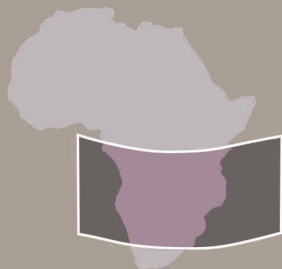




ICRC



Newsletter of the ICRC  
Pretoria Regional  
Delegation

### LOOK OUT FOR...

Red Cross/Red Crescent  
Magazine: "Our world. Your  
Move." – Issue 2, 2009.

This issue covers the Our world.Your move. Campaign which was officially launched globally on the 8th of May. This campaign is supported by [www.ourworld-yourmove.org](http://www.ourworld-yourmove.org), a unique web portal that serves as a gateway for the public to explore the world of the Red Cross and Red Crescent – the challenges faced, the work done and the people that are assisted.

The website is an interactive platform that allows people to share their stories and to show their commitment to humanity. The campaign world portal provides a way for the public to get involved, make a move and make a difference in their world.

The magazine is available on the ICRC website: <http://www.icrc.org>

### 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.

# Themba

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SECOND QUARTER



## Red Cross Celebration a big hit

The day was blessed with sunshine as South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) volunteers from the different Gauteng branches arrived at the Mary Fitzgerald Square in Newtown, Johannesburg. Staff members of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation for Red Cross and Crescent Societies joined them for the World Red Cross Day celebration. The day was also to launch the Our World Your Move campaign, which aims to get people to make a difference in the world.

Vice President of SARCS Dalmarie Steward officially opened the celebration. She highlighted the wonderful work the Red Cross carries out, not only in South Africa but also worldwide and made a call to young people to volunteer and make a difference in their communities. She emphasised that the smallest gestures can make the biggest changes and difference in people's lives.

Singer RJ Benjamin performed his song "Change the world" and the Penny whistlers Kwela Tebza, together with Tuks performed "Better days", two songs that encourage people to make a difference in the world. Both songs have also featured ICRC footage in the music videos.

The celebration was well attended as it attracted

many people and media around the area.

The SARCS Soweto choir also kept the audience dancing to their tunes.



Vice President of (SARCS) Delmarie Steward.



Popular penny whistlers Kwela Tebza.



The crowd singing along to R.J Benjamin's song "Change the world" which features ICRC footage.



2009 has been a difficult year for the ICRC worldwide, with 14 budget extensions and three colleagues being killed in Sri Lanka and others being taken hostage.

We celebrate with our colleagues in Jolo, on the release of all three hostages. The first two, Mary Jean and Andreas were released in April after their abduction in January. The third hostage Emilio was released on 11 July 2009. We wish all three strength as they recover from their ordeal.

Henry Dunant put it succinctly in A Memory of Solferino, "All can, in one way or another, each in his own sphere and within his own limitations, do something to help the good work move forward." These words are as relevant today as they were when Henry Dunant wrote them over 140 years ago. This is why the Pretoria Regional Delegation together with the Southern Africa Zone office of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the South African Red Cross Society launched the Our World. Your Move. campaign at the historic Mary Fitzgerald Square in Johannesburg. (Read more about it on page 1)

In 2009 we are also celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, which give protection to the most vulnerable during times of conflict. The Regional Delegation celebrated the 60th anniversary by making the Geneva Conventions the central theme of the 9th annual Regional Seminar of the implementation of IHL. (see page 4)

The highlight of the year was the commemoration of the 150 year anniversary of the Battle of Solferino, which the delegation celebrated by bringing together former political prisoners at a function held to open an art and photo exhibition in celebration of the 150 year anniversary. The exhibition entitled "150 years of humanity: The Red Cross in action" was on display at the Old Women's Jail at Constitution Hill until 10 July. Read more about the opening event on pages 2 and 3.

Since the last edition of Themba, the delegation has said good bye to Andrew Caswell Delegate to the Armed Forces and his lovely family. Andrew has now been replaced by Christophe Deschard. We welcome him and his family. We wish them an enjoyable stay in South Africa.

The Delegation has also had to say farewell to Annemarie Watt, the Head of Communication who has been in charge of Themba and is largely responsible for its revamping. Annemarie has been an integral part of the Delegation. She was given a fitting send off at the launch of the exhibition on 24 June 2009. We wish Annemarie, her husband Seun and daughter Gabby all the best in their new adventures in Australia. On leaving the Delegation, Annemarie had this to say: "I would like to thank the ICRC for a great opportunity to work for such an amazing organisation. I have learnt a lot in my five years here and will truly miss the work. I wish my successor all the best in her new role."

Lastly, we have also said goodbye to Siphwe Masuku, (Secretariat), who has left to spend more time with her husband and sons. We wish them lots of joy in their family time.

Janine Mosethi

## Celebrating 150 years

The Pretoria Regional Delegation hosted an art and photo exhibition to commemorate the 150-year anniversary of the Battle of Solferino.

The opening of the exhibition took place on 24 June 2009 at Constitution Hill, Johannesburg. The exhibition included artwork by Anna Mueller and photos of the Red Cross in Action, with exclusive photos of the ICRC's work during Apartheid. Guest speakers at the event included Ahmed Kathrada who officially opened the exhibition and Nicolas de Rougemont (former ICRC Regional Delegate). Although the opening was for invited guests only, it opened to members of the public from 25 June to 10 July 2009.

The venue for the exhibition was the Women's Jail which is located at Constitution Hill which is one of South Africa's most important heritage site where thousands of ordinary citizens including Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Robert Sobukwe, Albertina Sisulu, etc were imprisoned. The ICRC through its protection programme, carried out detention visits to Mr Sobukwe on Robben Island in 1963, Ahmed Kathrada and many others during the apartheid years.

Ahmed Kathrada, who is one of the Rivonia Trialists alongside Nelson Mandela and other prominent South Africans, shared some of his memories on Robben Island. In his opening address, Mr Kathrada commended the ICRC for its role in addressing some of the deprivation that he and many other prisoners endured on Robben Island.

The evening was marked by the reunion of many former political prisoners who were recipients of ICRC visits during their incarceration on Robben Island and at the Women's Jail. Many of them had not seen each other since leaving Robben Island or the Women's Jail.

The exhibition was a tribute to all these individuals and to the work of the ICRC in South Africa and many places around the world where detention visits are carried out.



Head of Delegation, Catherine Gendre, formally welcomes the invited guests to the opening of the exhibition.



Anna Mueller discusses some of her paintings.



Former political prisoners of the Women's jail and Robben Island interact with ICRC employees.



Delmarie Steward- Vice President: South African Red Cross Society, Annemarie Watt former Head of Communication (ICRC) and Isaiah Modisha: President: South African Red Cross Society

Ahmed Kathrada and Deborah Matshoba-Mabale stand with Refiloe Mapetho the granddaughter of the Reverend Mapetho who received family assistance from the ICRC whilst his son was detained on Robben Island.

Former political prisoner Sandy Oupa Lebeso and Nicolas de Rougemont.





ICRC

## PRETORIA Delegation

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Protection Delegate /

Deputy Head of Delegation:

**Kedir Awol**

Head of Communication:

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\*The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is made up by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross Red and Crescent Societies and 186 National Societies worldwide.

# Themba



## Ninth Annual Regional Seminar on IHL

The Pretoria Regional Delegation held its ninth annual regional IHL Seminar on the ratification and implementation of International Humanitarian Law from 9-12 June 2009, co-hosted by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa. The Annual Seminar was attended by participants from fifteen States in the region, including all SADC members: Botswana; Kenya; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; South Africa; Seychelles; Swaziland; Tanzania; Uganda; Zambia; Zimbabwe. The participants are all involved in the implementation of IHL in their countries.

The objective of the Seminar was to review and discuss the present state of ratification and implementation of IHL treaties in the participating countries, and to examine the content of some of these treaties, as well as specific implementation requirements and challenges these instruments face.

In recognition of the 60th Anniversary of the

Geneva Conventions in 2009, the Seminar focused on the contemporary challenges faced by the implementation of the Conventions and their Additional Protocols in the region. Other topics were also addressed, such as the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, the ICRC's model law for implementing the Cluster Munitions Convention, and the origins, meanings and best practice of the emblems. The seminar gave participants the opportunity to discern how the ICRC's Legal Advisory Service might respond to States' specific needs for support.

The Seminar also considered the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Africa, and had the honour of being addressed by Mrs. Fatou Bensouda, Deputy Prosecutor of the ICC, both in her opening address and subsequently in plenary session. A further notable contribution was made by Colonel Chris Vernon of the British Army, who shared some of his experiences working on compliance with IHL while on operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere.



Participants to the 9th Annual Regional Seminar on the implementation of International Humanitarian Law.