

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1974)

Rubrik: Southern Africa

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 29.03.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

ICRC had received replies concerning 1,052 cases, representing about 6,300 persons.

Southern Africa

The ICRC continued its visits to persons detained in southern Africa for offences or on grounds of a political nature throughout 1974.

In addition, as it was considered necessary that the ICRC should be established there on a permanent basis, a regional delegate for southern Africa was appointed. The new delegate took up his post in September, on the understanding that missions to support his action would set out from Geneva, with special emphasis on prison visits. As a general rule, a medical delegate accompanied the visiting delegates on each round of visits.

It should be borne in mind that the categories of persons which the ICRC is authorized to visit vary with each country. In *Rhodesia*, ICRC delegates may only visit, in principle, persons detained administratively who are in custody without judgement, but not prisoners submitted to interrogation, undergoing trial or sentenced. In November 1974, however, for the first time, the ICRC was authorized to visit prisons in Salisbury and Khami where sentenced prisoners of all categories were held. In *South Africa*, the ICRC may visit sentenced political prisoners only, to the exclusion of others. In the *Portuguese territories*, prior to the events of 25 April 1974 in Portugal, the ICRC could visit all those who at the time of the visit came under the General Directorate of Security, whatever their legal status; after 25 April, the ICRC delegates had access to those persons, whatever their category, who were detained for offences or on grounds of a political nature.

Once they had been authorized to visit prisoners, ICRC delegates could, in all the above cases, talk to them at leisure without witnesses.

In these countries, as elsewhere, not only did the ICRC make suggestions to the competent authorities regarding specific improvements in the detention conditions observed, but it also en-

deavoured, when needful, to obtain access to other categories of detainees and to visit them under a regular schedule.

Moreover, with the purpose of assisting the competent authorities in their task, the ICRC delegates organized the regular distribution of relief supplies in the places of detention which they visited. The total amount spent on relief of this type in 1974 was 37,600 francs. ¹

The following places of detention were visited in 1974:

South Africa, May-June 1974

Barbeton (24 May), Pretoria Local (27 May), Robben Island (28 May-1 June).

Total: 336 detainees.

Angola, October 1974

Salazar Military Camp (10 and 11 October), Casa de Reclusão, Luanda (14, 15 and 16 October), Luanda Military Hospital (18 October), Pereira d'Eça (21 October), Bentiaba—formerly São Nicolau Camp (22 October).

Total: 262 detainees of all categories, including 31 persons imprisoned for offences or on grounds of a political nature. Each of these last 31 persons was released in turn, by order of the Military Commandant in Angola, as soon as the ICRC delegate's report on the detainee's identity and general status reached him.

Bentiaba camp was closed down by the Minister of Justice, following the ICRC delegate's visit there, and its inmates transferred to Luanda.

Rhodesia, May 1974 and October-November 1974

First round of visits:

Salisbury Remand (10 May), Chikurubi (11 May), Marandellas (11 May), Wankie (13 May), Que Que (15 May), Wha Wha (16 May), Gwelo (17 May), Hokonui Ranch (18 May), Sengwe (20 May), Buffalo Range (21 May).

Total: 330 detainees.

¹ Southern Africa only. See also Table of Relief, p. 57 of this report.

Second round of visits:

Marandellas (29 October), Chikurubi (29 October), Salisbury Remand (30 October), Buffalo Range (1 November), Gatooma (4 November), Que Que (4 November), Gwelo (5 November), Wha Wha (6 and 7 November), Hokonui Ranch (8 November), Wankie (12 November).

Total: 356 detainees.

Following those visits, authorization was granted to the ICRC for the first time to visit the prisons at Khami (19, 20 and 21 November) and Salisbury (22, 23, 25 and 26 November), holding about 3,300 sentenced prisoners of all categories.

Mozambique, January-February 1974 and December 1974

First round of visits:

Machava (22, 23 and 26 January), Ponta Mahone (24 January), Tete 2 (28 and 29 January), Tete 1 (30 and 31 January), Vila Cabral (1 February), Nampula (6 and 7 February), Quelimane (8 February), Nicoadala (9 February).

Total: 1,900 detainees.

Second round of visits:

Beira, Military Police Prison (4 December); Beira, Public Security Police Prison (5 December); Machava (7 December).

Total: 31 detainees.

Following this second round of visits, the detainees were transferred to Sommerschield Prison (Lourenço Marques).

In June 1974, the regional delegate for southern Africa helped to arrange the repatriation from Tanzania to Mozambique of a five-year old girl who had been cared for by FRELIMO after the fighting which occurred on 8 January 1974 at Chipembe (Cabo Delgado district in the north-east of Mozambique).

In September, after the fighting for the recapture of Lourenço Marques radio club by the Portuguese Army and FRELIMO, the regional delegate despatched by air medical supplies, blood plasma and foodstuffs to a value of 53,000 Swiss francs. He also attended a joint meeting of the Provisional Government, FRELIMO and the

local Red Cross branch with a view to finding a solution to the problem of food supplies for the famished populations in African suburbs.

* * *

In 1974, material assistance furnished by the ICRC to local Red Cross Societies in southern Africa amounted to 302,700 francs, including gifts of foodstuffs from the European Economic Community and the Swiss Government.¹

Relations with liberation movements

The ICRC continued its programme of medical assistance to liberation movements. Medical supplies and equipment, and an ambulance, to a total value of 76,100 francs,¹ were sent to the following movements: COREMO, FNLA, FRELIMO, MPLA, PAC, PAIGC, SWAPO, ZANU and ZAPU.² Some of these also received foodstuffs (wheat flour, powdered milk, etc.).

Five Portuguese prisoners held in two MPLA centres in the People's Republic of the Congo were visited by the ICRC. Four of these prisoners were released under ICRC auspices on 5 November at Belise (Cabinda district), the fifth having been freed at some earlier date.

The ICRC also visited on 26 May two Portuguese prisoners, and on 17 November four others, captured by the FNLA and detained at Kinkuzu (Zaire).

On 9 November, a group of armed men claiming to belong to FLEC (Cabinda Liberation Front) took twenty-three persons of Portuguese nationality as hostages after having captured a Portuguese barracks at Massabi (Cabinda). On 15 and 16 November,

¹ See Table of Relief Supplies on p. 59 of this report.

² COREMO Mozambique Revolutionary Committee
FNLA National Front for the Liberation of Angola
FRELIMO Mozambique Liberation Front
MPLA People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola
PAC Pan Africanist Congress of Azania
PAIGC African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde
SWAPO South West Africa People's Organization
ZANU Zimbabwe African National Union
ZAPU Zimbabwe African People's Union

when Portuguese troops attacked in order to recapture the camp, all the men involved in the original operation re-crossed the border into the territory of the People's Republic of the Congo. The ICRC, with the consent of the Congolese Government, sent a delegate to Pointe Noire to visit seventeen Portuguese soldiers and customs officials who were still detained there on 29 November. Six civilians had been repatriated to Massabi three days beforehand.

As customary, the ICRC delegates who carried out the above-mentioned visits saw the prisoners without witnesses and brought them material assistance.

Chile

During 1974, the ICRC continued its action on behalf of victims of the events of September 1973, the Chilean authorities having permitted ICRC delegates to visit most places of detention as from 20 September 1973. By 31 December 1973 they had made 114 visits to sixty-one places of detention and met several thousand detainees held by the military authorities.¹

Not only was ICRC action continued in 1974 but its field of activity was considerably extended, particularly with regard to relief. The number of delegates increased accordingly. From ten delegates at the beginning of the year, it had risen by June to twelve and by December to eighteen, aided by a dozen Chilean assistants. Special attention was given to the need for doctors, relief experts (logistics) and telecommunication experts.

The emergency activities which had been a feature of ICRC operations in Chile in 1973 were succeeded by long-term programmes of protection and assistance. With such programmes and the reorganization of the delegation, the ICRC was able to respond to needs more promptly and to render assistance more appropriate to the needs of the victims of the events.

Visits to places of detention

As they had done from September to December 1973, the ICRC delegates continued their visits to places of detention in different

¹ See Annual Report 1973, pp. 33 and 34.