



J. de Palezieux/ICRC

NEWSLETTER

ICRC - SUMMER 2013

A CENTURY AND A HALF OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

ICRC CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY



This year the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) marks 150 years of humanitarian action across the globe. This is a time

not just to celebrate but to relearn and re-invent ourselves as an organisation as we face new and emerging challenges in a wide and diverse humanitarian landscape especially in relation to our ability to access populations with humanitarian needs. The constantly changing means and methods of warfare warrant that the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) initiative too is constantly strengthened.

The well preserved and documented archives of the ICRC are integral to this constant process of learning - of looking ahead but also turning back to the

decades of experience and untiring service provided by the staff and volunteers of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Archived reports, photographs, messages, recordings, telegrams and personal notes narrate both individual and collective stories. For example, they give interesting details of a "horseback delegate", Nicolas Burckhardt who had to ride ten days to reach the area he wanted to survey in Jammu and Kashmir in 1949. His note read, "...an hour after the rain started, rocks and avalanches of sand began to fall, carrying off the most exposed parts of the road" telling of the conditions under which the staff worked. Similarly, archived photographs of a surgeon in a field hospital during the Spanish-American war in Cuba in 1898 or of a lone ICRC vehicle in a desert-type landscape in Palestine in 1950 are just a few examples of snapshots that immortalised the work performed over the years.

In the Indian subcontinent, the ICRC has offered its assistance in various situations starting as far back as 1917. Later in 1947 as well, ICRC delegates were sent to the region to assess the needs of those suffering the aftermath of the partition of India and Pakistan. Their mission, initially, was to work with the national societies to assess refugee needs in both countries

and gather information for a fund-raising appeal. During the time the ICRC worked as a neutral intermediary to help address specific humanitarian problems such as the repatriation of all prisoners of war, and displaced women and children. By August 1949, ten visits had been made to the principal detention places in India, and six to the main camps in Pakistan in support of the prisoners of war.

This edition of the newsletter - with a combination of the past and the present - is a salute to all the people who together made these 150 years a journey worth undertaking. It is because of their indefatigable spirit that the Red Cross symbol is the second most recognised symbol across the globe. And as we continue onward, working in a diversity of situations, facing old and new challenges alike, these anniversaries, more than anything else, are a reminder of why we must go on.

Mary Wertz
Head of the Regional Delegation
New Delhi

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ICRC

150 YEARS OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN THE MIDST OF ARMED CONFLICT

On 17 February this year, the ICRC marked its 150th anniversary commemorating the beginning of its efforts to improve the lives of countless people adversely affected by armed conflict. At a time when thousands continue to suffer the consequences of war in various places such as Syria, Mali, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the ICRC is more determined than ever to carry on with its humanitarian mission. Flagging off the 150 years celebrations, Peter Maurer, President of the ICRC spoke

of challenges confronting humanitarian activities. "We are carrying on with our work in an environment that is being shaped by the use of new weapons and technologies, the proliferation of armed groups, the difficulty of obtaining access to people requiring aid, and a plethora of NGOs and other humanitarian organizations endeavouring to serve communities with competing approaches," said the ICRC president.



After the Battle of Solferino, 1859.

about the present and future humanitarian challenges faced by the organisation.

"This anniversary provides us with an opportunity to look critically at our past, and also to develop awareness of the strengths that have helped us in our activities carried out for millions of victims of armed conflict and other violence. Now more than ever, we must not only remain true to our principles but also search for new ways to better serve the people who need help. We must redouble our efforts to make sure that the neutral, impartial and independent nature of our humanitarian activities is understood by all."

The ICRC continues to adapt to new forms of armed conflict and to a number

"Together with our partners within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the broader humanitarian community, we must seek ways of meeting these challenges," he continued. "We have to better coordinate humanitarian efforts, and pay very careful attention to the opinions of those we are seeking to help – and give them the opportunity to play an active role in these efforts, the ultimate aim of which is to enable people in need to achieve a lasting recovery."

The biggest challenge facing the ICRC and other humanitarian organizations is a lack of respect for international humanitarian law, which prohibits violence directed against people who are not involved in armed conflict, such as children, the

wounded or sick, or detainees. "The need for a strong political will to spare civilians and otherwise comply with international humanitarian law, whether on the part of States or of non-State armed groups, has never been greater," said Mr Maurer.

Many of ICRC's everyday activities now have far-reaching effects. "When ICRC delegates visit detainees in Guantanamo, or facilitate the release of hostages in Colombia, or help people in Afghanistan obtain health care in safe conditions, or provide the maintenance and technical know-how that keep the water and electricity networks up and running in Goma, a city of half a million people, or push for a binding international treaty on cluster munitions, they have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of many people," said Mr Maurer.

"The vision of Henry Dunant – the Red Cross idea – has not only survived but flourished through all these long years," said Mr Maurer. "Over the past century and a half, the ICRC has overcome political adversity, financial difficulty, cultural barriers and countless other obstacles, even attacks on its own staff to bring vitally needed humanitarian assistance and protection to people in need." Once quite small with an entirely Swiss staff, the ICRC now performs its humanitarian tasks in over 90 countries all over the world, and has a workforce of almost 13,000 men and women of over 100 different nationalities.



Volunteers from the Haitian Red Cross Society attending to residents of a camp in the aftermath of the earthquake that struck Port-au-Prince in 2010.

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S VISIT

Yves Daccord, Director General of the ICRC, visited India in March this year. Aimed to strengthen relations with New Delhi and also seek strategic engagement with the Indian government with regard to neighbouring key operational contexts such as Afghanistan and Myanmar, this was the first ever visit of a Director General to the New Delhi delegation. His arrival also launched the Delegation's activities commemorating the 150th anniversary of ICRC's humanitarian action with a special focus on the work performed in India.

Mr Daccord's five-day trip was marked by a series of meetings with senior government officials, diplomats and independent think tank representatives wherein he discussed the "more pro-active" ways in which India can participate in the organisation's work worldwide.

The Director General also addressed audiences at three leading Indian think tanks in the city. The first was at the Observer Research Foundation, where he spoke of the Arab Spring and future humanitarian challenges for the ICRC. This was followed by his visit at the United Service Institution of India where he shared his experiences with serving and retired professionals from the armed forces, academicians, and researchers on Afghanistan and ICRC's future challenges, especially in light of the 2014 transition. Both the sessions were well attended attracting a diverse representation from different stakeholders. The highlight of the sessions was the comprehensive discussions that followed. The third opportunity was through a round table chaired by the Director General at the Indian Council of World Affairs attended by former Indian diplomats.

While the sessions at the think tanks were geared more towards sharing ICRC experiences from its top two global operations – Afghanistan and Syria – the meetings with government officials were focussed on understanding the challenges and needs of India on ICRC's work both in India and in the world. The Director General's visit also generated interest among the India media and he was interviewed by some of the country's leading news agencies and media houses.

During the trip, Mr Daccord also met top officials of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) and the Red Cross Movement partners in India. Talking about his expectations from the Director General's visit, Dr S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General, IRCS said, "we are happy that the Director General's visit engaged us in some serious discussions. Though we have worked together since 1915 or so, we certainly wish to strengthen our partnership and learn more lessons from each other."

The Director General's visit concluded with the launch of a photo exhibition on "150 years of humanitarian action" at the Swiss Embassy in New Delhi. Attended by senior diplomats, academicians and journalists, the exhibition, which will be shown throughout the year in different universities in India, is a celebration of ICRC's humanitarian journey over the last 150 years. Speaking during the occasion, Dr. Linus von Castelmur, Ambassador of Switzerland said, "the Embassy of Switzerland in India is honoured to be associated with the ICRC's anniversary celebrations, in a very concrete but modest way. For this achievement, I congratulate ICRC and wish them well for the years to come!"

For more on the Director General's visit, read his interview to the editorial team on page 10.



Mr Yves Daccord with Mr Gulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) and Dr SP Agarwal, Secretary General, IRCS at Nirman Bhawan, Ministry of Health, New Delhi.

FACTOID

Mr Gherardo Pontrandolfi, Head of Delegation, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Kabul, Afghanistan, visited India from 19th-23rd May. During his visit, he met senior government officials, academicians, policy analysts and discussed the future humanitarian challenges that await Afghanistan, as it gets ready for the transition in 2014.

Mr Pontrandolfi also met experts and representatives from different Think Tanks including Delhi Policy Group, Centre for Land and Warfare Studies and Observer Research Foundation to gather the Indian perspective on the future political situation in Afghanistan.

REFLECTION: INTERVIEW WITH RED CROSSERS

“WHAT ELSE COULD BE MORE MEANINGFUL FOR A HUMAN LIFE THAN PUTTING IT TO USE TO HELP FELLOW BEINGS”



An ICRC staff member demonstrating sewing techniques during a sewing workshop for mentally challenged persons at Rashad Mental Hospital in Baghdad.

Alleviating human suffering, protecting life and health, and upholding human dignity especially during armed conflicts and other emergencies, the 150 years of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has been a story of hope. Made up of National Societies comprising of volunteers, and global staff of ICRC and IFRC, the Movement continues to sail through emerging challenges and adversities.

To celebrate the human spirit that has prevailed through a century and a half, we spoke to a few Red Crossers who have worked in different countries across the globe to get a glimpse of how this humanitarian journey dotted with challenges can turn into a source of unmatched emotional satisfaction for them.

Recounting his experience of having worked in the disputed northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, Bal Bhujel says, “between bullets and bombs all around, working with communities on ground brings its own challenges and even contentment.” Talking about one such experience from Kirkuk, he says, “In an economic security project, we were working with women who had been widowed by conflict. They had remarried

a few times and each time lost their husbands to conflict resulting in complete social exclusion. The project thus aimed at providing socio economic support to help them lead a dignified life. Overwhelmed with the intervention and its impact, some women wanted to get photographed with me to put the picture on the walls of their home as for them, the Red Cross project had changed the definition of their

existence. With such a closed cultural set up for women, this was a very out-of-the-world request and I was very gratified that day for taking part in a project that brought significant change in someone’s life.”

Diganta Bujarbaruah had a similar experience in 2010 when a young boy, whom he had trained in first aid, in Assam, had dived and saved eight passengers of a bus that had fallen into a river in a village near Guwahati. Talking about the incident, he says, “because the boy had been trained by me in an ICRC training programme, he was able to single-handedly save so many lives. This fills me with pride. This is just one of the many such little moments in my career as a Red Crosser that has left me moved and perhaps made me proud of what I do.”

Happiness comes with different names. For Sunil Paul, who has been a driver for ICRC’s delegation in New Delhi and has travelled to different field locations in India and abroad, his joy comes from his work. Recalling his experience during the Bhuj earthquake in Gujarat in 2001, he says, “I remember a specific incident where the ICRC team managed to rescue a child trapped under the debris. The child was provided medical



An ICRC staff member demonstrating a first-aid technique for skull injury to Red Cross volunteers in Dantewada.

support by our team and then we also worked hard to reunite him with his family. Assisting the process was an unforgettable experience. In fact what else could be more meaningful for a human life than putting it to use to help fellow beings?"

Behind the success of the Movement that has grown to a size where it touches populations in almost every country of the world, are also unseen and unheard Red Crossers who have dedicated their entire lives to keep the wheels of this Movement rolling smoothly. Mewa Lal, an ICRC messenger responsible for transferring letters and important files to different stakeholders, is a case in point. Talking about his experience, he says, "I know my job is a not a very big one but the fact that I have given 25 years to this organisation,

facilitating important information transfers makes me happy. Even with small contributions I am proud to be a part of the bigger show."

The nature of operations of this 150-year-old Movement is such that it needs the volunteers and employers to be compassionate in dealing with situations. Marek Resich tells us, through his experiences, how the work of a Red Crosser goes beyond a typical earmarked mechanical job. Remembering an incident from Nepal, Marek says, "It was 2005 when two district level Nepali government officials had been taken hostage by insurgents. The ICRC was playing the role of a neutral intermediary to release the hostage and the anxiety of the uncertainty lasted for few weeks wherein we stayed

in touch with the family, provided them information and emotional comfort. Finally, with the help of the ICRC, when the officials were released, we could make it possible for the family to get reunited at the airport. That moment when they got together was an unforgettable scene of pure joy. We did not do anything out of the world and just facilitated the process but the satisfaction of the end result was such that only few other professions can match."

And as the Movement continues its celebration of its 150th anniversary, Red Crossers across the planet continue to march on, weaving such tales of hope, love and compassion. And it is through them that the dream and vision of Henry Dunant continues to live on.

ICRC CELEBRATES WORLD RED CROSS DAY!

The ICRC celebrated World Red Cross day on 8th May across its offices in India, i.e. New Delhi, Jammu, Srinagar and Raipur, with the Red Cross Movement partners – IRCS and the IFRC.

In New Delhi, a 16-over cricket match was organised between the ICRC and IFRC at the Talkatora Cricket Stadium and in true Movement spirit, colleagues played the friendly match braving the heat. At the end of the match, the ICRC Head of Regional Delegation, Mary Wertz and representatives of the Federation congratulated the teams.

The ICRC also participated in the 8th May event of the J&K Red Cross State Branch where the ICRC's Head of Jammu and Kashmir office, Jean-Francois Sonnay, emphasised on the collective strength of the Red Cross Movement. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest of the event, Post Master General of J&K, urged the youth to come forward and join the noble cause of serving humanity. Students from various schools and colleges presented papers on the theme – "150 years of Humanitarian Action". A rally of Red Cross volunteers was also flagged off by the Chief Guest after the event.

This was followed by another high profile event organised by the Srinagar District Red Cross Committee. The Governor of the State, senior civil and police officials, State Branch staff, students and the ICRC attended the function where the Governor released the Special Cover and My Stamp brought out by the Postal Department exclusively on the Red Cross. The funds from the sale of the cover and

the stamp will be given to the Red Cross Movement.

In Raipur, Chhattisgarh, a two-day event marked the occasion, which included a dissemination session for students, volunteers and journalists on ICRC and IRCS activities. Mr. Shekhar Dutt, Governor of Chhattisgarh, presided over the event and unveiled the IRCS.



The ICRC and IFRC cricket teams get together for a photo session following a match played between the two teams to mark the World Red Cross Day celebrations.

THE ICRC - 150 YEARS OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION AROUND



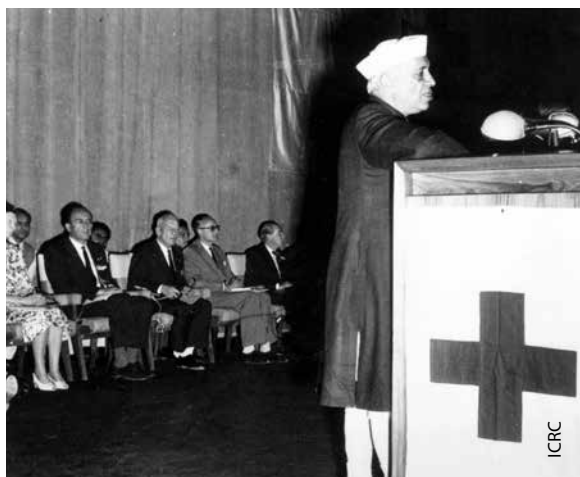
INDIA - 1939-1945

A medical staff member treating prisoners of war during World War II.



SOUTH AFRICA - 1906

Mahatma Gandhi (seated – centre, middle row) with other Red Cross volunteers during the Zulu revolt of 1906.



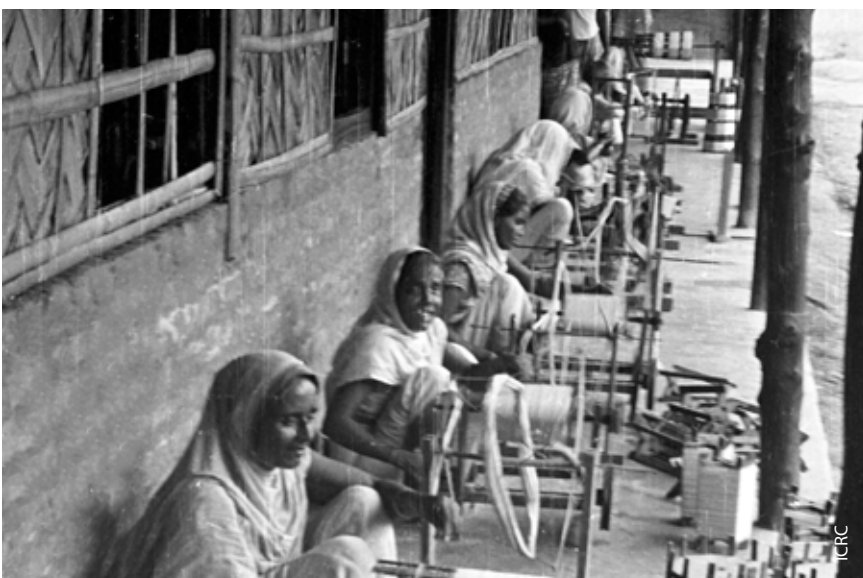
INDIA - 1957

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964) addresses the audience on the opening of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross.



PAKISTAN - 1972

One hundred and twenty four civilians and Pakistani prisoners of war are repatriated to their home country in a Red Cross plane.



BANGLADESH - 1950

Women work on their weaving looms at a hospital run by the ICRC in a refugee camp near Dhaka, during the India-Pakistan War.

Since its creation in Geneva in 1863, the ICRC's sole objective has been to ensure protection and assistance for victims of armed conflict and strife. The constantly changing nature of war and other violence has continually thrown up new challenges for humanitarian action ensuring that over time the scope of the ICRC's work has also grown. This photo essay is to celebrate, reflect and learn from our 150-year long journey in this challenging and constantly evolving world of humanitarian action.

Covering the expanse of a century and a half of humanitarian action, the images here portray the ICRC's activities in South Asia responding to the needs of people suffering from man-made and natural disasters. Others bring back memories of specific historical moments from the ICRC's assistance work and its presence in India at the time of the First and Second World Wars, the India-Pakistan conflicts of 1947-48, 1965, 1971 and other major events in the region.

THE WORLD : A PHOTO ESSAY



AFGHANISTAN - 2011

The ICRC medical staff accompany hospital doctors on their daily rounds at Mirwais Regional Hospital.



AFGHANISTAN - KABUL 2010

In Afghanistan landmines pose a great risk to the population. Wheelchair basketball, which began ten years ago in Mazar-i-Sharif, in north Afghanistan, is today an increasingly popular sport at ICRC's seven Physical Rehabilitation Centres across the country.



CHINA - 1963

Prisoners of war play chess at a camp in China during the Sino-Indian War.



MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN ADMINISTERED KASHMIR - 2005

Wounded people waiting to be evacuated in an ICRC helicopter after the devastating earthquake.



INDIA - 1965

ICRC's delegates distributing milk to children at a refugee camp in Jammu region during India Pakistan conflict.

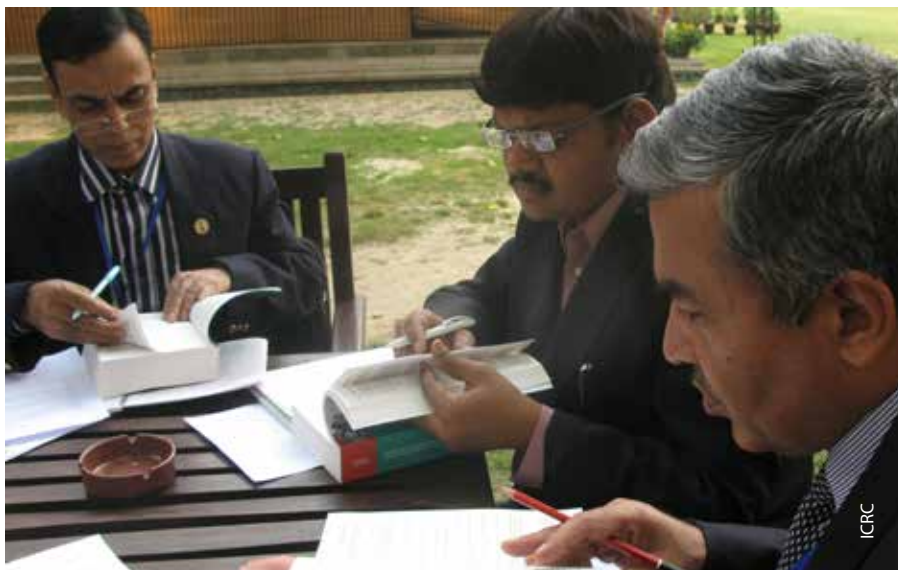


TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT, SRI LANKA - 2008

People return to their families after receiving essential items from the ICRC. The bridge was destroyed during combat between the Sri Lankan Army and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

EVENTS

22ND SOUTH ASIA TEACHING SESSION (SATS)



Delegates carrying out a syndicate exercise during the 22nd South Asia Teaching Session held in Nepal.

The Regional Delegation of the ICRC in New Delhi, the ICRC Delegation in Kathmandu and the Kathmandu School of Law (KSL) organised

the 22nd South Asia Teaching Session (SATS) on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), from 5 - 12 April 2013 in Kathmandu.

Forty six delegates from 10 countries, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Myanmar, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated. Participants were drawn from various fields, and included civil servants, members of the police forces of their respective governments, serving military officials, academicians, representatives from national societies and NGOs. The sessions were interactive and provided scope for questions and discussions on a variety of IHL issues. Practical components were introduced into the programme this year.

The objective of SATS is to train middle level professionals on IHL. Participants in this bi-annual event that is usually held in March/April and in November are mid-level professionals who may have an impact on IHL implementation.

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, DELHI, WINS THE 11TH RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) MOOT

The National Law University, Delhi won the final round of the 11th Red Cross International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot Court Competition held from 14-16 March, 2013 in Hong Kong. The award was received by Mr. Dhruv Sharma, Mr. Utkarsh Srivastava, Ms. Natasha Aggarwal and Mr. Naman Joshi. Mr. Dhruv Sharma also received the Best Mooter Award.

The Red Cross IHL Moot competition is organized by the Hong Kong Red Cross

(HKRC) and the ICRC, in collaboration with the Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong and the Faculty of Law, Chinese University of Hong Kong. Since its inception in 2003, the Red Cross IHL Moot, as an inter-university competition, continues to strengthen awareness and interest in IHL amongst students and academicians.

This year approximately 20 teams representing 14 different countries from the Asia Pacific and South Asian regions

participated in the Moot Court competition, while 70 legal luminaries, distinguished legal scholars and ICRC experts served as Judges.

IHL is a set of rules which for humanitarian reasons, seeks to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects persons who are not or no longer are participating in the hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare.

FRANCOPHONIE MELA

The ICRC participated in the Francophonie Mela on March 23rd 2013 in New Delhi. On this occasion, the Alliance Française of Delhi was peppered by stalls set-up by representatives of many French-speaking countries. These stalls became spaces for a variety of activities ranging from sharing information about their cultures to tasting their regional delicacies. Amidst the entire cultural extravaganza, ICRC's stall attracted a lot of attention from students who participated in a Red Cross quiz. Ten winners were rewarded with Red Cross goodies while others went back with an increased awareness about the Movement.



One of the winners of the quiz competition receiving a gift.

“PROPER TRAUMA MANAGEMENT HELPS IN SAVING LIVES”

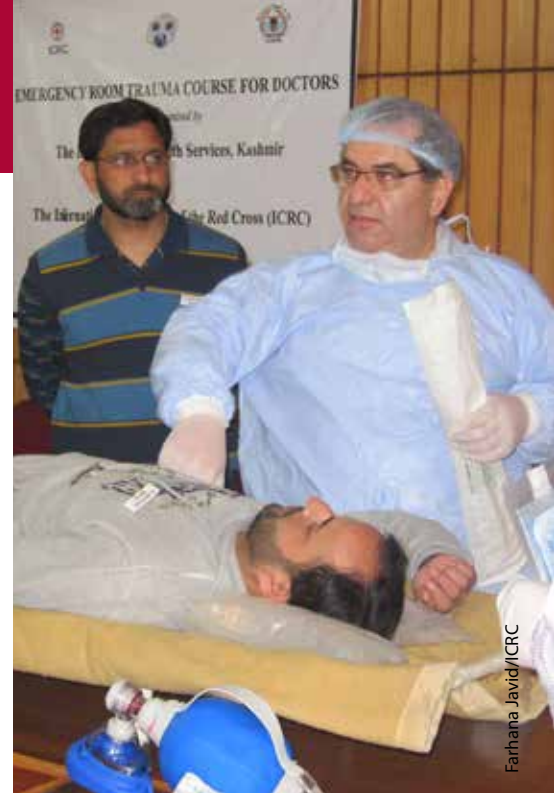
The ICRC in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir (DHSK) organised an Emergency Room Trauma Course (ERTC), the first of its kind in Jammu and Kashmir from 8-12 April, 2013. The ERTC is an advanced training course on life support that enables doctors to deal with trauma cases with a systematic clinical approach. During this course, the ICRC trained 20 doctors, including specialists such as orthopaedic surgeons and anaesthetists working in different hospitals spread across the valley. Two specialist surgeons - Dr. Hassan, who is working as chief surgeon with the ICRC and Dr. Asa Molde who is consultant surgeon for ICRC - conducted the training.

“The efficiency of emergency care plays a key role in determining the clinical outcome and recovery of the patient. By enhancing the skills of our doctors in managing emergency trauma cases, we expect to improve emergency care in our hospitals, especially at the district level,”

said Dr. Saleem-ur-Rehman, Director, Health Services Kashmir, while highlighting the importance of the course.

The course provided an overview of the basics of trauma management in an emergency room setting. Besides a series of lectures, each participant was exposed to practical demonstrations, such as how to examine airways and ventilation, head and spinal trauma, limb injuries, to name a few, followed by simulated diagnostic exercises. “The beauty of this course lies in its participatory methodology and its focussed approach towards making the optimum use of limited resources in a situation with limited options,” said Dr Iqbal Ahmad, an anaesthetist, working in one of the hospitals of Kashmir.

Another participant, Dr. Irshad Tabassum, an orthopaedic surgeon said, “it provided an opportunity for me to learn the essential skills of examining and resuscitating a trauma case. It will enable us to follow



An ICRC doctor demonstrating life saving techniques to the participants during the workshop.

a certain systematic protocol while examining a patient. This way we are unlikely to miss injuries which could prove fatal if not diagnosed and treated on time.” Appreciating the efforts of the DHSK and the ICRC, the participants also emphasized that the lessons learnt from the course should be put into practice.”

ALL INDIA LAW TEACHERS CONGRESS

The All India Law Teachers Congress (AILTC) and the ICRC, New Delhi, organised a two-day conference on International Humanitarian Law from 31st May-1st June 2013 in New Delhi. The inaugural speech was delivered by Prof.A.K.Koul, Vice Chancellor, National University of Study & Research in Law, Ranchi, Jharkhand who touched upon the importance of legal education and educators and the constant need to reinvigorate both. Charles Sabga, Regional Legal Adviser (RLA), ICRC in his statement at the inaugural session reiterated the noble calling of the teaching profession and eulogized the role of teachers and academicians.

Around 70 teachers and research scholars from across the country participated in the conference. While the first two sessions focussed on the implementation of IHL and the challenges there under, the third session was dedicated to International Criminal



Charles Sabga, Regional Legal Adviser, ICRC New Delhi presenting a talk at the conference on IHL.

law while the last session focussed on the issue of the teaching of IHL. Several leading academicians and scholars presented papers in the various sessions. The sessions were very interactive leading to interesting deliberations between experts, teachers,

research scholars and the students. The conference was the annual flagship event of the AILTC, which is a platform to protect and promote interests of law teachers across the country.

INTERVIEW WITH DG

“EVERYONE HERE IN INDIA IS INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHAT THE ICRC BRINGS TO THE TABLE”

The biggest democracy in the world – India is seen as a very important peace provider. And as the world increasingly tends to look east, Yves Daccord, Director General of the ICRC visited India in March this year to strengthen the existing relations between the authorities and the ICRC and weave new ones. Sharing his aspirations and expectations from this country, he spoke to us on varied issues including why India is not just another country.

How do you think that ICRC and a country like India can collectively respond to humanitarian assistance, treaties or issues related to Health Care in Danger?

I think a country like India can play a very important role at the diplomatic level and India can be very successful and important for us in the way it interacts with governments like Afghanistan or Sri Lanka. Not only that, India can also play a very significant role on being the champion of issues like respecting medical workers and the medical missions.

What is the kind of role that you would like India to play in this ongoing transition of Afghanistan, especially given its presence and influence in the region?

I think it is difficult for ICRC to decide what India should or should not do. But what seems important for me is the fact that India because of its geographical location has a clear understanding of the needs of people in Afghanistan and therefore will play an important role in the transition. In this process, India can also strongly support very neutral, non-partisan, impartial humanitarian actions like ICRC's so I am expecting India to be a very strong supporter of ICRC in Afghanistan.

How do you see the partnership of the ICRC with IRCS evolving in years to come?

I do see the partnership with IRCS as one that is critical for us. One of my objectives in this trip is to carefully look at how we can work better together in partnership. I also strongly believe that we have to bring in some competencies that we are developing abroad, for e.g., in health, my expectation is that our movement continues to efficiently respond to increasingly more difficult challenges.

We have seen a transition not just in Afghanistan but in the regional dynamics itself. From Sri Lanka to volatile Maldives, Pakistan to tense Bangladesh- given all of that - is the ICRC adjusting its priorities in South Asia because of changes that have happened in the last ten years?

I think it is the job of the ICRC to have the ability to maintain its presence and relevance over time but also to be extra ordinarily adaptable. My sense is, we need to be agile and it is very true for the region. The ICRC, over the last five years has changed its strategy in Nepal and in Sri Lanka and we understand the need to be prepared and be able to put our resources, our knowledge, our expertise where it counts.

Summing up your visit to India, you met so many stakeholders. Can you tell us what has been your impression and expectations from this visit?

I have every big expectation from this visit as well as from this delegation. The ICRC has done some great work in India. And I think we need to bring this relationship with the



Mr Yves Daccord, Director General, ICRC.

Indian government to mainly at the highest level. I think India is a great country with some challenges at home. We should find the best way for us to connect and improve the way we work together and have a clear vision that in next 20 years, India will be very central to our work and hope to be central to the humanitarian vision of India.

My experience about India is - people here are very smart. They are very direct and I like that. I had meetings with very senior government officials and everyone here in India is interested to know what the ICRC can bring to the table.

FACTOID

ICRC ARCHIVES

The ICRC Archives collect, preserve, and make available for research ICRC documents dating from the organization's inception to the present day. The ICRC's historical archives comprise 6,700 linear metres of textual records and a collection of photographs, films and other audio archives.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention! Print & Photo Journalists



André Löhn/ICRC

ANNUAL AWARDS 2013 BEST ARTICLE & PHOTOGRAPH ON A HUMANITARIAN SUBJECT

A competition organized by
the Press Institute of India (PII), Chennai
and the International Committee of
the Red Cross (ICRC), New Delhi

THEME : VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND PERSONNEL
Operating in the Face of Danger

Have you published an article that addresses the humanitarian challenges faced by health workers in the delivery of health care during armed violence? Have you published a photograph that captures incidents of attacks on ambulances, hospitals, medical personnel and facilities, obstruction of services or other similar situations? If your work reflects this theme then share it with us.

1st Prize – INR 50,000

2nd Prize – INR 30,000

3rd Prize – INR 20,000

Rules for sending entries

- ▶ Entries should be sent by 15 September 2013 and the results will be announced by November 2013
- ▶ The article or photo should have been published in an Indian national or regional newspaper or magazine between April 2012 and March 2013
- ▶ For all articles printed in regional languages, an exact English translation is mandatory.
- ▶ Only one entry per individual is permitted for either category. The participating candidate will have to produce the proof of his or her article or picture published in the respective newspaper or magazine.
- ▶ Relatives of members of the jury and organizers are not allowed to participate; the decision of the jury is final.
- ▶ Entries with complete details can be emailed to editorpiirind@gmail.com or sent to the Press Institute of India, RIND Premises, Second Main Road, Taramani CPT Campus, Chennai - 600113

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VIOLENCE AGAINST
HEALTH CARE MUST END

IT'S A
MATTER
OF LIFE
& DEATH

150 years
of humanitarian action



ICRC

SENIOR EDITORS' CONFERENCE

A J Kidwai Mass Communication Research Centre New Delhi and Nelson Mandela Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies in conjunction with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) regional delegation for South Asia are hosting the Regional Senior Editors' Conference in New Delhi on 8 and 9 October 2013. The conference aimed at promoting discussions related to the role of media in reporting armed conflict will be attended by senior editors/journalists from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Iran, Thailand, Australia and the Maldives

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

On the radio in Afghanistan

The ICRC in Afghanistan has recently produced a 12-episode series of radio programmes that was broadcasted through national radio stations, Arman FM and Arekozia Radio in the main local languages, Dari and Pashto. Today, radio remains an effective means of communication with the in-country public at large since the low literacy level and lack of electricity prevent a majority of people from reading newspapers and having access to television.



Distribution of food and emergency household items in eastern Afghanistan.

The project that began in December 2012 had the series of programmes dedicated to ICRC's humanitarian activities in the country including putting separated families back in touch, improving access to safe water, health services, physical rehabilitation and social integration.

Violent incidents against health-care in at least 22 countries in 2012

A new study by the ICRC, entitled "Violent Incidents Affecting Health Care," reveals that at least 921 violent incidents against health-care personnel, infrastructures and wounded or sick people took place in 2012. The study conducted in 22 unnamed countries affected by armed violence underlines a worrying trend: assaults on health-care personnel, facilities and vehicles in conflicts and other emergencies leave millions around the world without care just when they need it most.

The Arms Trade Treaty: Keeping the promise

The Arms Trade Treaty is a historic response to the human suffering caused by the widespread availability of weapons both during and after armed conflicts. For the first time ever in an international treaty, States must not transfer weapons or ammunition if they know that they would be used to commit certain war crimes. The ICRC calls on all States to sign, ratify and implement the Arms Trade Treaty and fulfil its promise to reduce human suffering.

Hateymalo accompaniment programme



Violence, both actual and threatened, against the wounded and the sick, and against health-care facilities and personnel, is one of the most

crucial yet overlooked humanitarian issues of today. This brochure provides a brief overview of the stark reality of violence against health care. <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/publication/t0253-nepal-hateymalo.htm>

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 the ICRC 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 academicians 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.

FACTOID

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW DATABASE

The database of international humanitarian law treaties and documents has been created by the International Committee of the Red Cross. It contains about 100 IHL instruments, dating from 1856 to the present. Treaties and documents are grouped into current and past and the documents by topic and by date. The treaties database can be accessed at <http://www.icrc.org/ihl>

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150 years
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