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31st International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent
Geneva, 28 November–1 December – For humanity



SIDE EVENTS AT THE 31ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

as at 08.11.2011

Event	Main Organisers	Date and Time	Venue
EVENTS OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE CENTRE			
Musical play on the life of Henry Dunant	Swiss Red Cross	Sunday, 27 November at 11:00	Victoria Hall (centre of Geneva)
TEDxRC²	ICRC + Federation	Sunday, 27 November at 16:00 (doors open at 15:00)	Bâtiment des Forces Motrices (centre of Geneva)
Concert: Roppongi Men's Chorus Club's	Roppongi Men's Chorus Club's (Japan)	Tuesday, 29 November at 20:30	Victoria Hall (centre of Geneva)
EVENTS AT THE CONFERENCE CENTRE			
Screening of Documentary: "Protection of Civilians in Peace Operations"	Australian Government and UNITAR	Monday, 28 November at 12:00	CCV, room A
Fact-finding as a tool of ensuring respect of IHL – Current concerns and perspectives	IHFFC – International Humanitarian Fact-finding Commission	Monday, 28 November at 12:15	CICG, room 18
The proper management of the dead from armed conflicts: a humanitarian imperative, from principles to practice	ICRC	Monday, 28 November at 13:00	CCV, room C
The Copenhagen Process: Handling of Detainees in International Military Operations	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark	Monday, 28 November at 13:00	CCV, room B
Youth as drivers of a culture of nonviolence & peace: the power of sports, arts and creativity	IFRC in collaboration with IOC, UNOY, YOUNG, and Youth Peace Ambassadors (Council of Europe)	Monday, 28 November at 14:30	CCV, room A
Current challenges in the dissemination and implementation of IHL	Italian Red Cross, International Institute of Humanitarian Law	Tuesday, 29 November at 10:00	CCV, room B
Innovative ways of promoting IHL to children and youth	Austrian Red Cross, British Red Cross, ICRC	Tuesday, 29 November at 11:00	CCV, room C

Humanitarian Access	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, supported by Conflict Dynamics Int. in collaboration with ICRC and OCHA	Tuesday, 29 November at 12:00	CCV, room A
Launch of the II Report on Implementation and Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law in the Republic of Poland	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland	Tuesday, 29 November at 12:00	CCV, room B
Engaging with Armed Non-State Actors on the Protection of Civilians	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law	Tuesday, 29 November at 13:30	CCV, room A
Towards a common strategy on IHL violations in video games	ICRC	Tuesday, 29 November at 13:30	CICG, room 18
The rule of law and sanctions	ICRC	Tuesday, 29 November at 18:00	CICG, room 18
Working together for a people-centred ASEAN Community	ICRC and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	Tuesday, 29 November at 19:00	CCV, room B <u>By invitation only</u>
Tuberculosis still kills 1.4 million people every year	IFRC	Wednesday, 30 November at 09:30	CICG, room 18
Event to thank National Societies who contributed to Japanese Red Cross relief/recovery programme for the Great East Japan Earthquake	Japanese Red Cross Society	Wednesday, 30 November at 11:30	CCV lobby
Promotion of IHL and its implementation in the Commonwealth	Commonwealth Secretariat	Wednesday, 30 November at 12:30	CCV, room A <u>By invitation only</u>
Private Military & Security Companies: Protecting civilians in armed conflict beyond the Montreux document	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	Wednesday, 30 November at 12:00	CICG, room 18
Fraud and other abuse of emblems on the Internet	IFRC	Wednesday, 30 November at 14:30	CCV, room C
RCRC World AIDS Day	IFRC	Wednesday, 30 November at 15:00	CCV, room A

Side events within each category are listed in chronological order.
No new side events will be approved before the Conference.

SIDE EVENT OUTLINES

Side events are listed in the same chronological order as in the table on the previous pages.

Side event title: Launch of Documentary: "Protection of Civilians in Peace Operations"

I. Main organizer(s)

The Australian Government, through the Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

Protecting civilians in conflict represents one of the most fundamental challenges the international community faces today. The documentary is about the need for collective responsibility to protect civilians in peace operations. It focuses on the UN and aims to educate on issues such as protection challenges, the international legal framework, mission planning, and women and children issues. Civilians in times of conflict are particularly vulnerable and this documentary is one way in which this important issue is brought to the force. Protection issues are at the core of the ICRC's work and we hope that launching the documentary at the conference will enable delegates to engage with this topic and receive copies of the film. In addition, the documentary is relevant to the objective "Strengthening Legal protection for Victims of Armed Conflicts" as it discusses the international legal framework in place to protect civilians.

Side event title: Fact-finding as a tool of ensuring respect of International Humanitarian Law - Current concerns and perspectives

I. Main organizer(s)

International Humanitarian Fact-finding Commission (IHFFC)

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

Violations of the law applicable in armed conflict occur, alas, in many conflicts throughout the world. Yet, the international community has never accepted this as a fact which cannot be changed. It has designed a number of institutions and procedures for ensuring the respect for, and faithful implementation of, international humanitarian law. The International Humanitarian Fact-finding Commission is one of these institutions. The legal basis for the Commission's existence is Article 90 of the First Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions.

Fact-finding in relation to armed conflicts and related incidents has recently been undertaken by a number of institutions, many of them have resulted in serious political controversy rather than in contribution to conflict solution. It is the purpose of the side event to discuss fact-finding methods and institutions which are able to promote the return to a situation of respect for international humanitarian law.

Side event title: The management of the dead and humanitarian action

I. Main organizer(s)

The International Committee of the Red Cross

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

The side event is planned to offer participants an understanding of the need for proper management and identification of the dead in armed conflicts and catastrophes and the corresponding use of forensic sciences for fulfilling humanitarian objectives.

The presentations will focus on concrete case examples where the ICRC was involved (often with NS), in delivering its unique forensic services.

Speakers will share lessons learned from those experiences concerning the value of the recommendations from the 2003 International Conference on The Missing and Their Families for fulfilling the Agenda for Humanitarian Action adopted by the Movement in 2003.

Side event title: The Copenhagen Process: Handling of Detainees in International Military Operations

I. Main organizer(s)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

Modern day international military operations raise difficult political, practical and legal concerns with regard to the handling of detainees. Initiated in October 2007, the Copenhagen Process was initiated to address these concerns by facilitating agreement on a widely supported, multilateral platform for the handling of detainees. The purpose of the side event would be to give all interested a status concerning the Copenhagen Process on Handling of Detainees and - in the context of the ICRC Conference - to demonstrate how the process complements ICRC work on protection for persons deprived of liberty in armed conflict.

Side event title: Youth as drivers of a culture of non-violence and peace: the power of sports, arts and creativity

I. Main organizer(s)

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in collaboration with International Olympic Committee and British Council (Global Changemarkers)

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies believes that youth are a powerful actor with creativity, energy, ideals and skills that need to be harnessed when pursuing lasting social change leading to a culture of non-violence and peace. In fact, the Arab springs have shown to the entire world that youth today are determined to take up an ethical leadership role in the building a culture of non-violence peace. Social media have proven to be a powerful tool for youth; sports, arts, music are also great vehicles to empower youth and foster dialogue, respect for diversity and non-violence.

The proposed side event will (i) bring together youth leaders and other experts engaged in fostering a culture of non-violence and peace through sports, music, arts, (ii) share experience and recommendations for success and (iii) creatively explore with the audience ways of collaboration, innovation and increasing impact.

It will highlight how Red Cross Red Crescent Youth are committed to this and acting upon the Youth Declaration adopted in Solferino 2009, for example through the Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) initiative. It will also present initiatives developed by other major international actors, such as the International Olympic Committee, the British Council (Global Changemarkers), members of the Alliance of Youth CEOs, and youth organisations or networks. Finally, it will highlight findings from academic experts in transformation of violence through arts, sports and music.

The side event will be inter-active, using presentations, videos, music and engage the audience. It will lead to a call to action and collective co-drafting of a **pledge** submitted to International Conference participants and external partners.

Side event title: Current Challenges in the Dissemination and Implementation of IHL

I. Main organizer(s)

The Italian Red Cross
The International Institute of Humanitarian Law (Sanremo), IIHL

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

Both the Italian Red Cross and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law have devoted over the years particular attention to the topic "Current Challenges in the Dissemination and Implementation of IHL". The Sanremo Institute is considered at international level a centre of excellence for the promotion and dissemination of IHL. Representatives of Italian Red Cross are members of the Governing Board of the International Institute.

Side event title: Innovative ways of promoting IHL to children and youth

I. Main organizer(s)

Austrian Red Cross /Austrian Youth Red Cross; British Red Cross

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

The aim of this side-event is to present new innovative ways of IHL promotion to children and youth. It will start with a quick review of the progress made in the area since the last International Conference. Best practices and lessons learned will be presented by 3 National Societies (*tbc*). Innovative ways of IHL promotion to children and youth will be proposed, such as a research-project by the Pedagogical University of Baden on IHL education for primary school, the IHL education tool "Justice and Fairness" of the British Red Cross, and the new tool mini-EHL by the ICRC. In the discussions, other National Societies and States will be encouraged to share their best practices in the matter, in order to address the question where IHL education for children and young people should be heading over the next four years.

The side-event is clearly, yet indirectly linked to the Conference objective aiming at strengthening IHL.

Side event title: Humanitarian Access

I. Main organizer(s)

The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs supported by Conflict Dynamics International.

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

The Swiss Federal Department of foreign Affairs supported by Conflict Dynamics International would like to present the end products of a project it has launched to develop practical resources for humanitarian actors, State actors and national authorities, and international organizations on humanitarian access in situations of armed conflict. A Consultation Group (FDFA, OCHA, ICRC) provides advice to the project.

The project aims to contribute to improvement of the operational response to protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict through the development of resources that will assist in securing and sustaining humanitarian access. These resources will clarify and make accessible the normative framework and will provide practical information and guidance concerning humanitarian access. The specific project objectives are:

1. To draft a Handbook on the normative framework pertaining to humanitarian access;
2. And to draft a practical, operational-oriented Field Manual on humanitarian access.

Side event title: Launch of the II Report on Implementation and Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law in the Republic of Poland

I. Main organizer(s)

The Republic of Poland

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

The aim of this event is to present the Polish achievements in the implementation of IHL and to launch the II Report on the Implementation and Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law in the Republic of Poland. The report covers years 2009-2011. In this time the Polish Government undertook a number of actions aiming at harmonization of the Polish law with the IHL (e.g. by reforming the Criminal Code and by ratifying the III Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions). Apart from the implementation of IHL, the report contains information on protection of civilians and certain categories of persons as well as on protection of locations and premises within the Polish legal frameworks. The report presents also the initiatives proposed by Polish Government and Polish Red Cross in order to promote and to disseminate the knowledge of the IHL.

Side event title: Engaging with Armed Non-State Actors on the Protection of Civilians

I. Main organizer(s)

The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

In 2009, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs adopted a Strategy for the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts. In line with this Strategy, Political Affairs Division IV asked the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights to consider how best to enhance compliance with international norms by armed non-State actors, taking into account the views of armed non-State actors themselves and the experiences of those engaged in dialogue with those actors. The main objective of this project was to elaborate a document that would serve as a point of reference for States, international organisations, and NGOs in their elaboration of policy.

The Geneva Academy proposes to present the main conclusions and recommendations of the project. The main objective of the side event is to inform the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, States, and international legal experts of the project's guidance for policymakers on how to improve the protection of civilians in armed conflict through more systematic and effective engagement with ANSAs.

Side event title: Towards a common strategy on IHL violations in video games

I. Main organizer(s)

The International Committee of the Red Cross

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

The ICRC recently decided to adopt a position regarding the trivialisation of IHL violations in video games that simulate war-like situations. This side-event is the first step in carrying its position forward. During the event, the conclusions of the ICRC's internal study will be presented and the floor opened for discussion.

In line with the Conference's goal to strengthen IHL, the event aims at achieving a common understanding of the problem and outline a feasible course of action for the Movement, in order to reduce these "virtual" violations of IHL which seem very real. A possible course of action could be for example to encourage game designers/producers to incorporate IHL in the development and design of video games and/or to encourage concerned Governments to adopt proper laws and regulations as appropriate to regulate this ever growing industry

à [Watch the video trailer](#)

Side event title: The rule of law and sanctions

I. Main organizer(s)

The International Committee of the Red Cross

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

The side event wants to be a follow up to the Kampala Review Conference of the ICC Statute (May/June 2010) as well as a follow up to the 3rd Universal meeting of national IHL committees (October 2010) . It falls under the purview of the implementation of Resolution 3 on reaffirmation and implementation of IHL of the 30th International Conference and related pledges and objective 4 of 31st International Conference Plan of action on implementation of IHL (*To strengthen the incorporation and repression of serious violations of international humanitarian law and other international crimes*).

**Side event title: Working together for a people-centred ASEAN Community
Upon invitation only**

I. Main organizer(s)

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

The delegations from ASEAN Member States and the National Societies of South East Asia will meet on the sidelines of the International Conference as a demonstration of their commitment to an ASEAN Community in a global community of nations. Presentations by the ICRC and the Federation will highlight opportunities for ASEAN to develop coordinated, cohesive and coherent positions on global humanitarian issues of common interest and concern, based on a shared ASEAN global view.

Side event title: Tuberculosis still kills 1.4 million people every year

I. Main organizer(s)

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

To address TB related issues, a number of organizations which are actively involved in the TB field will come and present their views and the way forward towards a world free of TB. The objective of the roundtable is to take stock of where we are now, how can NSs contribute more and how can we all push for higher commitment and engagement from NSs and RCRC members States in identifying priority activities in a strategy and action plan for implementation all levels.

Side event title: Special Report on the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster Operations by the Japanese Red Cross Society

I. Main organizer(s)

The Japanese Red Cross Society

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

Presentation on the evaluation of Japanese Red Cross Society and Movement response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami – lesson learnt how we can better respond to future disasters in the industrialized countries.

**Side event title: Promotion of International Humanitarian Law and its implementation in the Commonwealth
Upon invitation only**

I. Main organizer(s)

The Commonwealth Secretariat

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

The side event will link to the IHL subject matter of the Conference.

Based on the work undertaken in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat in the area of IHL promotion and implementation the event will serve as a follow up to the 3rd Commonwealth Red Cross and Red Crescent IHL conference held in Kuala Lumpur in June this year and the IHL aspects of the Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting held in July.

It will highlight the partnership between the Commonwealth Secretariat and the States it represents and the ICRC in the area of promotion and integration of IHL. The Commonwealth Secretariat will make opening remarks, will promote the revised Commonwealth model law on the ICC statute and talk about its work and the ICRC will distribute the report of the 3rd Commonwealth Red Cross and Red Crescent IHL conference, its outcomes and the related model pledges and will speak about the status of IHL ratification and implementation in the Commonwealth and the priorities for the next 4 years.

The event is open to both government and National Societies representatives from the Commonwealth.

Side event title: Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs): Protecting Civilians in Armed Conflict Beyond the Montreux Document

I. Main organizer(s)

The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, in co-operation with:

- The Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
- The International Committee of the Red Cross
- other governments

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

During the 30th International Conference of 2007, the Swiss FDFA and the ICRC organized a joint workshop entitled "Promote respect of IHL by private military and security companies in conflict situations: challenges and prospects". The workshop was an important panel discussion event in view of the adoption of the Montreux Document on PMSCs in 2008. Since its adoption, the Montreux Document has been endorsed by 36 governments. Second the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers (ICoC), an industry-lead initiative, was adopted in November 2010 and has been signed by 166 companies to date. Finally, an intergovernmental open-ended working group mandated by the Human Rights Council to consider the possibility of establishing an international legal framework on PMSCs began its work in May 2011.

The envisaged side-event during the 31st International Conference offers the opportunity to underline the important developments on the issue of PMSCs since 2007 and to re-iterate their respect for IHL and Human Rights Law in conflict situations. The discussions may touch upon possible avenues of national and international regulation of PMSCs beyond the Montreux Document and the ICoC. The side-event will be designed as a panel discussion of about 2 hours.

Side event title: Fraud and other abuse of Emblems in the Internet

I. Main organizer(s)

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in cooperation with National Societies

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

The growth of the internet has had many beneficial effects for the world and for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It has also unfortunately created many opportunities for unscrupulous people to launch fraudulent appeals for money, and the number of these after virtually every newsworthy disaster is a matter of concern for all members of the Movement, and the governments which are responsible for the prevention of emblem abuse and misuse.

The registration of websites is handled in different ways in different countries under rules set by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), but in general it is evident that registrars are not well aware of the laws which protect emblems and there is an increasing number of cases in which Movement emblems and names are misused. This is sometimes deliberate, but in many more cases it is due to ignorance.

The IFRC and several National Societies have taken step to address these needs, but it is important that all Movement members and International Conference participants are aware of the challenges and the methods which are available to deal with them. It is also important that Governments are sensitised to their responsibilities in this new area of law and action.

IFRC will host a panel discussion at which a short explanatory paper will be provided and a panel will explain the issues and answer questions. The discussion should make it possible to produce a comprehensive but simple paper which can be used in all countries to address these new challenges.

Side event title: RCRC World AIDS Day

I. Main organizer(s)

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented

- Under the auspices of the SG and the President of the IFRC, on the occasion of the International Conference RCRC, the Movement will come together to celebrate World Aids Day 2011. The global HIV response is at a turning point where sustained gains are at serious risk and current approaches are reaching their limits. Only one third of the 15million people living with HIV in need of lifelong treatment are receiving it. New infection continues to outnumber those starting treatment, while the world juggles with prospects of the negative impact of the deepening financial crisis as the new reality. To address such issues, selected RCRC speakers will come and present their views and the way forward towards scaling up health, HIV interventions for key affected populations.
- To profile NS on what they do in line with World Aids Campaign's WAD theme 2011: Getting to zero Aids related deaths: zero new HIV infection, zero discrimination. <http://www.worldaidscampaign.org/eng/Getting-to-Zero-2011-World-AIDS-Day-Theme-Announced>
- Reiterate our commitment to the rights of PLHIV and other affected and marginalised populations to access prevention, care treatment and support services as a follow-up on the IFRC's and HIV/Aids Alliance communication at the High Level meeting in NYC in June 2011 "Don't Stop Now, Finish the Job!" <http://www.ifrc.org/eng/what-we-do/health/diseases/hiv-aids/h-i-m-2011/>