



### Newsletter of the ICRC Pretoria Regional Delegation

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## MISSION Statement

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

## Urgent international action on cluster munitions needed

During the third Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) which was held in November 2006, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) took the opportunity to reaffirm its humanitarian concerns about cluster munitions and to present proposals to strengthen national and international regulation of these weapons.

Despite an important step being reached with the entry into force of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War on 12 November 2006, the continued use of cluster munitions in the Lebanon conflict has again resulted in the same pattern of severe consequences for civilians and their communities, as was previously seen in Laos, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Iraq and other conflicts.

The number of countries affected by cluster munitions grows, as well as the burden of clearing these weapons and the heavy price paid by civilians in terms of lives, limbs and livelihoods lost. As such, at the opening of the Review Conference, the ICRC urged States to immediately end the use of inaccurate and unreliable cluster munitions and prohibit the use of all cluster munitions in populated areas. It also called for a new international humanitarian law (IHL) agreement to specifically regulate cluster munitions and offered to host an expert meeting in 2007 to start identifying the elements of such an agreement.

### Extract from a statement delivered by Philippe Spoerri at an ICRC press conference on November 6, 2006

The ICRC has invited you here today to express its deep concern about a weapon which has had a severe and disproportionate impact on civilian populations in nearly all of the conflicts in which it has been used. For nearly 40 years, cluster munitions have been known to cause high levels of death and

injury to civilians during and after armed conflicts. After decades of cluster munitions use both the civilian suffering and the burden of clearing these weapons continues to grow relentlessly.

The ICRC believes that the time has come for strong international action to end the predictable pattern of human tragedy associated with cluster munitions. The problems associated with cluster munitions are well known and well documented. History has shown that a large proportion of these weapons have problems of accuracy and reliability. In nearly every conflict in which they have been used, significant numbers of cluster munitions have failed to detonate as intended and have instead left a long-term and deadly legacy of contamination. In addition to the civilian casualties, the presence of unexploded sub munitions has made farming a dangerous activity and hindered development and re-construction. Clearance of these weapons continues for decades and consumes scarce national and international resources.

Sadly, the deadly legacy of these weapons is being demonstrated all too frequently, with additional States added to the list of affected countries every year or so. These include Eritrea and Ethiopia in 1998, Serbia and Montenegro in 1999, Afghanistan in 2001, Iraq in 2003 and now Lebanon - where there is increasing evidence that the density of cluster sub munitions contamination may be unprecedented.

The ICRC's concern about cluster munitions, however, is not limited to their post-conflict effects. The ICRC also has serious concerns about the accuracy of many models even when they function properly.

An important step to reduce the post-conflict impact of cluster sub munitions and other explosive remnants of war was taken in 2003 when States



South Iraq. Unexploded ordnances. ICRC/SOHLBERG Johan, 2003.



The past year for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Pretoria Regional Delegation for Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean has been without doubt very active and diverse. It was also a year of evaluation of our various programmes.

The ICRC hosted many seminars throughout the year, all of which were of an evaluation nature. These were as follows:

- A workshop for 33 senior police officers from 18 African countries between 13 and 17 February in Pretoria, RSA. The participants were invited to evaluate the programme in its current form and to evaluate obstacles within their own police services before identifying possible solutions and suggestions for a more successful integration of the International Laws pertinent to correct policing.
- The Sixth Annual Regional Seminar on the ratification and implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) from 12 to 14 June in Pretoria, RSA which gathered governmental representatives from 17 countries in Southern and Eastern Africa. The Seminar was opened by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs Sue van der Merwe and co hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs, RSA. It provided an opportunity for participants to discuss and exchange working methods and also challenges and problems in implementation.
- The Annual Dissemination Workshop for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from 29 May to 1 June in Pretoria, RSA. The workshop created an ideal platform to share and evaluate best practices of successful examples of well-functioning, energetic and dynamic dissemination programmes in the region and emphasised the importance of dissemination as an activity of each member of the Movement and the challenge that goes with it.
- A Five-day workshop on Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) for High School teachers who will pilot the EHL programme in public schools from 31 July to 4 August in Mauritius. The workshop was opened by the Minister of Education in the presence of the Minister of Justice. The workshop saw a massive participation of 128 teachers of Social Sciences and English. It also mobilised seven international trainers (USA, RSA, Seychelles and Malaysia) who came to share their expertise with the Mauritius community.
- Seminar on IHL co-hosted with the Department of Defence on 5 October in Pretoria, RSA. The Seminar was opened by the Minister of Defence. Participants were 40 high level officers from the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) who listened to expert speakers from the SANDF, Department of Foreign Affairs and the ICRC talk on IHL. The aim of the seminar was to evaluate how far the Ministerial Directive on the implementation of IHL within the SANDF has been carried out.
- Advanced Seminar on IHL for African academics between 6 and 9 November in Pretoria, RSA. Among the 130 academics who have attended the previous All Africa Seminars on IHL, 28 participated in this seminar which was aimed at identifying those academics who are still involved in IHL and to evaluate their commitment. The Seminar also provided an opportunity to launch the African Yearbook on IHL. All the articles consider issues of relevance to IHL generally and to Africa more particularly.

All of the above-mentioned seminars were very successful and allow the ICRC delegation in Pretoria, through lessons learnt" to improve its programmes.

Finally, this year has seen a number of changes in the personnel of the delegation. We said goodbye to Maziar Mostafavi Kachani, Deputy Head of Delegation, who will now take up a posting as Head of Mission in Madagascar and to Catherine Herselman from Administration who is devoting her time to have her sons trained as professional golfers. New faces at the delegation include, Ion Smochina, Protection Delegate, Ken Wayne, Legal Officer and Tshepo Maodi, Administration.

I would like to end by thanking all the readers of Temba, mostly being our interlocutors, for their constant support and advice. It is not without nostalgia that after a three and a half year mission I will leave South Africa and dedicated colleagues and interlocutors.

I wish you all the very best for the future and a wonderful and happy festive season.

Françoise KRILL

(continued from page 1)

Parties to the Certain Conventional Weapons adopted the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War. The Protocol, which entered into force on 12 November 2006, provides an important framework for reducing the post-conflict dangers caused by all forms of unexploded or abandoned ordnance. The ICRC has called on all States to adhere to this landmark agreement at the earliest opportunity.

At the Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the ICRC called upon all States to take the following steps: to immediately end the use of inaccurate and unreliable cluster munitions; to prohibit the targeting of cluster munitions against any military objective located in a populated area; to eliminate stocks of inaccurate and unreliable

cluster munitions and, pending their destruction, not to transfer such weapons to other countries.

The ICRC also called for a new IHL agreement which will effectively address the problem of cluster munitions. In closing, I would like to emphasise that the ICRC does not take lightly its decision to call for regulation of a specific weapon. In most cases we rely on faithful implementation of the general rules of IHL. However, history has shown that the severe and disproportionate human costs of some weapons, and the inconsistent application of general rules to those weapons, produces a need for weapon-specific rules.

## Movement confirms commitment to restoring family links

In situations of conflict and natural disaster, family members often lose touch with each other resulting in anguish for those longing to hear news.

Sometimes the wait may go on for years. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has long been involved in reuniting separated relatives. Faced with a growing number of people who do not know the whereabouts of their relatives, the Movement decided to strengthen its ability to respond to these needs with a global strategy detailing each partner's responsibility within the Movement and the work plan for the coming decade.

Senior leaders of the Movement from Africa met at a regional conference in Nairobi in November and discussed a draft 10-year Strategy for restoring family links.

The Nairobi conference brought together over 70 leaders of 42 National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation, the three components of the Movement.

"We are very satisfied with the outcome of the

conference," said Ms. Reneé Zellweger Monin, deputy head of the Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC. Africa is a continent that is particularly in need of this service, given the frequency of population movements due to conflict and other situations of violence as well as natural disasters. The participants of the conference confirmed both their interest and their will to move forward."

The conference in Nairobi, chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), financed mainly by the New Zealand Red Cross Society and co-hosted by the Kenya Red Cross Society, was the first of a series of conferences around the world with the aim of devising the strategy to be implemented from 2008-2018. Three more regional conferences were held in November and December in Kiev, Buenos Aires and Bangkok.

It is expected that the strategy will be presented for adoption to the Council of Delegates of the Movement at the end of 2007.



DRC, Anzi, Red Cross Branch. A delegate hands over Red Cross messages for volunteers to distribute by bicycle. ICRC/MIRANDA V, 2003.

## Detention visits in 2006

Regular visits of persons detained in relation to armed conflicts, internal violence constitute one of the core activities



Bujumbura, Mpimba prison. 2,585 prisoners, including 57 women, 12 children and 280 prisoners under death sentence 07/05/2001. ICRC/GASSMANN Thierry, 2001.

of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) worldwide. Detention visits aim at preventing disappearances, torture and other forms of ill-treatment and assess and improve the conditions of detention.

Within this framework, during 2006, the ICRC Pretoria Regional Delegation carried out 4 visits to Maseru Central Correctional Institute, the central prison of Lesotho. The visits aimed at following up the HIV/AIDS project for the detainees and the inmates of the prison, initiated with the Ministry of Justice and the Lesotho Planned Parenthood Association (LPPA) in 2005. As discussed with detaining authorities and LPPA, the ICRC planned to cease its financial support to the project by the end of 2006 and carry-out follow-up visits in 2007. This however does not mean that the HIV/AIDS project will come to an end. Other donors will take over before the Ministry of Justice will take full ownership of the project.

For more information on ICRC detention activities worldwide please contact [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org).



Bogotá. Bon Pastor women's prison. ICRC delegates pay regular visits to detainees in various parts of the country. ICRC/DANZIGER Nick, 2001.

## Great success with Exploring Humanitarian Law programme

By initiating the Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) programme in secondary schools worldwide, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) intends to reach young people who need to know and understand the reasons for the minimum rules that States have agreed to respect in times of conflict.

These rules allow youth to measure current events against the principle of humanity rather than political and economic criteria alone and offer evidence of a universal standard that may help them resist feelings of impotence and indifference in the face of world events. These ideas are critical to preparing the next generation to be citizens of the world.

In the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region, the programme has been introduced in four countries (South Africa, Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles).

In South Africa, it has been piloted in two schools and in March this year, the ICRC together with the Ministry of Education, organised a youth camp in Port Elizabeth which gathered students and teachers from the pioneering schools and served as a platform to exchange experiences and practices. Another training session was held in October in Tsitsikama Village in the Eastern Cape Province which brought together teachers from four secondary schools classified as «high risk schools». The programme will be piloted in several subjects in 2007 is expected to contribute to curbing the rampant violence in the schools.

In Mauritius, a large training session gathered 128 teachers from all public schools between 31 July and 04 August 2006. The piloting phase of the programme will be launched on a national level in

January 2007 and the programme will be introduced into the curriculum in 2008.

Seychelles is now in its sixth year of involvement with the EHL programme and has made considerable progress. Since the beginning, the programme focused on advocacy, drawing up an action plan to guide the implementation process, workshops for programme coordinators and teachers at school level under the watchful eye of a steering committee.

The National Institute of Education in the Seychelles has started to integrate the programme into the curriculum in schools and colleges. There are plans to extend the programme to out of school youth in the different communities in collaboration with the Youth Section and the Red Cross Society of Seychelles.



Teachers who attended the EHL training in Mauritius in August.



# Implementation of international humanitarian law

As with last year, 2006 has produced a hive of activity for the Pretoria Regional Delegation in the field of implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL). The momentum gathered in 2005 has been maintained with countries in the region continuing to ratify IHL instruments and to address the task of implementation, that is, to give effect to these instruments at a domestic level. To assist with this, which oftentimes has legal as well as practical implications, all the countries in the region now have functioning IHL national committees, many at ministerial level.

In June, the Pretoria Delegation held its sixth Annual Regional Seminar in Pretoria, co hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of South Africa. The Seminar brought together governmental representatives emanating from seventeen countries in Southern and Eastern Africa. The event continues to serve as a regional forum to discuss the latest developments in IHL, weapons conventions, the ongoing work of the International Tribunals, IHL and Peacekeepers, and children in armed conflict. The activism shown by the participants during this sixth Seminar is a testament to its success and importance in the region.

2006 was also marked with the entry into force of new instruments and continued work by the international community in areas which are of concern in the field of IHL. A milestone was reached when the 1949 Geneva Conventions were universally accepted by all 194 States. The start of the year was marked with the adoption during the December 2005 Diplomatic Conference of the Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions. An additional emblem, known as the Red Crystal, was thus created with the revision of the Statutes of the Movement at the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference held in June 2006. With this new emblem,

which will have the same international status as the existing emblems enshrined in the Geneva Conventions, the way was paved for National Societies that find it difficult to use either the Red Cross or the Red Crescent to become members of the Movement. States are being encouraged to implement this new Protocol and the humanitarian protection it affords into domestic law.

In June and July, a Review Conference was held to review the progress of the United Nations programme of action on small arms which, whilst not legally binding, committed governments to a variety of measures to exert better control over the trade and use of illicit small arms and light weapons, including assault rifles, machine guns, hand grenades and mounted grenade-launchers. These have been at the root of much civilian suffering during armed conflicts

and exacerbated violations of IHL.

Although the Review Conference did not result in the adoption of a comprehensive international plan to curtail the availability of these weapons, regional efforts remain at the forefront of initiatives aimed at ensuring that the human suffering and number of victims resulting from small arms violence are reduced.

In conclusion, during the past year, this region has shown its continued commitment to the full and universal implementation of IHL. However, whilst a number of IHL milestones have been reached in 2006, it remains important for the countries in the region to continue in their endeavours aimed at ensuring the full respect of IHL in all circumstances. The work of the ICRC, through advice and technical assistance, is to support these efforts by States.



Speakers from ICRC at the sixth Annual Regional Seminar on the implementation of IHL. From left: Len Blazeby (ICRC Nairobi), Chris Harland (ICRC Geneva), Françoise Krill (ICRC Pretoria), Peter Herby (ICRC Geneva), and Jamie Williamson (ICRC Pretoria). ICRC/WATT A, 2006.

## H.E.L.P Course 2006

The Pretoria Regional Delegation in collaboration with the School of Health Systems and Public Health (SHSPH) of the University of Pretoria held the ninth Health Emergencies in Large Populations (HELP) Course from 16 October to 03 November 2006 at the University's CSIR campus, in Pretoria. The course was attended by 22 participants coming from various countries including Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Norway, Sri-Lanka, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, USA, United Arab Emirates, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

One of the criteria for the selection of participants was to ensure that the course would enhance or have a positive impact on their work. Also, in order for the course to be more interactive, the selection of

participants was done in such a way so as to ensure a fair balance of qualifications. All participants came from the health discipline and included nurses, doctors, disaster preparedness and environmental health



Participants at the H.E.L.P course. ICRC/WATT A, 2006.

specialists, water and habitat engineers and programme managers / coordinators.

The course was divided into two modules was conducted in English by facilitators from the University of Pretoria and ICRC expatriates from Geneva. HELP I – (Health Emergencies in Large Populations) addresses public health activities. HELP II – (Health, Ethics, Law and Policies) focuses more on international humanitarian law, human rights, responsibilities of health professionals and ethics.

This course is highly commended as skills in health and disaster management are essential. Therefore, ICRC and the University of Pretoria remain committed to ensuring the continued success of the course and the added value it has for participants.



From top left: Members of the South African Military Health School during a mass casualty evacuation exercise to which the ICRC was invited as VIP guests; the additional emblem (Red Crystal) which was adopted through the acceptance of the Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions in December 2005; South African Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs Sue van der Merwe with head of the ICRC Pretoria Regional Delegation, Mrs Françoise Krill at the opening of the sixth Annual Regional Seminar on IHL; Mr Jamie Williamson, ICRC Pretoria legal adviser gives an interview to the SABC during the Annual IHL seminar; speakers at the IHL seminar jointly hosted by the ICRC and the South African Department of Defence, from left: Mr Christoph Schild (ICRC delegate to the armed forces), Col André Retief (Senior Staff Training Officer, SAAF), Col François Cilliré (Senior Staff Officer, Joint Training, SANDF), Lt Gen TT Matanzima (Chief Human Resources Directorate, SANDF), Mrs Françoise Krill (ICRC head of Delegation), Rear Admiral (Ret.) Vijay Malhotra (Indian Navy), Mr Jamie Williamson (ICRC legal adviser); participants at the sixth annual regional seminar on IHL in June 2006.



# Cooperation with National Societies

In 2006 the Cooperation department continued to assist National Societies in the Southern African and Indian Ocean region in three core areas. Firstly, in the dissemination of international humanitarian law (IHL), the Fundamental Principles, the Movement, and the Emblem; secondly, in preparing National Societies for emergencies and to ensure ‘Safer Access’ to victims of conflict and thirdly in assisting National Societies in Tracing and the Restoring of Family Links.

Further to this capacity building approach, the cooperation with National Societies continued in the fields of legal and statutory development (preparation of International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement conferences, National Society Statutes, Red Cross and Emblem legislation).

2006 has seen a number of concrete developments in the cooperation with the seven National Societies in the region. The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) has expanded its dissemination outreach throughout the country. Seven provincial Dissemination focal points were recruited and trained by the SARCS national coordinator and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Pretoria Regional Delegation. Those focal points became a true added value with a dedicated internal dissemination (youth and volunteers, governing board, programme management staff, etc) and external outreach to schools, universities, youth clubs, government and armed forces. All National Societies in the region now have a fully-fledged Dissemination

department operating at the National Office level. ICRC has been financially assisting close to 100 dissemination projects such as workshops, web presence, leaflets, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day activities, brochures, posters, DVD’s and video’s based on their respective target audience.

Following the acceptance of the 3rd Additional Protocol by the Diplomatic Conference in December 2005, the dissemination of the additional emblem, known as the Red Crystal, became an extra challenge for Disseminators. After the adoption of the revised Movement Statutes in 2006, the Annual Cooperation workshop in June focused on the adaptation of national Dissemination tool boxes. National Societies have largely accepted the challenge and spread the important humanitarian developments, always aware that a protective emblem will protect the global humanitarian worker only once the emblem is widely known. The annual dissemination workshop also focused on writing concrete plans of action for realistic implementation in 2007 and improved project management and reporting.

With regard to Tracing / Restoring Family Links the National Societies in the region contributed to an important conference that took place in Nairobi in November 2006 in order to prepare a 10 year strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (see article on page 2). On the country



Participants at the 2006 Cooperation Workshop deliberate in their working groups.

level, SARCS continued to have the largest tracing workload in the region and ICRC gladly supported a targeted operational reform with an expanded staff set-up in the three provincial branches with the highest workload in South Africa.

As far as emergency preparedness was concerned, this year saw a number of countries witnessing National governmental elections in politically sensitive environments and National Societies were well prepared to handle any humanitarian eventualities. The ICRC’s ‘Safer Access framework’ for National Societies preparing for conflict continued to be an important component for concrete emergency preparation at the country level.

In the field of humanitarian diplomacy, ICRC sometimes benefited from the National Societies good offices with their governments in some countries. In others, ICRC continued to assist National Societies to become effective and reliable advocates vis-à-vis their governments in the ratification and implementation of IHL.

Coordination with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and partner National Societies such as the French Red Cross’ Regional Disaster Intervention platform for the Indian Ocean continued.



Françoise Krill, Head of the Pretoria Regional Delegation explains the additional emblem to participants at the annual Cooperation Workshop. ICRC

# The armed forces and police

As the custodian of international humanitarian law (IHL), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is involved in various programmes promoting knowledge, implementation and integration of IHL treaties. The organisation therefore works closely with Armed and Security Forces around the world.

## Integration of IHL with the armed forces

Part of the ICRC Pretoria Regional Delegation’s key objectives is to inform, educate and encourage the armed forces to integrate IHL or the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) into their operations.



The ICRC Delegate General for Africa, Christoph Harnisch, opened the ICRC PSF Africa Workshop in Pretoria on 13 February. ICRC/KARANGWA C, 2006.

This year, in line with this objective, the Delegation co-hosted a seminar on IHL with the South African Department of Defence (DOD). The Minister of Defence of the South African government, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, officially opened the seminar and stated that “International humanitarian law encapsulates, in the words of the ICRC Advisory Service, ‘a set of standards which seek, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict. It is rooted in the rules of ancient civilisations and religions whereby warfare has always been subject to certain principles and customs’.”

Participants were high level officers from the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) who listened to expert speakers from the SANDF, Department of Foreign Affairs and the ICRC talk on IHL, Statutory Responsibility, Repression of breaches and IHL training in the SANDF. Rear Admiral (Ret) Vijay Malhotra, from the Indian Navy, was a special guest speaker and addressed the seminar on Command Responsibility and on the role of commanders to lead by example.

For both the ICRC and the DOD, the participation of the DOD’s top structure sends out a positive signal of support to the South African Government’s commitment to comply with international law. It also signifies the acceptance of command responsibility to ensure that IHL is taught and implemented at all levels.

Throughout the year the ICRC also continued to give pre-deployment briefings to South African Forces that were deployed to various African countries, including Burundi, DRC and Sudan. These briefings give the troops an overview of the ICRC’s history, mission and mandate and the organisation’s activities in the different countries.

Cooperation with the South African National War College and the South African Military Health School (SAMHS) also continued throughout the year with the SAMHS receiving the rights to host their own Health Emergencies in Large Populations Courses from 2007.

Due to good relations with the SAMHS the ICRC was able to attend a VIP day at a mass casualty evacuation exercise which was held in October. The exercise was done as part of the SAMHS training and also served as preparation for the 2010



The Minister of Defence of the South African government, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, officially opened the ICRC and Department of Defence Seminar on IHL. ICRC/WATT A, 2006.

World Cup to be held in South Africa.

## Implementation of international human rights law to the police

The highlight of the Police and Security Forces (PSF) Programme in the region in 2006 was the ICRC-Police and Security Forces Africa Workshop which was held in February.

33 senior police officers from 18 African countries attended the workshop which was aimed at defining obstacles and solutions for implementation of the ICRC-PSF Programme. The participants were invited to evaluate the programme in its current form and to evaluate obstacles within their own police services before identifying possible solutions and suggestions for a more successful integration of those international laws pertinent to correct policing.



Members of the South African Military Health School (SAMHS) participate in a mass casualty evacuation exercise which was held in October. The ICRC was invited to attend the VIP day with SAMHS. ICRC/HAHN M, 2006.



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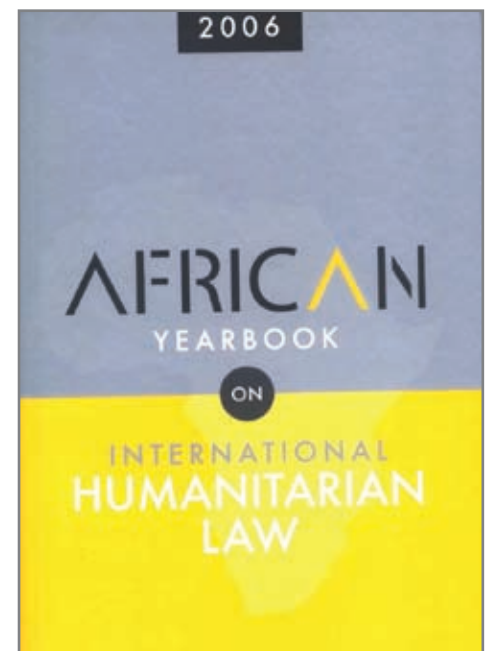
## Advanced seminar on IHL

Between 6 and 9 November 2006, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Pretoria Regional Delegation hosted an Advanced Seminar on international humanitarian law (IHL) for African academics. The Pretoria Regional Delegation, having successfully hosted five editions of the annual All Africa Course in IHL, decided to treat this year as a consolidation year – to consolidate on the contacts made with selected African academics and to consolidate the knowledge and commitment of those academics to teaching and research in IHL. The 28 participants consisted of alumni of the All Africa Course and academic interlocutors of the ICRC within the region. In all, 10 countries were represented namely Cameroon, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Nigeria, Reunion, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The format of the seminar was to have a keynote address on a particular topic of relevance to IHL, followed by formal responses from amongst the participants; whereafter, the topic was then opened up for general discussion. The topics dealt with were: Contemporary challenges to IHL; the ICRC's study on customary IHL; private security companies; the weapons conventions; the Third Protocol; prosecution and repression of war crimes; and, post conflict reconciliation. Experts from the ICRC Headquarters in Geneva and ICRC Pretoria as well as Catherine Jenkins, from the London School of Oriental and African Studies presented keynote addresses.

The level of discussion and debate in respect of all of the topics considered was both lively and stimulating. Apart from discussing key issues within IHL, an open discussion attempted to address the challenges posed to the teaching of IHL faced by African academics.

The seminar also provided a formal opportunity to launch the African Yearbook of IHL. The first edition of this journal, published by Juta Law, contains seven articles and one case note. All of the contributions consider issues of relevance to IHL generally, and to Africa more particularly. A peer reviewed publication, it is intended that the journal will, in the years ahead, become an important African forum for academic debate and discussion.



The first edition of the African Yearbook of IHL. Should you be interested in subscribing to the yearbook, at a cost of R225.00 per annum, please address your subscription request to: African Yearbook on International Humanitarian Law, The Publishers, JUTA Law, PO Box 24299, Lansdowne 7779, Western Cape.



Participants to the Advanced Seminar on IHL. ICRC/WATT A, 2006.