEDIC TECHNICIANS

The Physical Rehabilitation Programme Manager based in India participated in the seventh Congress of the African Federation of Orthopaedics Technicians, which took place in Yamoussoukro Cote d'Ivoire from 30 September to 5 October 2013.

About 350 participants from Africa, Europe and Asia including 14 persons from India under the leadership of Ms Stuti Kacker, Secretary of Department of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of India attended the Congress.

The ICRC sponsored the participation of 71 participants from 19 African countries, including three from India. The participation of Indian colleagues to the gathering

allowed them to better understand and measure the difficulties and constraints

faced by people with disabilities in general and specifically in Africa



Stuti Kacker, Secretary, Disabilities Affairs, Government of India participating in 7th FATO Congress in Yamoussoukro Cote d'Ivoire

## ICRC INDIA ON TWITTER



You can follow us on twitter: @ICRC\_in

The ICRC Delegation in India just launched a Twitter handle that covers the work of the ICRC in India, Maldives and Bhutan as well as the rest of the region. The handle will share updates about our institutional developments as well as on convergence issues like International Humanitarian Law, Health Care in Danger etc.

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Lebanon: Giving Syrian war amputees prostheses and hope

The conflict and violence that have engulfed Syria for over two years have left many Syrians physically handicapped. Some have crossed into Lebanon, seeking physical rehabilitation and artificial limbs. The ICRC supports them by providing limb prostheses and even artificial eyes.



Alaa can now give a right-handed handshake again. That is a good reason to smile for this Syrian refugee, who lost an upper limb in the conflict wrecking his homeland. The 21-year-old youth was recently fitted with an arm prosthesis procured by the ICRC at an orthopaedic centre in Tripoli, northern Lebanon. More than three months after his arm was severed by a shell that crashed into his neighbourhood in his hometown of Qussair, Alaa can feel relatively normal again.

## Philippines: Greater support needed for Typhoon Haiyan survivors

"Comparing Typhoon Haiyan with the 2004 tsunami, the death toll is much lower, but

almost five times as many people have been affected", says Bernd Schell, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) country representative. "We plan on helping communities to rebuild their lives over the next three to four years. This will require considerable resources and sustained support from donors". As relief efforts continue to gather pace, Red Cross and Red Crescent partners have started early recovery programmes aimed at building the long-term resilience of typhoon-stricken communities; helping families to reconstruct stronger, safer houses, kick-starting local economies by providing cash grants and launching cash-for-work schemes, and continuing to support local health services providing curative and preventive health care, as well as rebuilding essential health facilities.

## French and Spanish websites to help reunite families

The International Committee of the Red Cross is launching French and Spanish versions of its website [familylinks.icrc.org](http://familylinks.icrc.org). The website is intended to help reunite families throughout the world who have been separated by conflicts, disasters or migration. About 50,000 people, from more than a hundred countries, have visited the English version of the website since it opened in November of last year. "The French and Spanish versions will extend this service to thousands of families in many different regions of the world," explains Marianne Pecassou of the ICRC's Tracing Service in Geneva.



## A TRIBUTE TO NELSON MANDELA

*Statement on the death of former South African President Nelson Mandela by ICRC president Peter Maurer.*

It is with great sadness that I learned of the passing on 5 December of Nelson Mandela at the age of 95. On behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross, I would like to express my sincere condolences to his family and friends. Madiba – his Xhosa clan name – will remain in our minds as the most gracious, altruistic, caring and committed of men.

Mr Mandela was justly revered for his dedication to peaceful change and to respect for the rule of law. His abhorrence of injustice formed the basis of his efforts to resolve conflicts without vengeance or bloodshed, and of his support for moderate policies in post-apartheid South Africa.

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross who visited Mr Mandela from 1967 to 1986, first on Robben Island, then in Pollsmoor Prison after his transfer there in 1982, were struck by his fortitude and determination, and by his eagerness to help his fellow inmates.

Mr Mandela will be remembered not only for his many services to the people of South Africa but as an example for the entire world.

Mary Werntz, Head of Regional Delegation and the staff of ICRC, New Delhi join in paying their tribute to Nelson Mandela.

*For Private Circulation only*



International Committee of the Red Cross  
C-6/6, Safdarjung Development Area, New Delhi - 110016.  
T + 91 11 42211000 F + 91 11 42211068, 42211069  
E-mail: [newdelhi@icrc.org](mailto:newdelhi@icrc.org) [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)  
© ICRC, December 2013