

# MAURICE DE MADRE FRENCH FUND – info

## (MMFF)

ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAST WISHES OF COUNT MAURICE DE MADRE USING THE PROPERTY HE BEQUEATHED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS ON HIS DEATH IN 1970 FOR:



STAFF MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS  
WHO HAVE SUFFERED INJURY IN THE COURSE OF  
THEIR WORK WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

STAFF MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS  
SUFFERING FROM AN ILLNESS RELATED TO THEIR  
WORK WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

FAMILIES OF STAFF MEMBERS AND  
VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN  
THE COURSE OF THEIR WORK WITHIN THE  
MOVEMENT

## EDITORIAL

### Helping those having suffered because they helped: Humanitarian aid for humanitarians?

So much time spent helping – a lifetime, in some cases – without any assurance of not finding oneself alone and in need of help... So much energy spent, so many risks taken to save the victims of nature's fury, without being able to prevent other innocent people and their rescuers from being carried off too... So much humanitarian idealism, such strong determination to keep violence from dashing all hope among those caught up in it – often quite accidentally – without being able to prevent war too from taking a toll among those extending a helping hand... Henry Dunant wanted conflict victims to have a chance, a second life as we would say nowadays; Count Maurice de Madre wanted those working in behalf of peace, individual dignity and solidarity, whether out of idealism, from a sense of vocation or with abiding passion, also to have someone to give them a hand when they needed it. This made him express the desire that an "essentially humanitarian and benevolent foundation," closely linked to the Red Cross, would see the day under his name for the purpose of reaching out to those who "made sacrifices in the midst of war or disaster and will therefore face health problems or other hardships." Helping the helper: now that's a challenge! It was one of the Count's uncles, Baron de Coubertin, who said that through sport man could enhance his humanity and avoid war. These were two men of vision. From their ideals – as relevant as ever – sprang up a mighty hope.

The Fund set up by Count Maurice de Madre came into being in 1974. Its regulations were amended in 1981 to include among potential beneficiaries the families of those suffering injury or losing their lives. The regulations were subsequently further amended to include those having contracted illness in the course of their work.

I joined the Board of the Fund on 1 October 1987 as successor to my father, who had been personally acquainted with Count de Madre and also Baron de Coubertin, and very familiar with their work. During all the years of its existence the Board has always been torn between its eagerness to provide as much useful aid as possible and its desire to scrupulously respect the founder's intentions. It has examined each case with the greatest concern for men, women and children finding themselves in straitened circumstances due to death, injury or illness resulting in reduced support for the family and the loss of years of sacrifices, savings and hope. What can be done for those left with no income, to ensure not only that they will survive but also that the children will be able to complete their schooling and that the wife (or wives) and in some cases the parents too will continue to have a roof over their heads? What can be done to avoid granting inappropriate benefits that introduce distortions into a fragile context? The Board has always endeavoured to give proper consideration to the families' hardships while helping them to get back on their feet in the most dignified and efficient way possible. What has become of these people? Did the children make it through school? Did the wounds heal? Did the men find other jobs despite their disabilities? Are the widows still

## PRACTICAL HELP – A JOINT EFFORT



Jean Guerlain Dupreux, Haitian Red Cross volunteer in Cité Soleil

In 2004, when the security situation began to seriously deteriorate in Haiti's Cité Soleil shantytown, Auguste Evintialy and Jean Guerlain Dupreux became involved as volunteers in the activities of the new local Red Cross chapter helping the many people wounded in the increasing violence.

On 9 June 2005 they were severely injured while taking part in such an activity, protected only by the red cross emblem on their tabards and helmets. Auguste lost a finger on his left hand. Jean Guerlain suffered a gunshot wound in the jaw and has since had to undergo many operations and painful treatments. His face is permanently disfigured, but he can again lead a more or less normal life.

The two volunteers did not have the means or insurance coverage to pay for proper care. Thanks to delegates of the ICRC and of other Movement components, financial assistance was organized involving support from the MMFF and the Canadian Red Cross Society in particular.

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shown proper respect? Have some of them remarried? Is the house that was rebuilt still standing? Time went by and these questions were not always answered. Nevertheless, I often think of so-and-so or of such-and-such a situation, and I tell myself that even the modest help we provided enabled some people to overcome the struggles of life. I am happy to have had the opportunity, thanks to Count de Madre and the outstanding logistical assistance provided by Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations, to make a small contribution to human solidarity. In the end of course, he who giveth, receiveth.

Antoine Chavan  
Former member, MMFF adviser

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## THE FUND

Awareness of the MMFF is steadily increasing and more and more requests are being made by potential beneficiaries through National Societies and ICRC and Federation delegates. In 2006 the Board of the Fund handled 26 new requests covering 33 individual cases. Benefits were determined on a case-by-case basis according to the degree of seriousness, the needs to be met and the context (see graph 1).

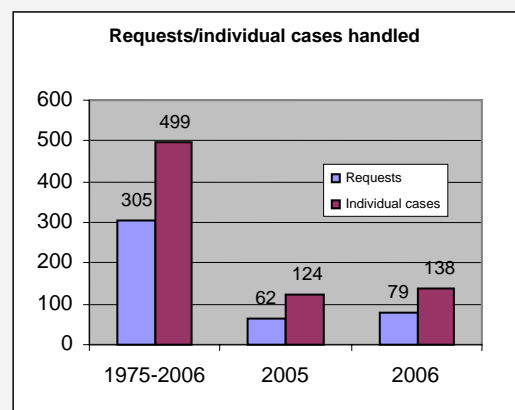
It can take from a few months to several years to implement these decisions, since benefits are seldom allocated all at once. The processing of all requests pending, both old and new (79 in all, covering 138 individual cases), therefore requires great care and thoroughness. It goes without saying that without the extraordinary network of ICRC and Federation delegates the MMFF could not step in with help for those who need it. In 2006 it provided aid amounting to 250,700 Swiss francs.

As in previous years, the main grounds for requesting benefits remained death resulting from an act of violence (35) or from an accident (27). The next most frequent grounds were injury resulting from an accident (23) or from an act of violence (22). Africa and Asia remained the geographical areas from which the greatest number of requests were submitted, with 38 and 22 requests respectively (see graphs 2 and 3).

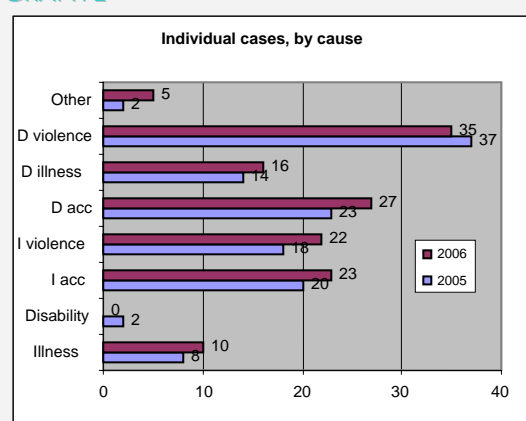
The Ousseimi Foundation once again responded favourably to an appeal for funds. Its donation of 17,500 US dollars for the benefit of the families of volunteers killed or wounded in the recent war in Lebanon was received with gratitude.

Further information may be obtained from the MMFF secretariat by postal mail, e-mail or telephone.

GRAPH 1

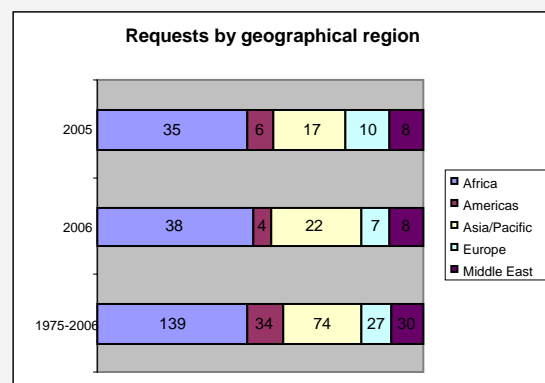


GRAPH 2



D = Death; I = Injury

GRAPH 3



## MAURICE DE MADRE FRENCH FUND

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Ms M.-C. de Navacelle  
Ms B. Diop  
Ms E. Eriksson  
Ms J. Hugentobler

Former member, adviser:  
Mr A. Chavan

## FROM 1975 TO 2006, THE MMFF HANDLED:

↪ 305 requests

↪ 499 individual cases

↪ 1,715 beneficiaries

↪ grants totalling Sfr 2,962,530