

REUNITING WITH LOVED ONES IS ONE OF THE BEST FEELINGS IN THE WORLD. FAMILIES DREAM OF THAT FIRST HUG. I'VE BEEN LUCKY TO SEE THAT MOMENT TIME AND TIME AGAIN.



BUT IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY GETTING THERE.

CONFLICT SEPARATES THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES EVERY YEAR AND IT CAN BE HARD FOR THEM TO FIND THEIR WAY BACK TO EACH OTHER. THIS CAN HAPPEN FOR MANY REASONS — BEING DETAINED IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY IS ONE OF THEM.



I'M ARDEN.

THIS IS RIVER.

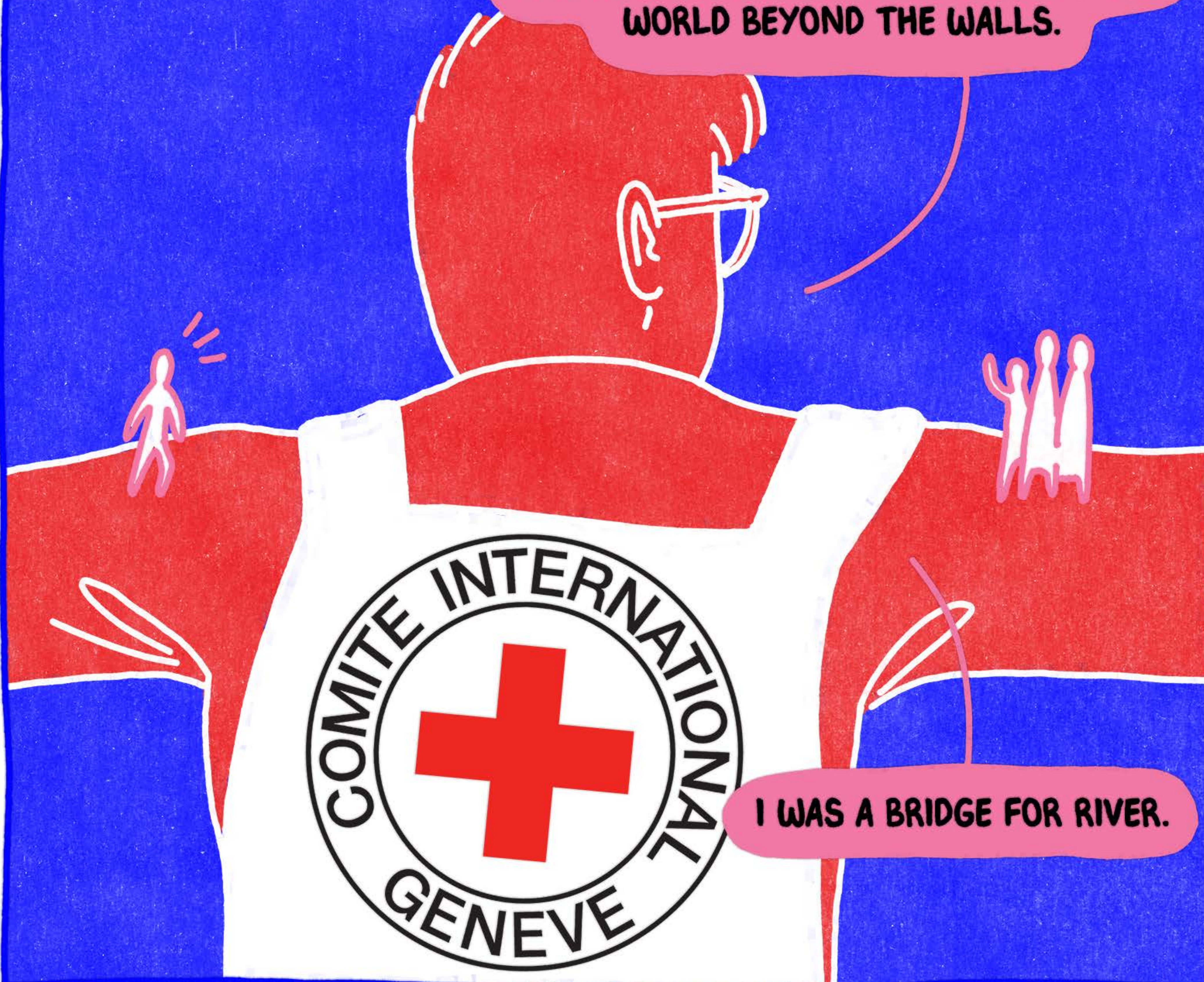
LAST YEAR I ESCORTED RIVER OUT OF PRISON AND ONTO A PLANE HOME TO REUNITE WITH FAMILY AFTER YEARS OF BEING APART.

VISITING DETAINEES IN PLACES WHERE THERE'S CONFLICT IS WHAT I DO.

**I WORK FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC),
A NEUTRAL, INDEPENDENT, IMPARTIAL
HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION.**

**I'M A BRIDGE BETWEEN DETAINEES AND
THEIR FAMILIES. I CONNECT THEM TO THE
WORLD BEYOND THE WALLS.**

I WAS A BRIDGE FOR RIVER.



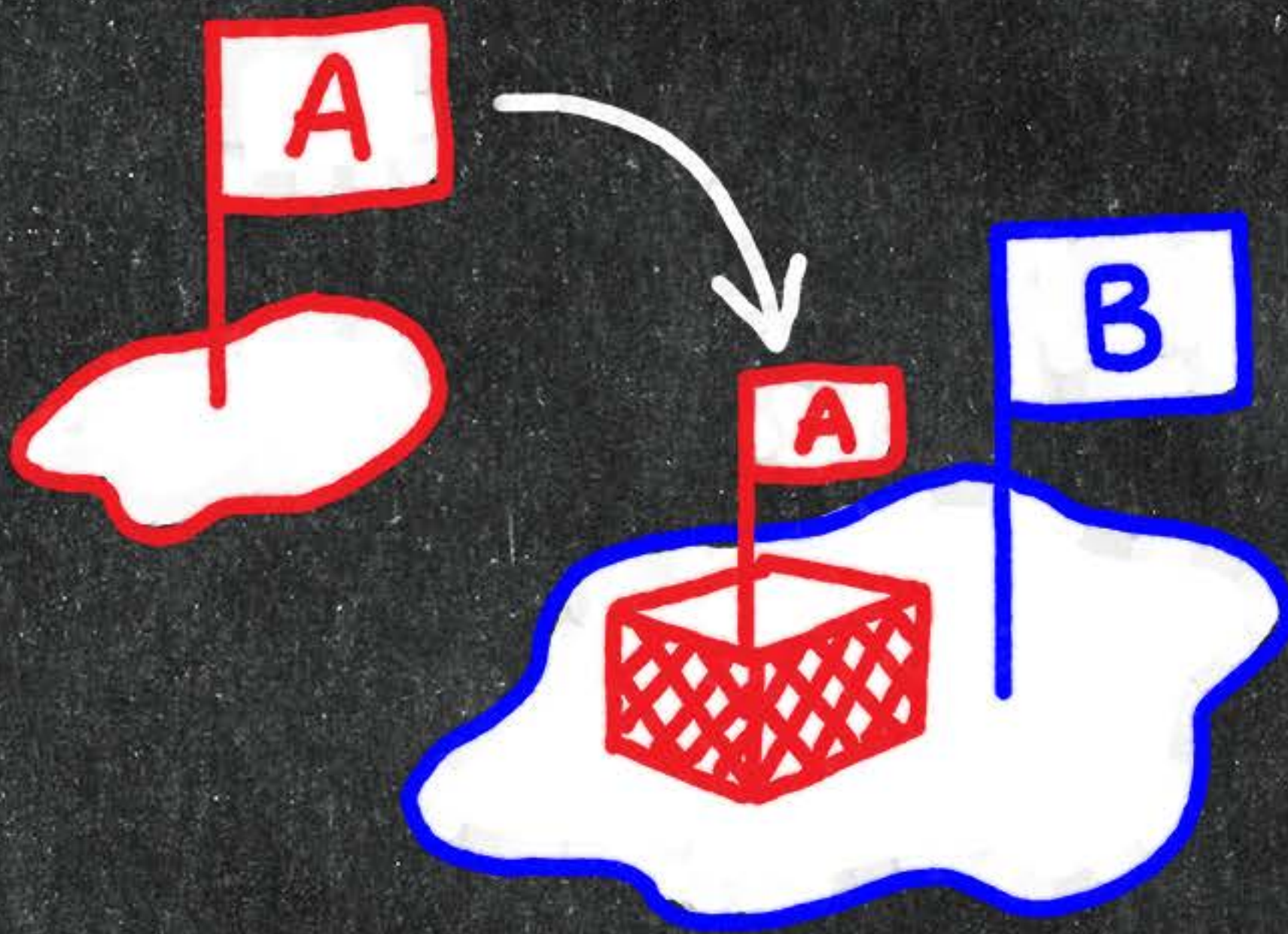
IN WAR, THERE'S NO TRUST. AND WITHOUT TRUST, EVEN RELEASING
DETAINEES CAN BE COMPLICATED.



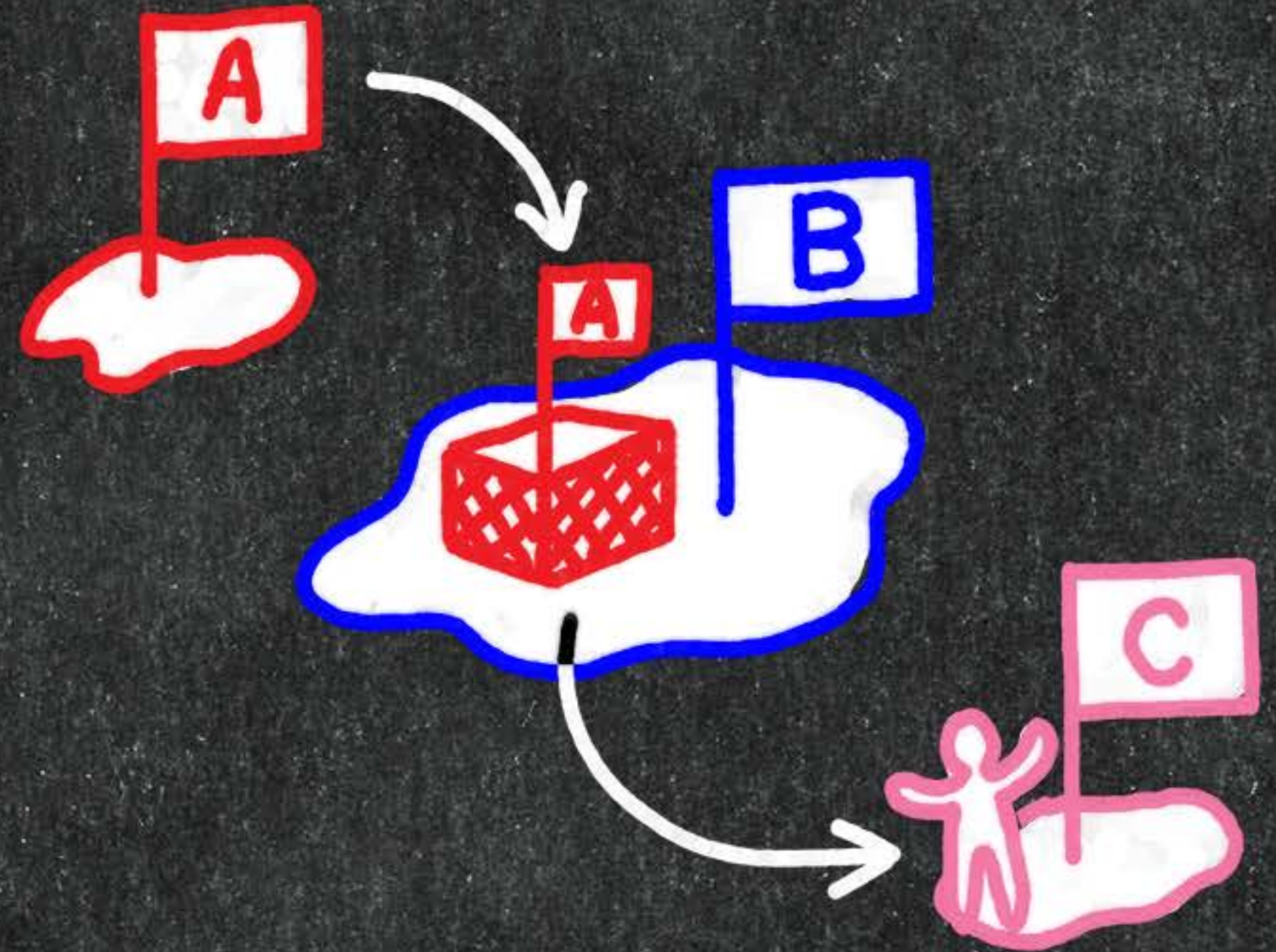
IT'S RARELY JUST A CASE OF HOLDING THE
PRISON DOOR OPEN WHILE SOMEONE WALKS OUT.

THIS SOUNDS LIKE A RIDDLE BUT BEAR WITH ME...

COUNTRY A IS PART OF A CONFLICT
IN **COUNTRY B**, AND **THEY** DETAIN
PEOPLE IN **COUNTRY B**.



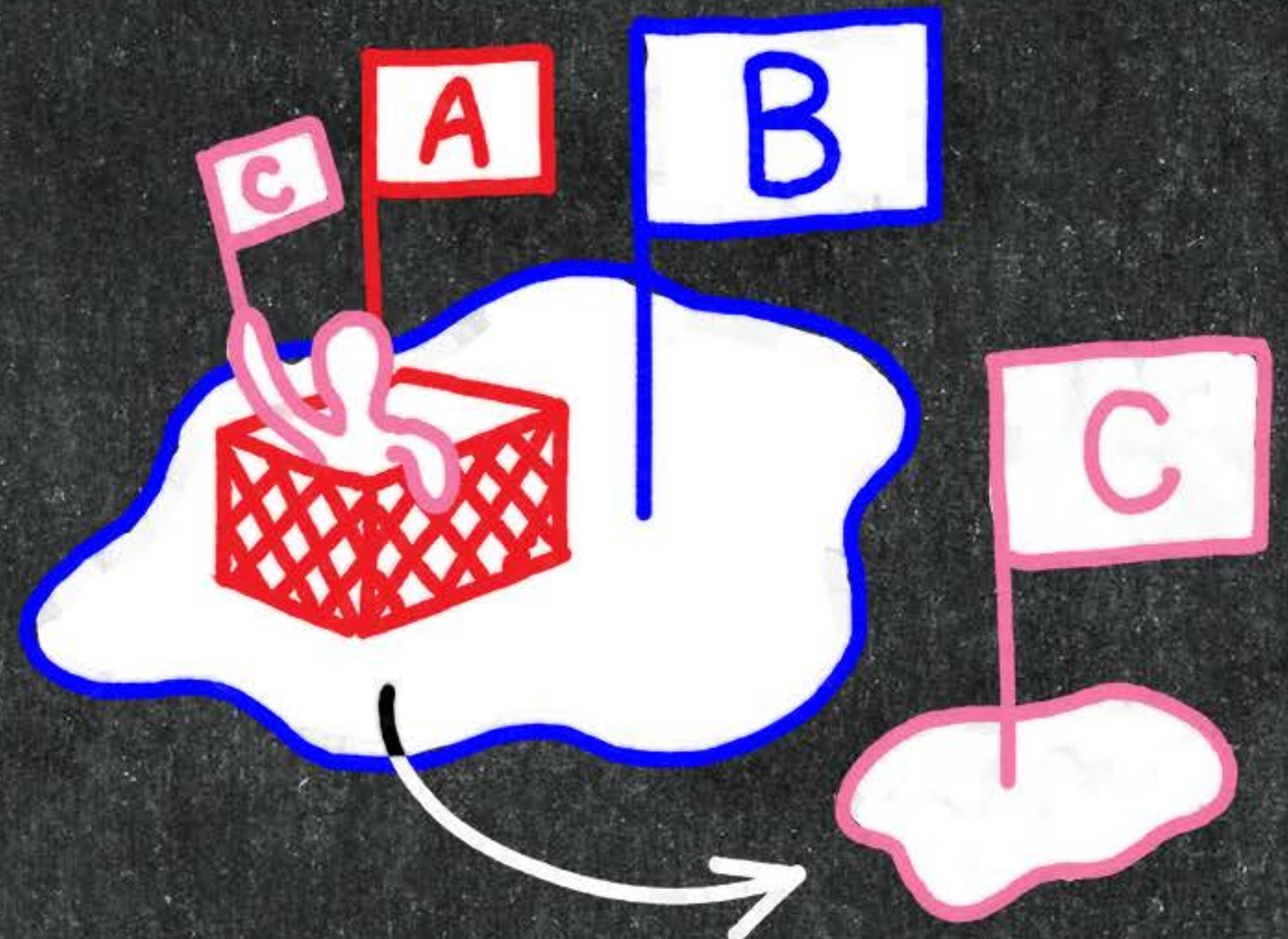
COUNTRY A WANTS TO RELEASE
A CITIZEN OF **COUNTRY C** TO
THEIR HOME COUNTRY,



BUT **COUNTRY A** AND **COUNTRY C**
HAVE NO RELATIONSHIP.



HOW DOES THE DETAINEE ARRIVE
SAFELY AT **COUNTRY C**?



IN THIS SITUATION, RIVER WAS LIKE
THE CITIZEN OF **COUNTRY C**.

I STEP IN AFTER AUTHORITIES HAVE AGREED TO RELEASE SOMEONE
— I MAKE SURE PEOPLE ARE HEALTHY ENOUGH TO TRAVEL AND THAT THEY
GET HOME SAFELY.

HI, I'M ARDEN FROM THE ICRC.

HI, I'M RIVER.

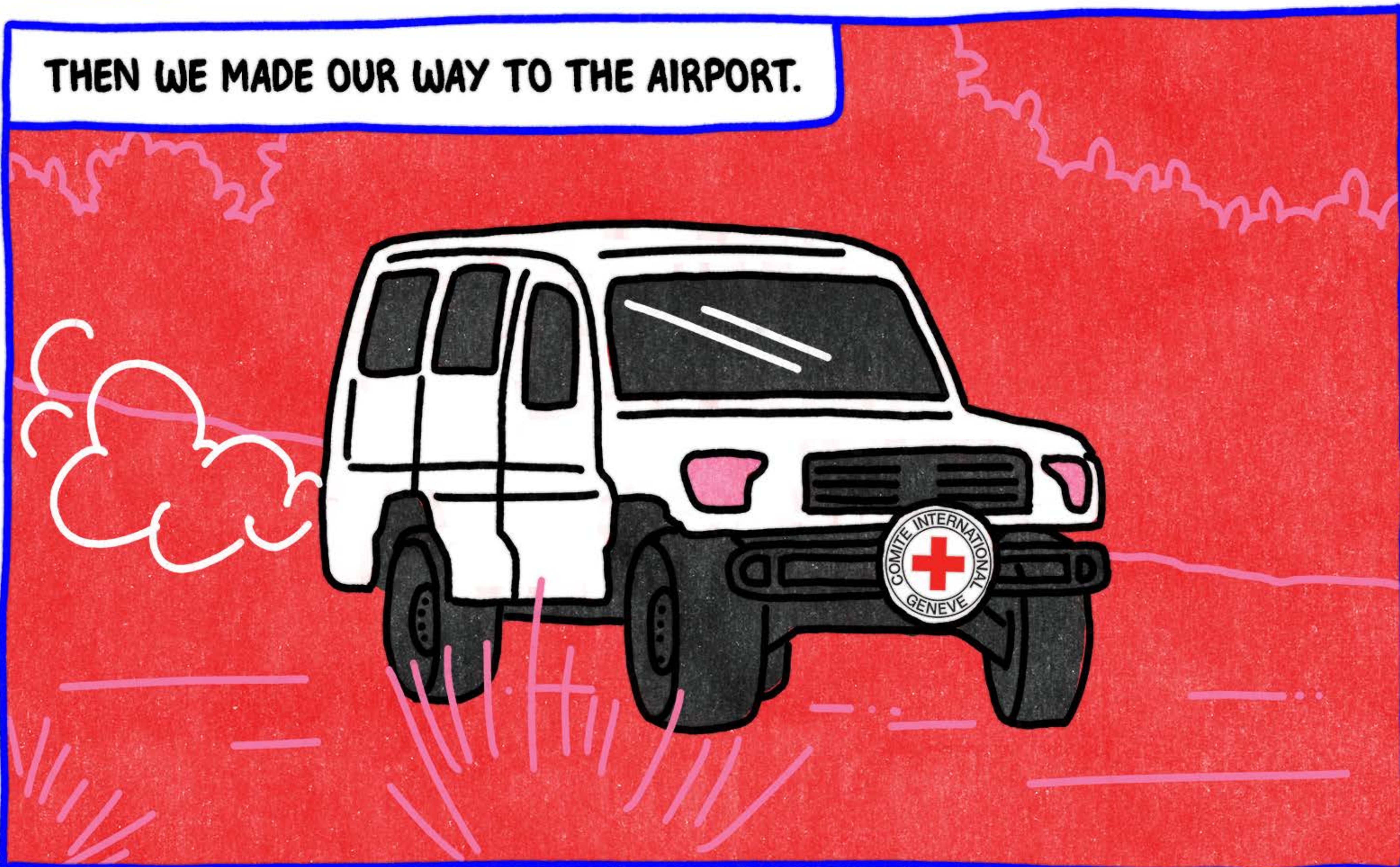


I MET RIVER IN PRISON, WHERE WE DISCUSSED THEIR SITUATION,
CONDITIONS IN PRISON AND THE LEGAL PROCESS. FINALLY,
ONE WARM MORNING, THE TIME HAD COME TO GO HOME.

THAT MORNING, I WENT TO MEET RIVER IN PRISON.
I ASSURED THE DETAINING AUTHORITY THAT RIVER WOULD BE LEAVING.



THEN WE MADE OUR WAY TO THE AIRPORT.



WHEN WE ARRIVED AT THE AIRPORT, WE WERE QUESTIONED BY SECURITY SERVICES LATE INTO THE NIGHT.

I WORK FOR THE ICRC. WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO HELP RIVER RETURN HOME SAFELY.



THE NEXT MORNING, WE WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER RIVER'S COUNTRY.



IT WAS AN EMOTIONAL JOURNEY;
RIVER KNEW FAMILY WAS WAITING.

AND WHEN WE ARRIVED, WE SAW HOW VITAL THIS SIMPLE HUMANITARIAN ACTION WAS.



EVERYONE DESERVES TO BE WITH LOVED ONES.

BEING THIS BRIDGE, A NEUTRAL GO-BETWEEN FOR COUNTRIES OR GROUPS IN CONFLICT, HELPING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT, IS AT THE HEART OF WHAT I DO

**IMAGINE BEING IN A WAR ZONE
AND SAYING YOU'RE NEUTRAL.**



**IMAGINE ENTERING A DEBATE
AND SAYING YOU'RE NEUTRAL.**



BEING NEUTRAL MEANS I CAN BE TRUSTED BY ALL SIDES OF CONFLICT



I CAN TALK TO DETAINEES,



I CAN PASS MESSAGES TO THEIR FAMILIES,



I CAN ACCOMPANY THEM ON THEIR JOURNEYS HOME,

I CAN CROSS FRONTLINES.



**AS A TRUSTED GO-BETWEEN, WE CAN SUPPORT ALL SIDES OF CONFLICT TO
ACHIEVE COMMON GOALS.**



**THE ICRC'S ROLE AS A NEUTRAL INTERMEDIARY MEANS WE ARE ABLE TO HELP
COUNTLESS PEOPLE IMPACTED BY ARMED CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE.**