

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1989)

Rubrik: Communication

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: 13.12.2025

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

INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD

Coverage of ICRC field activities in 1989 was provided by information delegates working on the spot for various periods and by the media, which attended special meetings organized by the ICRC and showed particular interest in the institution's large-scale operations. Budgetary constraints forced the ICRC temporarily to stop sending special reporting teams to the field to gather material for public information.

In 1989 the ICRC delegations in southern Sudan, Pakistan, Lebanon and Romania had one, sometimes two information delegates on their staff. These specialized delegates were responsible for receiving and briefing the many newspaper correspondents visiting the delegations and for producing articles for publication by the ICRC and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In addition, ICRC press attachés travelled to Cambodia, Thailand and Lebanon, bringing back articles and photographs. In June the institution sent a journalist to Mozambique.

Special meetings were held for members of the press to enhance their understanding of the basic rules of humanitarian law, the principles that govern ICRC work and the institution's ongoing activities. Two seminars were held, in February and April respectively, one in Tunis for French-speaking African journalists and the other in Kingston, Jamaica, for Caribbean journalists.

ICRC spokesmen were invited to participate in numerous discussions and conferences, organized by various press associations, about the protection of journalists on dangerous missions and the responsibility of the media in the area of human rights. The ICRC thus further developed indispensable contacts with the world media.

INFORMATION FROM HEADQUARTERS

During this eventful year the ICRC kept the public abreast of its activities on a monthly basis through the *ICRC Bulletin* and regular radio broadcasts. It also issued 52 press releases to the media on major events that affected its work.

ICRC spokesmen and press attachés granted numerous interviews to radio, television and newspaper journalists.

In addition, the institution held its annual press conference for the world media at the beginning of the year and on that occasion the President of the ICRC took stock and outlined the future perspectives of humanitarian activities worldwide.

The media from all continents were especially interested in the abduction of Elio Erriquez and Emanuel Christen in southern Lebanon, the efforts made by the media in Switzerland and Lebanon to hasten their release, the hazardous operation in southern Sudan, the tension between Mauritania and Senegal, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the events in Romania.

The information officers of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies continued to receive a steady supply of data enabling them to answer questions from their national media and providing them with material for their publications. Press kits containing articles, black and white photographs, slides and maps on ICRC and National Society activities in Afghanistan, Pakistan, southern Sudan, Senegal, Mauritania, Lebanon and Mozambique were sent to the National Societies for public distribution. In addition more than 80 news flashes of an operational nature were sent by telex or telefax to their information staff.

Several National Society information officers visited ICRC headquarters in 1989, thereby strengthening co-operation between their Society and the ICRC in the information field.

Commemoration of the Movement's 125th anniversary

Several events were organized in 1989 to commemorate, for the second year running, the 125th anniversary of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This year's themes were the protection of human life, and development, dissemination and respect for international humanitarian law. Four major events marked this second phase:

- The "**Humanitarian Gesture**" campaign: over 70 governments responded in 1989 to an appeal launched by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for a worldwide humanitarian mobilization by taking specific steps, such as providing assistance to refugees, displaced persons, separated families, detainees and

torture victims. Other "humanitarian gestures" announced during the year included financial contributions to the National Societies, the League and the ICRC and legislative measures such as ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. Mr. Mario Villarroel Lander, President of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the ICRC, announced the results of this campaign at a press conference on 8 May 1989.

- **The 125th anniversary of the 1864 Geneva Convention:** a solemn ceremony was held on 22 August in Bern, the capital of Switzerland, which is the depositary State for the Geneva Conventions. The event, which was attended by Mr. Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the ICRC, and Mr. Karl Kennel, President of the Swiss Red Cross, was followed by a press conference. A similar ceremony was held on 13 October 1989 during the 44th United Nations General Assembly in New York. It was attended by Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, UN Secretary-General, and by Mr. René Felber, Swiss Federal Councillor, and the President of the ICRC. The occasion marked the opening of an exhibition entitled "Humanity in the midst of war", created with the support of the Swiss Confederation and in co-operation with the Swiss Red Cross and the Swiss Federal Archives. The exhibition was displayed in the visitors' lobby of United Nations headquarters in Manhattan.
- **"Supercamp 89":** This event, organized from 1 to 14 September jointly by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC, the Italian Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross, brought together in Castiglione, northern Italy, and in Geneva, the cradle of the Red Cross, over 500 young men and women of 132 nationalities representing 125 National Societies. At the end of the camp, a special message from the youth of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement was presented to leading officials of the Movement and to representatives of the United Nations, the Swiss Confederation and the City of Geneva, who were gathered for the occasion in front of the UN building in Geneva.

Publications

Book fairs

In April the ICRC presented its recent publications to the many interested people who visited the third Geneva

Press and Book Fair. Owing to Geneva's international character, the publications were displayed in all available language versions, that is mainly English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese and German.

In May the Paris Book Fair provided another opportunity for the ICRC to present a wide selection of its French-language publications.

The French Red Cross also participated in the event by displaying its own publications and manning the stand with volunteers who informed visitors about its national activities.

Publications

The Publishing and Documentation Service continued to issue publications in languages other than English, French and Spanish. Several publications were thus translated into German, Portuguese and Italian.

The following list includes only material published in Switzerland. ICRC delegations around the world also produced publications locally.

In 1989 the ICRC issued the following publications:

- *The ICRC Worldwide 1988* (English, French, Spanish, Arabic and German).
- *1988 Annual Report* (English, French, Spanish, Arabic and German).
- *International Institute of Humanitarian Law (San Remo) — Conclusions on family reunification* — offprint from the *Review*, November-December 1988 (English, French and Spanish).
- Eberlin, Philippe: *Underwater acoustic identification of hospital ships* — offprint from the *Review*, November-December 1988 (English, French, Spanish and German).
- Haug, Hans: *Efforts to eliminate torture through international law* — offprint from the *Review*, January-February 1989 (English, French, Spanish and German).
- Mubiala, Mutoy: *African States and the promotion of humanitarian principles* — offprint from the *Review*, March-April 1989 (English, French, Spanish and German).
- Aubert, Maurice: *From the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen of 26 August 1789 to present-day international humanitarian law* — offprint from the *Review*, July-August 1989 (English, French and German).

- *International law concerning the conduct of hostilities — Collection of Hague Conventions and some other treaties* (English only).
- *Index analytique 1975-1987 de la Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge* (French only).
- Durand, André: *The Geneva Conference of August 1864 as seen by the Geneva press* — offprint from the *Review*, July-August 1989 (English and French).
- Penna, L.R.: *Written and customary provisions relating to the conduct of hostilities and treatment of victims of armed conflicts in ancient India* — offprint from the *Review*, July-August 1989 (English and French).
- Guillermand, Jean: *The contribution of army medical officers to the emergence of humanitarian law* — offprint from the *Review*, July-August 1989 (English, French, Spanish and German).

The following publications were reprinted:

- *The International Committee of the Red Cross: what it is, what it does* (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese and German).
- Junod, Marcel: *Warrior without weapons* (English and French).

The ICRC also translated the following publications:

Into French:

- Mulinen, Frédéric de: *Manuel sur le droit de la guerre pour les forces armées*.
- Mulinen, Frédéric de: *Règles élémentaires du droit de la guerre: résumé pour les commandants* — extract from the author's work: *Manuel sur le droit de la guerre pour les forces armées*.

Into English:

- Verhaegen, Jacques: *Legal obstacles to prosecution of breaches of humanitarian law* — extract from the *Review*, November-December 1987.

Into Arabic:

- *Resolutions of the Council of Delegates (adopted at its session of 27 November 1987 in Rio de Janeiro)* — offprint from the *Review*, November-December 1987.

- *Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross, Geneva 1986: Resolutions of the International Conference and of the Council of Delegates* — offprint from the *Review*, November-December 1986.

Into Portuguese:

- *O Comité Internacional da Cruz Vermelha e os diminuídos físicos*
- *O Comité Internacional da Cruz Vermelha e os distúrbios e tensões interiores: atividades de proteção e assistência do CICV nas situações não abrangidas pelo direito internacional humanitário*. Translated by the ICRC regional delegation in Buenos Aires from the 1986 Spanish document.

Into German:

- Baccino Astrada, Alma: *Handbuch der Rechte and Pflichten des Sanitäts-personals in bewaffneten Konflikten*.

The ICRC published jointly with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights:

- *Coloquio sobre la protección jurídica internacional de la persona humana en las situaciones de excepción* — Mexico, 16-21 March 1987.

Radio programmes

The Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS) continued to broadcast its twice-monthly shortwave programmes throughout the world in six languages.

Omnidirectional broadcasts were transmitted on the ICRC frequency (7210 kHz) in English, French, German and Spanish, while directional programmes were beamed to Africa, the Middle East, Asia, North America and Latin America in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Portuguese using air time made available by Swiss Radio International. In all, RCBS is on the air for about one hundred hours each year.

In addition to its shortwave broadcasts, RCBS mailed taped programmes each month to the ICRC delegations, more than 50 National Societies and various national networks and local radio stations that retransmit them in part or in full. A monthly programme in Portuguese was also sent to ten radio stations and a broadcast in German was made every two weeks for a radio station in New York. In 1989 RCBS began to produce feature programmes on

subjects of ongoing interest. Two such programmes — one on political detention and the other on respect for the emblem — were produced this year in English and French, then sent to the National Societies, the ICRC delegations and the radio stations that already receive the monthly programmes.

All RCBS programmes are produced at the ICRC studio in Geneva. They are broadcast free of charge thanks to the technical co-operation of the Swiss Postal and Telecommunications Administration and to Swiss Radio International, which transmits the programmes.

In 1989 listeners showed their interest in RCBS programmes by sending over 1,400 letters and listeners' reports. Their addresses were placed on computer file so that the new programme schedules could automatically be sent to them. The schedules were also regularly sent to the National Societies and to over 200 radio clubs worldwide for mention in their publications.

RCBS maintained contact with radio clubs and representatives of international radio stations broadcasting over shortwave by participating in the conference "International Radio Days" and in the annual convention of the Association of North American Radio Clubs (ANARC).

As in previous years RCBS co-operated with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in preparation for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May. The taped message for 8 May was sent to the National Societies (200 copies), the ICRC delegations and various radio stations.

Also for 8 May a programme on ICRC activities for victims of the Afghan conflict was co-produced in French by Radio France International (RFI) and the ICRC. The programme went out over RFI wavelengths and was sent to RFI's 50 broadcasting partners. It was also made available to 41 National Societies. In addition a special programme for 8 May on international humanitarian law was co-produced in Arabic by Swiss Radio International and the ICRC. The programme was transmitted by SRI and sent to 18 National Societies.

During the December events in Romania, while the fighting was going on, RCBS sent special programmes to several international shortwave radio stations. The brief programmes, produced from 26 to 29 December in English, French, German, Romanian and Hungarian, provided regular news bulletins and discussed medical aid and other assistance, respect for the emblem, the protection of prisoners and the rules of international humanitarian law. The programmes were broadcast by Radio Free Europe, Deutsche Welle and Swiss Radio International, and the texts were sent by telefax to the BBC language services concerned.

Audiovisual activities

The Audiovisual Communication Division (DICA) produced the following video films in 1989:

- *Retrospective 88*: an overview of ICRC activities in 1988 (English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic).
- *Video News Kabul* (February 89): co-produced with French Swiss Television, four clips on tracing work, medical activities, the ICRC hospital and security for the ICRC delegation in Kabul (international soundtrack).
- *Video News Southern Sudan* (May 89): co-produced with Italian Swiss Television, five clips on logistic problems and food distributions, health conditions, agriculture (cattle and seed), leprosy and orphans (international soundtrack).
- *Operation Nehal* (May-June 89): emergency food aid for displaced families in southern Lebanon (international soundtrack).

and a German version of the film *To walk, again*.

Photographic coverage was given to two ICRC operations:

- Southern Sudan (April-May 89).
- Senegal-Mauritania (May-June 89).

A large amount of graphic work was carried out for events organized in Switzerland by the Public Relations Service (exhibition in Lucern, KOMM 89), Italy (Super-camp 89, International Red Cross Museum in Castiglione) and France (Illzach comic strip festival).

The International Review of the Red Cross

The *International Review of the Red Cross*, the ICRC's official publication, is at the service of all the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and seeks faithfully to reflect the Movement's guiding principles and to record its activities for the outside world.

In 1989 the *Review* strove to voice the concerns of the Movement's members by keeping its pages open to the humanitarian issues of our times, covering a wide variety of subjects and encouraging people from all over the world to submit articles.

The *Review* published three important special issues in 1989: "The struggle against torture" (January-February), "The red cross and red crescent emblems" (September-October) and "The Fundamental Principles of the Red

Cross and Red Crescent” (November-December). It also dealt with several aspects of international humanitarian law in Africa and the dissemination thereof among the armed forces.

The *Review* started a series of articles on the origins of international humanitarian law, covering subjects such as the contribution of army medical officers to the emergence of humanitarian law over the years and the written and customary provisions relating to the conduct of hostilities in ancient India.

To mark the 125th anniversary of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field, which was signed on 22 August 1864, the *Review* published in-depth articles and studies by prominent figures both within and outside the Movement and reported on the main commemorative events held in Bern and New York. In this connection, it underscored the close co-operation between the United Nations and the ICRC in the area of humanitarian law.

Other events organized to commemorate the Movement’s 125th anniversary, such as the “Humanitarian Gesture” campaign and “Supercamp 1989”, were also described and commented in its pages; those events inspired former National Society leaders to analyse the commemoration’s profound meaning, especially for young people. The celebration of the bicentenary of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen of 26 August 1789 gave rise to a com-

parative study of the provisions of this Declaration and the principles and rules of humanitarian law.

The *Review* also highlighted current events in its summaries of ICRC activities in Geneva and in the field, and provided regular information on the Movement’s major events, such as statutory meetings, international or regional seminars and events organized by other humanitarian institutions such as the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) in San Remo.

In addition, the *Review* notified readers of the recognition by the ICRC of new National Societies and the ratification or accession by 13 States to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. It also included reviews of 15 publications on humanitarian law or humanitarian issues and regularly informed readers about new ICRC and League publications.

Visits to the ICRC

In 1989 a total of 7,573 people (members of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, diplomats, officers and students from nursing, vocational and secondary schools) visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva, either in groups or individually. They were given talks on ICRC activities, illustrated by films. The Central Tracing Agency also organized visits.