



Indonesia and Timor-Leste: Facts and figures, 2015

ICRC

During 2015, the ICRC focused on helping people restore contact with their families, promoting humanitarian law, supporting treatment for cataract sufferers and working with the Indonesian Red Cross.

Restoring family links



A Myanmar refugee calls her family in Aceh. CC BY-NC-ND / ICRC / Fitri Adi

Migrants

- The ICRC offered family links services to Indonesian migrant workers that we visited in places of detention overseas, many of them in the Middle East.
- Hundreds of migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh who are living in the provinces of Aceh and North Sumatra made a total of 945 free telephone calls during three joint Indonesian Red Cross/ICRC missions, allowing them to re-establish and/or maintain contacts with their relatives overseas.
- Families of migrants filed nine new tracing requests for their relatives, some of whom were reported to have gone missing at sea while transiting through Indonesia.

Timorese people taken to Indonesia as children

- The ICRC helped trace and re-establish contact between families separated when children were taken from Timor-Leste to Indonesia prior to independence. We helped one man find his parents in Timor-Leste and visit them with the support of the Red Cross Societies of Indonesia and Timor-Leste.
- With financial support from the ICRC, a coalition of Indonesian NGOs led by Asia Justice and Rights and the National Human Rights Commission located 14 other adults who had been taken from Timor-Leste to Indonesia as children.

Indonesians detained abroad

- One family in Indonesia sent RCMs and parcels to a relative detained in Guantanamo and was able to make four Skype video calls to him.
- In coordination with the Indonesian authorities, the ICRC arranged for seven people to visit detained relatives in the Philippines.
- The ICRC collected 10 Red Cross messages and delivered 25 Red Cross messages and 27 salamats (verbal messages) to families of Indonesian detainees held abroad, most of them migrant workers.

Engaging with regional bodies

The ICRC:

- maintained regular dialogue with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN member States and dialogue partners, and regional think-tanks;
- acquired observer status with ASEANAPOL (the ASEAN police organization) and at the organization's International Conference;
- participated in the Post-2015 ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Strategic Policy Dialogue in Singapore;
- attended meetings on humanitarian issues organized by regional think-tanks, the ASEAN Foundation, the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre and other regional bodies.

Promoting humanitarian law and principles

Supporting the Indonesian authorities

- Indonesian diplomats learnt more about IHL at sessions organized with the Foreign Affairs Ministry.
- The Indonesian Red Cross received legal advice on promoting the Red Cross Affairs Law to the government and parliament. The law was included on the Indonesian parliament's programme for 2014–2019.
- During the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Indonesian government and the Indonesian Red Cross jointly pledged to continue their efforts to pass the Red Cross Affairs Law.

Discussing IHL and Islam



The launch of an ICRC book on Islam and humanitarian affairs in Yogyakarta. CC BY-NC-ND / ICRC / Pitria Mia

The ICRC:

- held a course on IHL and Islamic law related to armed conflict for 30 lecturers from Sharia law departments at the Islamic State University in Jakarta, the first of its kind in South-East Asia;
- arranged a traditional Bahtsul Masail discussion with Nahdlatul Ulema scholars who sought to address contemporary issues in the light of traditional Islamic texts;
- held a “School of Humanity” course for members of student religious organizations and a similar event for students from both Indonesia and south Thailand;
- ran a blog competition on religious values and humanitarian action;
- published a book on Islam and humanitarian affairs;
- held a joint workshop with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies on humanitarian principles and codes of conduct.

Promoting IHL and humanitarian activity in Indonesia

The ICRC:

- communicated on ICRC activities and other humanitarian concerns in Indonesian, via social media and other web-based platforms;
- launched a blog (blogs.icrc.org/indonesia) and invited influencers to promote it;
- acquired 704 new followers for the delegation Twitter account [@icrc_id](https://twitter.com/icrc_id), bringing the total to 5,193;
- received 305 visitors at the ICRC Jakarta documentation centre, which provides resources on humanitarian issues and facilitates the exchange of knowledge;
- discussed IHL-related topics with university lecturers, students, journalists and local humanitarian workers;
- held seminars, round-tables, courses and other activities such as a blog competition to promote IHL, common humanitarian principles, better coordination and an appropriate code of conduct for humanitarian agencies across Indonesia.

Supporting authorities involved in the promotion of IHL and its national implementation

- Officials from the Indonesian judiciary, the National IHL Commission, diplomats and other government and State institutions received information on IHL and its domestic implementation at workshops in Indonesia and abroad.
- Two Indonesian officials participated in an "expert consultation" workshop in Geneva.
- Two Indonesian officials and one Timorese official participated in an IHL regional conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Two Indonesian officials from the National IHL Commission took part in an IHL course in South Korea.
- 45 diplomats attended a session on ICRC and IHL organized by the School of Mid-Career Diplomats.
- 70 officials from the Foreign Affairs Ministry and four from the National Agency of Disaster Mitigation participated in a session on IHL and the protection of citizens abroad.
- 28 government officials attended discussions on the urgency of protecting cultural property.
- 15 government officials participated in discussions on the transposition into domestic legislation of IHL provisions governing the protection of cultural property during armed conflict.
- Discussions took place at the National IHL Commission on the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their translation into Indonesian.

Disseminating the rules of war to the armed forces

- The Indonesian armed forces worked with the ICRC to hold IHL training sessions for their personnel, including pre-deployment briefings for UN peacekeeping operations.
- The ICRC worked with the armed forces and security units at a number of workshops to help ensure that their senior officers, legal advisers and trainers were equipped to train their personnel in IHL and other international norms applicable to law enforcement operations. Special emphasis was given to promoting the prevention of sexual violence and the protection of health care during armed conflicts and other situations of violence.
- 55 senior military officers from all services discussed the inclusion of humanitarian norms in operational decision-making.
- Additional training enabled over 40 military instructors and legal officers to teach IHL and to advise on IHL compliance during military operations.
- 700 personnel, including 40 from the special forces, learnt about their obligations under IHL and other IHL-related topics, such as sexual violence and Health Care in Danger, during courses/presentations and field exercises/briefings.
- Over 2,500 military personnel departing on peacekeeping missions attended pre-deployment training, including IHL sessions on the prevention of sexual violence and the protection of health care.

Promoting standards in policing



The workshop for police officers included role-plays covering such topics as arrest, search and seizure, interrogation, detention and use of force and firearms. CC BY-NC-ND / ICRC / Sonny Nomer

- For the first time, 34 company commanders of the police Gegana response unit were able to improve their understanding of international policing standards through participation in ICRC workshops.

- 91 Mobile Brigade officers and 54 senior police investigators assigned to violence-prone areas enhanced their knowledge of IHL.
- 62 police trainers enhanced their ability to instruct on international standards governing the exercise of police powers and incorporated this topic into their teaching following ICRC training sessions.
- 250 officers attending the Police Command Course for Middle Level Officers learnt about the ICRC's activities, roles and mandate, plus the basic provisions of IHL and international human rights law relevant to police powers.
- 147 Indonesian police officers received pre-deployment training/briefings before going on peace-keeping missions.

Teaching students about the protection of civilians and the application of IHL to modern warfare



A participant prepares her contribution during an IHL debate in Yogyakarta. CC BY-NC-ND / ICRC / Mia Pitria Pangestie

- A team from Indonesia University was among the semi-finalists at the Asia-Pacific Inter-University IHL Moot Court Competition in Hong Kong.
- 20 law schools took part in the national selection stage of the Indonesian IHL Moot Court competition.
- Students from 15 Indonesian universities attended an IHL debate competition. The winning team from President University participated in the regional competition in Kuala Lumpur.
- A lecturer from Universitas Negeri Jember attended an IHL course in South Korea.
- 29 lecturers who had previously participated in basic IHL courses attended a four-day advanced IHL course.

- 30 lecturers attended the launching of an IHL textbook containing articles by lecturers from Indonesian universities.
- 60 lecturers and senior students of the Law Faculty of Universitas Andalas participated in discussions on the IHL aspects of autonomous weapons and cyberwarfare.
- The Indonesian Red Cross, with support from the ICRC and in collaboration with Trisakti University, held a seminar for university students and officials on the protection of the Emblem in general and on the case of Indonesia in particular.
- The Indonesian Red Cross and the ICRC helped the University of Ahmad Dahlan (UAD) in Yogyakarta to integrate IHL material based on the Exploring Humanitarian Law modules and learning method into its civic education curriculum. 34 UAD lecturers and teachers from Islamic boarding schools (Pesantren) attended a three-day training of trainers on this topic. The IHL material was jointly designed by the ICRC, UAD and the Yogyakarta provincial branch of the Indonesian Red Cross, and is part of an official subject at UAD: "Teaching red-cross values and issues".
- The Indonesian Red Cross and the ICRC held a train-the-trainers course on IHL for Youth Red Cross Facilitators, using elements of the Exploring Humanitarian Law modules. 24 Youth Red Cross facilitators from 17 provinces in the western part of Indonesia took part.

Influencing opinion makers

- 75 Indonesian journalists learnt about reporting on humanitarian issues during armed conflicts and natural disasters and the protection of journalists under IHL.
- Two senior journalists from Metro TV and Kompas attended an ICRC regional workshop for journalists in India.

Cooperating with the Indonesian Red Cross



A patient operated on during the programme conducted by the ICRC, the Indonesian Red Cross and Bakti Rahayu Hospital. CC BY-NC-ND / ICRC / Otto Ferdinand

- The ICRC, the Indonesian Red Cross and Dian Harapan hospital performed eye examinations on 356 people in Tolikara regency of Papua. Of these patients, 79 underwent operations to remove cataracts and 189 received glasses.
- In Buru Island, in the Moluccas, the Indonesian Red Cross and the ICRC, supported by Bakti Rahayu Hospital, examined 582 patients, performed cataract surgery on 104 and distributed 230 pairs of glasses.
- With technical and financial support from the ICRC, the headquarters of the Indonesian Red Cross and three of its branches in violence-prone provinces (Papua, East Kalimantan and DKI Jakarta) have carried out a study to measure their current capacity to work in sensitive and dangerous situations, through a Safer Access assessment workshop. On the basis of that workshop, the Indonesian Red Cross has developed an action plan to overcome a number of gaps.
- With ICRC support, the Indonesian Red Cross held an annual disaster-management meeting, an orientation session for the new governing board of the Indonesian Red Cross, first responder training in West Papua for 25 new responders and training for two new medical action teams.
- One Indonesian Red Cross first-aid expert participated in the ICRC First-Aid Workshop in Geneva and became the Indonesian Red Cross first-aid facilitator.
- Two Indonesian Red Cross staff and a member of Ministry of Health staff attended the Health and Humanitarian Action workshop in Singapore, organized jointly by the ICRC and the Singapore Red Cross.

- The Indonesian Red Cross contributed to the Health Care in Danger campaign by submitting a pledge during the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to continue improving safety and access for National Society and health personnel when helping communities in need.

Promoting best practice in forensics

45 forensic experts from 18 Asian and Pacific countries attended a regional workshop on forensic best practices jointly organized with the Asia Pacific Medico Legal Association.

Helping detainees

- ~~Detainees in Indonesia and in Timor-Leste did not receive ICRC visits during 2015, as the organization's activities for detainees remained on hold.~~
- ~~The Indonesian Directorate-General of Correction and the ICRC jointly organized a two-day workshop in Denpasar in April 2015. The workshop brought together the Director-General and his key directors and heads of division, who discussed with the prison directors of the most overcrowded prisons measures for dealing with the situation and reducing overcrowding.~~
- ~~Two representatives from the Indonesia Directorate-General of Corrections and one representative from the Prison Services of Timor-Leste attended the 2nd Asia-Pacific Seminar for Correctional Managers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.~~
- ~~Ten former political detainees received medical care. They included seven people living in a nursing home in Jakarta, some of whom the ICRC had visited while they were in custody in the 1980s. Their nursing home was also renovated.~~