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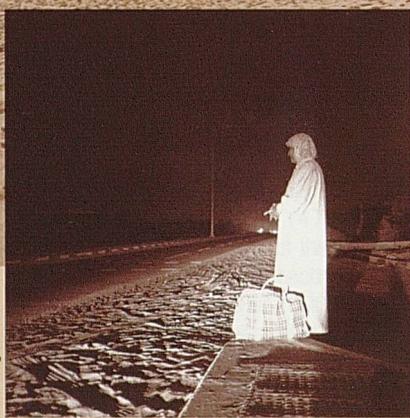
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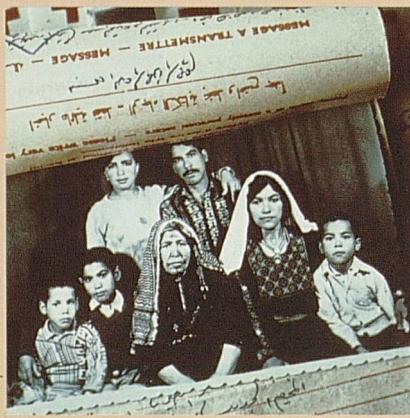
ICRC

N. Danziger/ICRC



Waiting at 4 a.m. for the bus to go on a family visit to her detained husband (Gaza).

F. Bayy/ICRC



Red Cross messages have helped several generations to stay in touch.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Delegations

- Egypt
- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Yemen

Regional delegations

- Kuwait
- Tunis

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	16,617,220
Assistance	22,302,126
Preventive Action	6,063,306
Cooperation with National Societies	4,214,870
General	959,486
Overheads	3,070,931

53,227,939



 ICRC regional delegation

 ICRC delegation

The year 2001 was marked by two developments of major international significance, both of which had a profound impact on the Middle East and North Africa – the escalating violence in the occupied and the autonomous Palestinian territories, and the devastating terrorist attacks on New York on 11 September with their subsequent international repercussions.

The consequences of the 11 September attacks were felt throughout the region, prompting governments to tighten security measures and to rein in opposition forces. Most affected were Iran, which neighbours Afghanistan, and Yemen, where the precarious balance between tribes, political parties and the military was put to severe test.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

In Israel, the autonomous and the occupied territories both sides were caught up in an inexorable spiral of violence by the end of 2001. The escalation of armed clashes, numerous Israeli missile attacks and an upsurge in suicide bombings by Palestinians throughout the year had left hundreds dead and thousands wounded. Meanwhile, living conditions for the inhabitants of the occupied territories had become increasingly difficult, with restrictions on movement and activity leading to a steady impoverishment of the population.

Over the year Iraq came under growing international pressure to comply with relevant UN resolutions. At the same time, the effects of the trade sanctions continued to weigh heavily on the civilian population, despite the UN's oil-for-food programme.

Israel, the occupied and the autonomous territories

The ICRC delegation in Israel, the occupied and the autonomous territories adapted its structure in response to the developments in 2001, doubling the number of delegates present and the year's budget. ICRC delegates deployed across the occupied territories facilitated the evacuation of the wounded and sick by giving support to the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS). They helped the civilian population to cope with the severe restrictions on their movements, which affected all aspects of daily life, for instance by facilitating the crossing of checkpoints in emergencies, access to water and the harvesting of olives. Basic food and other relief supplies were distributed to the inhabitants of the most vulnerable villages. The some 6,000 people affected by the Israel Defense Forces' house destruction policy received tents and material support, distributed in coordination with other humanitarian organizations.

As lead agency in this context, the ICRC coordinated the relief response of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which saw the involvement of some 30 National Societies over the year. An ICRC-led coordination unit including representatives of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the PRCS and other National Societies met regularly in the field to discuss their activities and ensure a consistent approach. The ICRC also strengthened its direct cooperation with the PRCS and the Magen David Adom (MDA).

The ICRC pursued its visits to Israeli and Palestinian places of detention. Family visits to detainees ran into considerable difficulties despite the ICRC's efforts. The organization took advantage of every opportunity to make known its concerns on humanitarian issues and to foster better knowledge of and respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) and the work of the ICRC, the MDA and the PRCS.

The delegation's efforts to ensure respect for IHL were underpinned by a mission to the region by the ICRC's Director-General in November, and by the statement made at the Special Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, held in Geneva on 5 December. These reaffirmed the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the territories occupied since 1967 by Israel, highlighted humanitarian issues, and expressed concern about violations of IHL perpetrated by both sides.

Iraq

In Iraq, the ICRC continued to focus its attention on the problems in humanitarian terms still outstanding after two international conflicts, now aggravated by 11 years of trade sanctions. Assistance programmes continued to rehabilitate infrastructure in the areas of water and sanitation, primary health care, prosthetics/orthotics, and psychiatry, in accordance with an integrated approach which was

backed up by on-the-job training for staff at the various facilities.

The ICRC's position regarding the impact of the economic sanctions remained unchanged. The mechanisms set up to alleviate hardship, such as the oil-for-food programme, and the work of humanitarian organizations have had a favourable effect, but are nowhere near enough to enable the Iraqi civilian population to cope with their daily problems. In 2001 the scale of the ICRC's projects in Iraq, combined with the quality of its dialogue with the Iraqi authorities at all levels and the fact that very few other humanitarian agencies were present in the country, meant that the ICRC was again widely considered as a reference for the humanitarian situation in Iraq. With large-scale projects for the rehabilitation of hospitals drawing to a close, both the number of expatriates and expenses were reduced in 2001. New programmes included mine-awareness activities in the country's southern provinces.

Iran

The developments in and around Afghanistan led the ICRC to increase the number of supply lines for its activities in the country. Despite the fact that the ICRC had not had any permanent expatriate presence in Iran since 1992, under an agreement with the Iranian authorities it opened a logistics base in Mashhad near the Afghan border in October. One month later, the ICRC President was received by the highest Iranian authorities, who confirmed this agreement. Throughout this process the ICRC received sound support from the Iranian Red Crescent Society. Thanks to these arrangements, thousands of tonnes of food and other emergency supplies were delivered to Herat and the Ghor region in Afghanistan.

Detention

In the course of the year the ICRC visited detainees in Israel, the occupied and the autonomous territories, and in the Western Sahara, Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait, Yemen and Iraq.

Despite the ICRC's efforts, the process of resolving the issue of prisoners of war (POWs) from the Iran-Iraq war continued to lose momentum. Over the previous three years this process had led to the repatriation of over 10,000 Iraqi POWs held in Iran and a few hundred Iranians detained in Iraq. Only in November 2001 did Iraq and Iran resume their discussions on the matter, which led to the repatriation of several hundred Iraqi POWs, under ICRC auspices, at the beginning of 2002.

The ICRC spared no effort to secure the release and repatriation of all 1,477 Moroccan prisoners still detained by the Polisario Front. However it was only on 2 January 2002 that the release and repatriation of a group of 115 prisoners was agreed, following mediation by the Spanish government. The ICRC remained deeply concerned about the plight of the remaining prisoners, most of whom had been in captivity for over 20 years. In June 2001, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution calling on the parties to meet their obligations under IHL and to settle the question of prisoners and missing persons irrespective of the implementation of the political aspects of the 1991 UN peace plan.

The ICRC as a neutral intermediary

As in previous years, the ICRC organized consultation meetings to deal with the issue of persons unaccounted for as a result of the 1991 Gulf war. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Great Britain and France participated in the three meetings held during the year. Iraq has not taken part in the Tripartite Commission process since 1999.

In Lebanon, the ICRC made regular representations to Hezbollah regarding the four Israeli nationals held since October 2000, with a view to obtaining information about their fate or whereabouts to pass on to their families. During his visit to the region in November 2001, the ICRC Director-General backed up these efforts in his discussions with the various parties. He also made strong representations to the Israeli authorities regarding ICRC visits to two Lebanese nationals who were detained in Israel and to whom the ICRC did not have access in 2001.

Cooperation with National Societies

The conflicts in Israel and the occupied territories and in Afghanistan led to increased participation in ICRC operations by the region's National Societies. The Iranian, Kuwaiti, Syrian and United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Societies were among those who made a particular contribution in this respect. A concerted approach in the Movement's relief activities was ensured by the ICRC, which organized regular coordination meetings between the different Movement partners in the field. In Yemen, Red Crescent volunteers, in cooperation with the Netherlands Red Cross and the ICRC, provided assistance for mentally ill detainees. In Algeria, the Red Crescent continued its programmes for women and children traumatized by violence, with ICRC support. Finally, National Societies across the region were encouraged to take part in IHL dissemination programmes conducted by the ICRC.

Dissemination/communication

The ICRC considerably built up its Regional Promotion Office in Cairo, which provided a multitude of different services for the entire region. These included publications in Arabic, the production of television and radio series, and the development of specific tools for the dissemination of IHL among armed forces, universities and schools. Preparations were under way for the launch of the ICRC's first Arabic Website in 2003.

EGYPT

Personnel:
3 expatriates
18 locally hired staff

The ICRC concentrates on promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law and its incorporation into national legislation in Egypt, through its close cooperation with the Egyptian National Committee for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law, and across the Arab world, through its cooperation with the Arab League. It also organizes and supports training in humanitarian law for the armed and security forces and for civilian and military magistrates, and promotes the inclusion of this and related subjects in university and school curricula. These efforts are backed by technical and academic support for implementation bodies, the production and distribution of teaching materials and other dissemination tools, and capacity-building activities for trainers, also within the Egyptian Red Crescent Society. An increasing number of regional activities, including communication and relations with the media, are carried out from Cairo.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	108,740
Assistance	3,084
Preventive Action	1,033,110
Cooperation with National Societies	98,949
General	0
Overheads	80,183
	1,324,066



 ICRC delegation

CONTEXT

Situated at the crossroads between Africa and the Middle East, Egypt is a key player in the Arab world, notably as a regional peacemaker and mediator. In particular, it plays a vital role in the search for a peaceful settlement to the conflict in the Middle East.

The situation in Egypt remained calm during the war waged in Afghanistan following the 11 September attacks in the United States. There were reports of arrests in the aftermath of the attacks but it was difficult to determine the exact number of people detained. A number of individuals were extradited to Egypt, notably from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Azerbaijan, Syria,

Uruguay and Sweden. Security issues did not appear to be a major concern for visitors to Egypt, as evidenced by a perceptible surge in tourism towards the end of the year.

Egypt, and indeed the Arab world in general, focused its attention on the deadlock in Israel, the occupied and the autonomous territories. The media reflected the growing anger of the Egyptian and Arab people in the face of the steadily deteriorating situation in the occupied and the autonomous territories, and the toll it had taken on civilians for over a year. Regular closures of the Rafah border post by the Israeli authorities in 2001 often meant several days' wait for thousands of Palestinians on the Egyptian side who were trying to re-enter Gaza. The ICRC conducted a survey in August to determine the needs, in humanitarian terms, of the stranded Palestinian civilians. Subsequently it delivered sufficient medical equipment and supplies for a period of three months. Contacts established with the local authorities ensured that the ICRC was kept abreast of developments in the border area. The ICRC also followed up on a few cases of Egyptians reported missing as a result of the Gulf war.

On the economic front, the value of the local currency declined (by 30% as compared with 2000), while hard currency revenues fell steadily as a result of the 11 September events, the fall in oil prices and a reduction in the number of Egyptians working in Gulf States, notably Saudi Arabia.

Other humanitarian organizations present in Egypt included UNHCR, which assisted African refugees seeking asylum, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Food Programme (WFP), which had its regional base in Cairo, UNICEF and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). There were also local NGOs, such as the Human Rights Centre for Assistance to Prisoners, and Christian organizations aiding refugees from southern Sudan.

ICRC ACTION

AUTHORITIES

The challenge of translating States' legal obligations into action is common to all areas of international law. The creation in Egypt in 2000 of a National Committee on International Humanitarian Law paved the way for steady progress in the promotion of this body of law.

Thanks to its close cooperation with the National IHL Committee, the ICRC continued to make its role and activities better known. The ICRC Director-General's mission to Egypt in late December helped consolidate relations with contacts in the government and religious circles. The ICRC ensured that every member of parliament had a copy of its *Handbook for Parliamentarians* and documents on its mandate and activities in Arabic. Information on ICRC activities was regularly dispatched to contacts in the Egyptian government and the Arab League, and to Arab and other diplomats in Egypt. This information campaign was intensified after the 11 September attacks in the US.

Courses, presentations and dissemination sessions on IHL, the ICRC and its mandate and activities, and the Fundamental Red Cross/Red Crescent Principles continued throughout 2001. Sessions and courses were conducted for 80 mid-ranking parliamentary officials (three 18-hour sessions), magistrates, diplomats (one eight-hour session for 50 participants), deputy public prosecutors and representatives of humanitarian organizations.

Rapid progress was made in the promotion of IHL, which was included in the training programme for magistrates, both civilian and military. Implementation of the cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Justice and the ICRC enabled Ministry officials, especially those involved in the promotion of IHL within the National Centre for Judiciary Studies, to become familiar with the ICRC. A total of 10 training sessions on IHL (108 hours in all), attended by 715 magistrates, formed the crux of ICRC dissemination activities in Egypt. The organization also sponsored the training of five magistrates at the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunis and the International Human Rights Institute in Strasbourg.

Implementation of humanitarian law

The group within the National Committee responsible for drafting a new law on the red cross/red crescent emblem completed its work. A bill was prepared for submission to the National Committee in 2002, and subsequently to the Council of Ministers for approval.

In view of the deteriorating situation in Israel, the occupied and the autonomous territories, and following the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention held in Geneva on 5 December to discuss application of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied territories, the Egyptian authorities became increasingly interested in working with the ICRC on defining a mechanism for implementation of the Conference's final resolution.

In July a high-level Egyptian delegation visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva for an exchange of views on ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The meeting was crucial to Egypt's progress towards ratification of the Statute. Subsequently, the Egyptian IHL Committee began preparations for a national meeting of experts, scheduled for January 2002, to work out details of the process for ratification and implementation of the ICC Statute. Meanwhile, studies continued on the compatibility of Egyptian legislation for the repression of war crimes with the provisions of IHL.

The Arab League

Founded in Cairo in 1945, the League of Arab States encompasses all the Arab countries. As part of its efforts to disseminate information on its mandate and activities in the Middle East, particularly in Israel, the occupied and the autonomous territories, the ICRC maintained its contacts with the Egyptian authorities, representatives of the Arab League and ambassadors of Arab countries, and continued to supply them with documents in Arabic. Such contacts included meetings between the ICRC and the Secretary-General of the Arab League.

The ICRC, in cooperation with the National IHL Committee, the Arab League and the Egyptian Red Crescent, organized a first regional round-table conference for Arab IHL experts in May. The conference discussed national measures for the implementation of IHL and adopted a plan of action to this end. It also established a follow-up committee comprising representatives of the ICRC and of the Arab League with responsibility for regional coordination of IHL implementation. A subsequent conference held in Amman in September and attended by the Cairo-based regional coordinator for the ICRC's Advisory Service and members of the Yemeni and Jordanian National Committees sought to help the latter set priorities and establish a plan of action. These conferences provided the ICRC with an opportunity to extend knowledge of its mandate to a larger audience. The follow-up committee met in December to draw up regional IHL programmes to be implemented in 2002. In addition, the regional coordinator for the ICRC Advisory Service went to Yemen as part of the IHL plan of action, and to support measures already initiated by the Yemeni National IHL Committee.

In 2001 plans were made to convene the first regional seminars for Arab magistrates and police forces under the umbrella of the Arab League. This effort was initiated by the ICRC in cooperation with the authorities in the different countries concerned.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Every State party to the Geneva Conventions is responsible for training and instructing its armed forces in the rules of IHL. The creation of the Egyptian National IHL Committee paved the way for more extensive promotion of IHL among the armed and security forces.

Armed forces

The ICRC maintained contacts with the military Liaison Agency with International Organizations to discuss the incorporation of IHL into training courses. At the request of the agency, the ICRC gave presentations during a course for military observers on IHL and the relationship between armed forces and organizations involved in humanitarian action in post-conflict situations. On 8 July, the ICRC held a one-day presentation for senior operational and training officers on IHL and the teaching of its provisions within the armed forces. In October the ICRC gave two talks on the limits placed by IHL on methods and means of warfare, during specialized courses held for military judges at the National Centre for Judiciary Studies. The foregoing formed part and parcel of the four courses, presentations and dissemination sessions organized in 2001 for 158 army, air force and naval officers of all ranks and for military magistrates and judges.

Police

The ICRC made significant progress in the promotion of IHL and human rights law among police officers. Implementation of the programme of cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior and the ICRC familiarized Ministry officials, especially those with responsibility for the promotion of IHL and human rights within the police force, with the ICRC. Eleven training sessions on IHL and human rights (a total of 156 hours), attended by 629 police officers, many from the upper echelons, formed the core of ICRC dissemination activities for the police in Egypt. The ICRC also sponsored the training of five police officers at the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunis and the International Human Rights Institute in Strasbourg.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Media

The ICRC's Regional Promotion Office in Cairo continued to coordinate communication efforts in the region. These included the production every two months of the magazine *Al-Insani*, which covered regional humanitarian issues and IHL and was widely quoted in the region's media.

The ICRC regularly provided the Egyptian and regional media with information and gave interviews on its mandate and its activities in the country and throughout the Middle East, in particular in Israel, the occupied and the autonomous territories. The ICRC's Director-General's visit to Egypt in December provided opportunities for several interviews with the media. The ICRC also took part in a televised debate on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan following military operations there. With the support of the ICRC, the National IHL Committee published its first two-monthly newsletter in April. In addition, the National Committee and the ICRC agreed to conduct IHL seminars for journalists.

Universities

Through support to the Egyptian National IHL Committee's sub-committee on education, the ICRC promoted the introduction of IHL into university law courses. The sub-committee was to determine any changes that needed to be made to the law curriculum at each university so as to ensure better integration of IHL.

A two-hour presentation on IHL and the ICRC was given to 65 students attending a three-week course at the Human Rights Centre in Cairo.

Secondary schools

The Ministry of Education and the ICRC agreed to launch the teaching of IHL in schools in 2002 in a systematic and efficient manner. The ICRC and the sub-committee on education worked together to develop strategies for the introduction in schools of teaching materials produced by the ICRC for worldwide use. The ICRC presented the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) project, which will be used as a basis for training education officials, school inspectors and teachers. Translation into Arabic of the EHL programme was completed in preparation for the presentation of EHL modules to Ministry of Education and Egyptian Red Crescent specialists and for the programme's subsequent introduction into schools.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Egyptian Red Crescent Society continued to develop its activities in accordance with the principles of the Movement. In 2001, the cooperation activities agreed upon by the ICRC and the National Society, involving dissemination and training in emergency preparedness, went according to plan.

Tracing activities in response to the individual needs of refugees in Egypt remained on course. The Egyptian Red Crescent continued to process tracing requests and organize the collection and distribution of Red Cross messages, either on its own or in cooperation with the ICRC, depending on the situation.

Various seminars on IHL and the Fundamental Principles were attended by National Society personnel, who will supplement the knowledge they acquired by helping to introduce the EHL programme in secondary schools. Through its close links with this ambitious programme, the National Society continued to play an important role in dissemination. In September the ICRC organized a four-day workshop for 22 Egyptian Red Crescent volunteers who had already received theoretical training. The workshop, whose objective was to enable the volunteers to give training in dissemination in their respective branches, also covered the topics of tracing and restoration of family links.

To mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day in May, the Ministry of Education, with the assistance of the Egyptian Red Crescent, organized a video conference which reached some 4,000 people, among them parents, counsellors and students' union members. The National Society also held a meeting for 100 of its staff to discuss volunteer work, the importance and promotion of IHL, and the media and their role in IHL dissemination. The ICRC took part in both events.

The ICRC and the Egyptian Red Crescent jointly held a seminar for doctors, medical students and future National Society trainers on first aid in large-scale emergencies. In addition to technical instruction, the seminar included training on the rights and duties of medical personnel under IHL, and the application of the Fundamental Principles in situations of conflict and internal tension. Finally, the ICRC sponsored the participation of one Egyptian Red Crescent official in its course on health emergencies in large populations held in Göteborg, Sweden, in August.

IRAN

Personnel:
0 (9 from October) expatriates
4 locally hired staff

Since the cease-fire agreed between Iran and Iraq in 1988, the ICRC has urged the two parties to comply with international humanitarian law (IHL) by releasing and repatriating all prisoners of war, making progress in identifying and repatriating the remains of those killed in the war, and elucidating the fate of those reported missing in action. The ICRC holds private interviews with the prisoners it registered during the Iran-Iraq war so as to ascertain that they do indeed wish to return home, and supervises their repatriation. It is also working to develop a partnership with the Iranian Red Crescent Society to promote humanitarian law. To facilitate its relief operation in Afghanistan, the ICRC has set up an office and logistics base in Mashhad in eastern Iran, in cooperation with the Iranian National Society.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	153,083
Assistance	6,942
Preventive Action	46,695
Cooperation with National Societies	20,062
General	14,762
Overheads	10,425

251,969

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA IRAN



♦ ICRC mission + ICRC office

CONTEXT

Presidential elections held in June 2001 resulted in renewed victory for President Mohammed Khatami.

After being stalled for several months, bilateral talks between Iran and Iraq on the numerous outstanding questions linked to the 1980–88 war resumed in October 2001, raising hopes of further progress, in particular on the central issues of prisoners of war (POWs) and the missing.

The outbreak of hostilities in neighbouring Afghanistan in October caused thousands of Afghans to flee to Iran. In the same month, the Iranian authorities closed the border to prevent a further influx of refugees, and asked the Iranian Red Crescent Society to set up camps for Afghans on the border. According to the Iranian government, more than two million Afghan and half a million Iraqi refugees were living on Iranian territory.

Since 1992, when it had to close its delegation in Iran, the ICRC had maintained a small office in Tehran staffed by Iranian employees. In October 2001, however, it reached an agreement with the authorities regarding the opening of an office and logistics base in a National Society warehouse in Mashhad, near the Afghan border. This formed part of the ICRC's logistic network guaranteeing supply lines for the relief operation in Afghanistan. Expatriate staff were redeployed from the ICRC delegation in Afghanistan to the office in Mashhad to set up new supply routes. The expatriate staff then returned to Afghanistan in November and several large convoys carrying food supplies were dispatched from Mashhad to replenish stocks in Herat. The ICRC planned to maintain this temporary operational presence and to transfer relief goods through Iran for distribution inside Afghanistan for as long as necessary in 2002.

ICRC ACTION

MISSING

The fate of the thousands of Iranians reported missing during the Iran-Iraq war was still a source of serious concern in 2001. Iran and Iraq continued their discussions with a view to repatriating the remains of soldiers who went missing during the 1980-88 war. An ICRC team comprising Geneva- and Baghdad-based delegates visited Tehran in March in order to speed up the process of elucidating the fate of POWs and persons unaccounted for. In October, representatives of Iraq's Permanent Committee for War Victims spent 10 days in Iran with their Iranian counterparts discussing outstanding issues regarding POWs and persons unaccounted for, and at the end of November representatives of the Iranian Committee for POWs met ICRC staff in Geneva to discuss the issue. The discussions resulted in an exchange of information on a first group of 1,000 documented cases from each side.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC pursued its efforts to bring the issue of POWs from the Iran-Iraq war closer to resolution. In May 2001 a delegate went to Iran to interview freed Iraqi POWs living in the country so as to ascertain whether they wished to be repatriated to Iraq under the auspices of the ICRC. None of the 23 Iraqi POWs interviewed wished to be repatriated.

AUTHORITIES

On 3 January 2001, the official journal of the United Nations announced that Iran had signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 31 December 2000. In February, the head of the ICRC's Regional Communication Centre in Cairo visited Iran and had talks with the National Committee for the Implementation of Humanitarian Law and with the

Iranian Red Crescent, which chaired the Committee. The ICRC provided the Committee with documentation on IHL and agreed to proceed with the translation into Persian of two ICRC information kits. The Committee undertook to supervise the translation of other reference documents on IHL into Persian.

CIVIL SOCIETY

While IHL was taught in some of the major Iranian universities, students and professors had little opportunity for exchanges of views on the subject. Efforts in this area did not yield results until the second half of the year, when the ICRC began to develop its partnership with the Iranian Red Crescent and the National Committee with a view to promoting IHL in academic circles.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Iranian Red Crescent is an active, well-structured National Society with many local branches and a significant operational capacity. In May, in conjunction with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, it organized the annual meeting of all Middle Eastern and North African National Societies, and throughout the year it ran a prosthetic/orthotic centre to train Iranian and foreign technicians. As mentioned above, it also chaired the National Committee for the Implementation of Humanitarian Law, which was set up in 1999.

In October 2001 the ICRC resumed its operational dialogue with the Iranian Red Crescent, with particular reference to the humanitarian challenges in Afghanistan, and also worked to develop a partnership with the National Society for the promotion of IHL. The National Society set up a dissemination office and showed keen interest in cooperating with the ICRC in this regard.

IRAQ

Personnel:
37 expatriates
341 locally hired staff

In Iraq the ICRC continues to focus on the humanitarian issues stemming from two international conflicts – the Iran/Iraq war and the Gulf war – and 11 years of international trade sanctions. Particular emphasis is placed on activities designed to alleviate the effects of the sanctions on the Iraqi people, including the rehabilitation of health and water/sanitation facilities which are no longer able to meet their basic needs. In northern Iraq, the ICRC carries out its traditional humanitarian tasks in the context of the conflict between rival Kurdish groups.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	2,602,851
Assistance	13,109,912
Preventive Action	938,453
Cooperation with National Societies	395,699
General	114,593
Overheads	1,093,521

18,255,029

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA IRAQ



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC office □ Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

CONTEXT

In Iraq the situation in humanitarian terms showed few, if any, real signs of easing in 2001 as a large part of the nation's 23 million people continued their struggle to cope with the crippling effects of two wars and 11 years of economic sanctions. A broad sector of Iraqi society – the formerly affluent middle class – was gradually disappearing.

Nor were there any visible signs of a reversal of the gradual deterioration of basic infrastructure and public services, which are crucial to the welfare of any society. On the contrary, all indicators pointed to an acceleration of this process which had rendered many of Iraq's health, water and sanitation facilities virtually or totally inoperative.

United States and British aircraft continued to fly daily missions to enforce the "no-fly zones" imposed by these two nations in the north and south of the country. Persistent reports of possible military action against Iraq were yet another source of psychological stress for the population.

The ICRC, deeply concerned about the adverse consequences of the embargo in humanitarian terms, remained convinced that exemptions from sanctions and humanitarian aid, however essential and beneficial in specific cases, were no more than expedient measures and did not constitute a viable substitute for a nation's entire economy and health-care system. Similarly, the ICRC held firm to its belief that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, together with other humanitarian organizations, could only endeavour to mitigate some of the worst effects of the sanctions and long years of war.

In 2001 the ICRC was still the only organization involved in large-scale humanitarian projects in Iraq with a regular presence nationwide. It was therefore often considered as the principal source of information on humanitarian matters in the country.

As in past years, the main thrust of the ICRC's activities was rehabilitation of basic infrastructure and services and comprehensive on-the-job-training designed to promote self-reliance rather than fostering dependency. In addition, the ICRC carried out protection work for detainees and its traditional activities aimed at promoting the principles of international humanitarian law (IHL) and strengthening the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

The ICRC's project list was extended in 2001 to include a programme designed to promote awareness of the dangers of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in southern Iraq.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

The dilapidated state of basic public infrastructure and services continued to be seen as the main cause of the decline in the health status and general well-being of the nation's population. This reflected a lack of funds and skilled human resources to implement and manage any sustainable improvements.

Contaminated water remained a grave threat to public health. The effects of the recent serious drought on water supplies were considerably attenuated by the 2000/2001 rainy season, after which water levels remained low, but not dangerously so. The ICRC's efforts to upgrade water and sanitation systems focused mainly on southern Iraq, where the situation was increasingly critical.

Water and sanitation

During the year the ICRC completed work on 47 major water-treatment and sewage-disposal projects serving some 7 million inhabitants throughout the country.

Monitoring and maintenance of 30 previously rehabilitated water and sewage plants were carried out on a regular basis throughout the year, together with on-site training to ensure proper operation and upkeep. Assessments were conducted at eight plants where work was scheduled to start in early 2002. In the course of 2001, the ICRC responded promptly to 15 emergency alerts in the water and sewage sectors, averting serious inconvenience and health hazards in the areas concerned.

Remnants of war

All parts of Iraq were heavily infested by unexploded remnants of war and this was likely the case to be for decades to come. As the only international humanitarian agency with a permanent presence in southern Iraq, the ICRC decided to launch its "remnants of war awareness programme" in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society in this area of the country. In northern Iraq, the problem was addressed by other humanitarian agencies.

Following a field survey in the affected areas, the first awareness activities began in selected localities, targeting primarily young shepherds who were found to be most at risk of injury by explosive remnants of war. In March around 1,700 people attended four awareness sessions carried out in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent and local authorities.

Collection and analysis of data on mine/UXO accidents continued in consultation with the relevant authorities, and by the end of the year a cooperation agreement had been concluded with the National Society to give the programme a sustainable long-term perspective.

Internally displaced people

In northern Iraq the ICRC, in close cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent, continued to provide newly displaced families with emergency kits of basic items.

Overcrowding at the Bardakaraman camp near Sulaymaniyah eased when groups of internally displaced people (IDPs) were moved to permanent housing in Chamchamal. The ICRC supplied the remaining families at the camp with soap and tarpaulins.

A new contract was signed with the owner of a tanker truck for the emptying of septic tanks at IDP centres in Arbil city three times a week.

In Koya, the first stage of a new sewage system was completed in three disadvantaged areas populated mainly by displaced families. The project improved health conditions and noticeably reduced the incidence of infectious diseases.

Aftermath of the Gulf war

Resolving outstanding issues relating to persons unaccounted for since the 1990-1991 Gulf war remained an ICRC priority in 2001. Despite Iraq's refusal since January 1999 to take part in the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-Committee, the ICRC continued to act as a neutral intermediary between the parties. In 2001 it chaired three consultation meetings in Geneva that were attended by representatives of France, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United States and the United Kingdom.

During the year the ICRC also conducted bilateral talks with Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on a number of individual cases, some of which had been previously discussed within the framework of the Tripartite Commission or the Technical Sub-Committee. At year's end, the files of 17 Saudi, 608 Kuwaiti and 778 Iraqi nationals remained pending.

The case of a Saudi pilot unaccounted for since the Gulf war was finally settled in 2001. In January, the ICRC forwarded to the Saudi authorities a report by two independent experts on mortal remains recovered at the crash site near the Saudi-Iraqi border during a joint Saudi-Iraqi search operation conducted under ICRC auspices in October 2000. On 31 August, Saudi Arabia issued a public statement acknowledging that DNA tests carried out on the remains confirmed they belonged to the missing pilot.

The ICRC was also able to help families ascertain the fate of their relatives in contexts not directly related to the Gulf war. On 26 June, it organized the repatriation from Saudi Arabia of the mortal remains of an Iraqi serviceman who had died on 23 May 2001 in a border incident. The remains of a Saudi serviceman killed in a similar incident on 24 August were returned to his family under ICRC auspices.

Restoring family links

During the year the ICRC's tracing service again enabled family members separated by past armed conflicts to restore and maintain contact with one another. With the assistance of the Iraqi Red Crescent, a total of 3,638 Red Cross messages (RCMs) were exchanged between civilians in southern and central Iraq and their relatives abroad, representing a monthly average of 303.

In addition, the ICRC facilitated the exchange of 5,456 RCMs between civilians and detainees, representing a monthly average of 455. While the majority of these messages (3,906) were exchanged between civilians living in central and southern Iraq and their relatives detained in Kuwait, the ICRC also offered the RCM service to foreign detainees in Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison and their relatives in their home countries.

Adding to this a further 2,486 RCMs processed in northern Iraq, the total number of messages forwarded from or distributed in Iraq amounted to over 10,000 in 2001.

At the request of the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in March ICRC delegates organized the repatriation from Iraq to Iran of 24 civilian detainees.

In April the ICRC facilitated the return, after 10 years, of two Iraqi civilians from Kuwait to Iraq, where they rejoined their families.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Aftermath of the Iran/Iraq war

The ICRC maintained regular contacts with the Iraqi government on the issue of prisoners of war from the Iran/Iraq war. Iran and Iraq, meanwhile, resumed their bilateral dialogue on similar matters stemming from their 1980-88 armed conflict.

Visits to detainees

In accordance with its humanitarian mandate, the ICRC continued to conduct regular visits to detainees arrested for security reasons in northern Iraq and to make recommendations wherever improvements were considered necessary. Both the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) expressed their wish to cooperate in a constructive way with the ICRC on detention issues.

ICRC protection delegates kept up their visits to detainees without consular representation at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad. Three such visits were carried out in 2001. Representations were made to the detaining authorities when necessary, and small-scale material assistance was distributed to the detainees.

WOUNDED AND SICK

The effects of the economic sanctions on public infrastructure and services continued to take a heavy toll on public health and on the nutritional status of the population. The result was high infant and child mortality, a reported increase in maternal mortality and a decline in life expectancy. Diarrhoea remained a major killer of children. A limited health survey by an ICRC consultant demonstrated the urgency of impressing on mothers the importance of boiling water and of preparing palliatives for children suffering from diarrhoea. Another key finding was that 34% of the women interviewed were illiterate.

Studies by various institutions showed that over 20% of Iraqi children, particularly those under five, were malnourished, and 25% of newborns had a birth weight of under 2.5 kg.

Although independent verification remained a challenge, what did appear evident was that the lack of skilled human resources, essential drugs, and monitoring equipment, and decreased diagnostic capacity were contributing factors to high mortality rates among children and patients with chronic conditions such as coronary heart disease, hypertension, diabetes and cancer.

Faced with these immense challenges, the ICRC pressed ahead with the integrated programme it initiated in 1999 involving rehabilitation of all public health sectors, the supply of equipment, and maintenance, management and on-the-job training. At the same time the ICRC and other humanitarian players working in Iraq remained aware that enhanced dialogue with health authorities was imperative to gain easier access to health data, hospitals and health centres.

In addition, the ICRC maintained sufficient emergency stocks to treat 150 war-wounded in the northern governorates of Arbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk, and enough for 100 wounded in Baghdad.

Rehabilitation of health facilities

In 2001, rehabilitation work was completed on six hospitals with a total capacity of 2,700 patients. This brought to nine the number of hospitals renovated by ICRC engineers since the organization launched its integrated medical emergency programme in 1999.

Major projects included the renovation of the Al-Rashad Psychiatric Hospital (1,200 beds) in Baghdad, the only institution of its kind in the country. This involved the entire refurbishing of two wards, the hospital kitchen and the laundry, and a complete overhaul of the water and sewage system.

The second and final stage of rehabilitation was completed at the four-block Karama Teaching Hospital (450 beds) in Baghdad which specialized in burns treatment, cardiology, ear, nose and throat problems and internal medicine. The roofs of the complex were waterproofed, new toilets, water/sewage facilities, and reconditioned or new air-conditioning units were installed, and repair work was carried out on flooring, walls and ceilings.

The Ibn Al-Khatib Hospital for Infectious Diseases (187 beds) was completely rehabilitated in 2001 after seven months of work involving redesign of the water/sewage systems, including the addition of five new cesspools, renovation of the laboratories, installation of new air-conditioners and repair work on the generator, providing patients and staff with relief from the sweltering heat exacerbated by frequent power cuts. In response to an official request, the ICRC physical rehabilitation workshop in Baghdad repaired hospital beds. Mattresses, mattress covers, sheets, blankets, bedside tables and curtains were also delivered to the hospital.

Basra Teaching Hospital (500 beds), a seven-storey building serving all of southern Iraq (some 1.5 million people) underwent the third stage of rehabilitation, scheduled to continue until June 2002. The renovation work was carried out on laundry equipment, generators, refrigeration and sterilization systems, exhaust systems, a cable trench, cables and water pumps. Floor repairs were still under way.

The Hilla General Surgical Hospital (350 beds) in Babil was handed over to the authorities following an upgrade of kitchen, toilet, refrigeration and lift facilities. The General Hospital (300 beds) in Ta'amin was also renovated. Following an assessment, plans were finalized for rehabilitation work at the General Hospital (400 beds) in Kirkuk.

The year 2001 saw the rehabilitation of 10 primary health care centres in Basra, Diyala and Ninawa governorates:

Saba Nissan, Al Qurna (Basra);

Hussainiyah, Beni-Saad, Buhruz, Al-Tahrir, Al-Abbara (Diyala);

First of June, Shekhan, Al-Gharbi (Ninawa).

Training for medical and paramedical staff

The need for more and better qualified staff remained a challenge at all levels of the health system. In primary health care centres the ICRC's training programme included a six-week on-the-job training course on mother and child care, followed by seminars on infection control and other aspects of primary health care. In 2001 the ICRC received several requests from the Ministry of Health to support training in nursing. In response, it initiated two-week courses at Basra Teaching Hospital covering various aspects of nursing in surgical and intensive-care units. From the start of the courses in July 2001 to the end of the year, a total of 124 nurses from different hospitals in the governorate were trained.

Courses were also organized for cleaners in health-care facilities and basic cleaning materials were provided.

Training in occupational therapy continued at Al-Rashad Hospital. Between October 2000 when the programme was launched and the end of 2001 a total of 20 medical staff completed training courses. Each of the hospital's five wards had a properly equipped workshop and was being supervised by one or two trained occupational therapists. Activities included painting, drawing, macramé, sewing and small-scale carpentry work. More than 400 patients were involved in occupational therapy activities in 2001.

Training courses for nurses, cleaners and kitchen, laundry and workshop staff at Al-Rashad Hospital were organized, conducted and financed by the ICRC.

The ICRC continued to provide up-to-date medical information through a regular supply of scientific books and specialized periodicals to medical facilities throughout the country.

Amputees and other disabled people

Most of the physically disabled persons living in Iraq were victims of the Gulf war or the Iran/Iraq war or had been injured by mines or unexploded ordnance which infested certain regions of the country.

The ICRC continued to assist the Ministries of Health and Defence and the Iraqi Red Crescent in meeting the prosthetic/orthotic needs of Iraq's physically disabled population. Eight physical rehabilitation centres in Iraq received ICRC assistance in 2001.

During the year disabled patients were fitted with 2,301 prostheses and 814 orthoses. Of these patients 72% were men, 8% were women, and 19% were children under 15 years of age; 51 percent of the amputees fitted were victims of landmines or unexploded ordnance.

A Steering Committee set up on the initiative of the ICRC and also including representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Higher Education met on 12 occasions in 2001. The aims of the Commission were to enhance cooperation and to broaden and improve the services offered in this domain. Among its agenda items were treatment protocols, guidelines for good practice, quality control by numerical measurement in physical rehabilitation centres, and development of training. The numerical measurement technique was introduced for trans-tibial amputees at eight centres in 2001.

As training was considered to be the key factor for development of these services, four training sessions in prosthetics/orthotics and physiotherapy were organized by ICRC specialists for Iraqi staff.

In northern Iraq, the ICRC delegated the management of a prosthetic/orthotic centre in Arbil to the Norwegian Red Cross. The project was subsequently extended to another centre in Mosul where the Norwegian Red Cross provided the Iraqi Red Crescent with assistance for training and maintenance activities and supplied it with materials. In 2001, 430 prostheses and 44 polio braces were produced at the Mosul workshop.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC's ongoing dialogue with the authorities in northern Iraq to heighten public and official awareness of IHL and the ICRC's mandate was maintained and intensified in 2001.

Officials at various levels were regularly informed about ICRC activities, and promotional materials were widely distributed. In addition, 13 information sessions were held for a total of 475 participants representing different political parties in northern Iraq.

In order to promote better knowledge of relevant international norms among detaining authorities, and hence to improve conditions of detention in the region, the ICRC drew up and implemented a detailed plan of action involving a series of dissemination sessions.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Following the success of the previous year's dissemination programme for people bearing weapons, the ICRC, together with authorities in northern Iraq, continued to organize activities to promote IHL. Rules of conduct in armed conflict were the subject of three ICRC seminars during which 45 officers with legal background were trained as trainers. These officers subsequently held seminars in their turn, under ICRC supervision, with the aim of disseminating the basic principles of IHL among the ranks of different units.

CIVIL SOCIETY

In March, the ICRC delegation in Baghdad published the first issue of an ICRC news bulletin, with an initial print run of 500 copies in English and the same number in Arabic, targeting various audiences in Iraq and other countries of the region. The ICRC also produced Kurdish-language versions of five major ICRC publications in response to increasing requests from non-Arabic-speaking members of the general public.

During the year 34 promotion sessions were attended by some 1,180 individuals representing different influential groups within society. In addition, numerous articles were published in local newspapers and magazines, and TV and radio interviews were broadcast on various topics relating to the ICRC's mandate and activities.

Contacts were established with several university law faculties. The ICRC's proposal to give presentations on IHL was favourably received and the inclusion of the subject in academic curricula was under discussion. At the same time, the ICRC continued to receive students once a week to assist them in their research on international law.

The ICRC also continued to support the production of the 32-page *Sindibad of Baghdad* magazine. This colour publication for children is designed to arouse interest among young people in the general human values enshrined in IHL. Two pages are dedicated to the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and the remaining pages contain drawings, cartoons, stories and poems.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

In 2001 cooperation between the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and the ICRC was strengthened in all areas of the Movement's activities, and the National Society's capacity and emergency-preparedness at community level was consolidated. Intensified consultations led to the detailing of a new cooperation framework and three agreements were signed covering the areas of tracing, dissemination and physical rehabilitation, in addition to the joint operation to raise awareness of the dangers of explosive remnants of war.

The ICRC held frequent meetings with the Iraqi Red Crescent in order to boost its capacity in the field of tracing. Tracing services were improved through financial and technical support for National Society headquarters and regular visits to branches throughout the country. The annual advanced training course for all National Society tracing and dissemination officers was held in October.

Together with the ICRC, the Iraqi Red Crescent recruited and trained eight new dissemination officers in 2001. National Society dissemination staff held three or four sessions per month for various target populations in each of the 18 governorates. The ICRC also continued to provide technical and financial support for the production of the National Society's quarterly magazine and of leaflets and wall and desk calendars.

The ICRC worked throughout the year with the Norwegian Red Cross, which ran a delegated project providing financial, technical and management support for the Iraqi Red Crescent prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Mosul as well as the Norwegian Red Cross workshop in Arbil (see *Amputees and other disabled people*).

ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES/AUTONOMOUS TERRITORIES

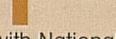
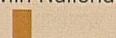
Personnel :

130 expatriates

90 locally hired staff

In Israel, the occupied and the autonomous territories, the ICRC works to promote faithful application of and respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), notably the Fourth Geneva Convention protecting civilians in times of war and occupation. In the current climate of violence, it monitors the situation of the Palestinian civilian population and carries out visits to detainees held in Israel, the occupied or the autonomous territories, making representations where necessary to the relevant Israeli and Palestinian authorities. It provides direct assistance for Palestinians whose houses have been demolished and for those worst affected by the closure of towns and villages in the West Bank. The ICRC also supports Palestine Red Crescent Society emergency medical services. As lead agency in this context, the ICRC coordinates the relief activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It also backs the efforts of the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent to spread knowledge of humanitarian law and to restore links between separated family members.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	10,098,758	
Assistance	7,611,432	
Preventive Action	1,438,983	
Cooperation with National Societies	1,806,139	
General	221,686	
Overheads	1,230,818	
22,407,815		



 ICRC delegation
  ICRC sub-delegation
  ICRC office
 ■ Palestinian Autonomous Territories and Occupied Territories

CONTEXT

The violence that broke out in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip at the end of September 2000 intensified throughout 2001. Clashes between mostly unarmed Palestinian civilians and Israeli soldiers at the traditional points of friction continued as before, but in 2001 there was a change in the nature of the violence, with an escalation in armed confrontations between Palestinians and Israelis. From spring 2001 there were many Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, and an

upsurge in targeted killings of Palestinians. These practices, combined with the frequent use of disproportionate force against Palestinian civilians, took a growing toll among the Palestinian population.

Measures taken to protect the Israeli settlements involved an increased military presence in inhabited areas and gave rise to violent encounters between settlers and the Palestinian population. Moreover, Israeli settlements and settlers in the occupied territories came under frequent attack. The casualties resulting from an upsurge in indiscriminate acts of violence and bomb attacks perpetrated by Palestinians inside Israel caused deep psychological shock within Israeli society. Each such attack was accompanied by a tightening of the closures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, arrests, prolonged incursions into autonomous zones, occupation of land and houses and destruction of private property.

The last quarter of 2001 saw further escalation, with widespread clashes on the first anniversary of the outbreak of the violence. This unleashed a large-scale military reaction that subsided only during the last two weeks of the year. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) launched incursions into Jenin, Ramallah and Jericho, while other West Bank towns suffered the tightest closures yet. In the Gaza Strip, Rafah and Khan Yunis were again the areas most severely affected, in particular by large-scale destruction of houses during military operations.

The impact on people not involved in the violence was immense. Problems that Palestinian civilians living under occupation had been enduring for years were seriously aggravated as Israel took steps to contain the upsurge of violence.

Measures such as prolonged curfews and the sealing-off of Palestinian villages and towns, the closure of the autonomous territories, the destruction of private property and administrative premises and the uprooting of olive and fruit trees were intensified throughout the year. These measures, imposed for extended periods exclusively on the Palestinian population, had disastrous consequences for the entire Palestinian society and economy. They hampered the movements of emergency medical services and access by the sick and wounded and medical staff to hospitals and health centres. They impeded access to workplaces, schools and shops, and obstructed the circulation of food supplies. They prevented, for months on end, Palestinian families from visiting relatives detained in Israel in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Humanitarian assistance was not sufficient to compensate for the resulting economic losses at the household level or for the decline in purchasing power, which led to the progressive impoverishment of the Palestinian population.

The situation also remained tense between Hezbollah and the IDF on the Israeli-Lebanese border, especially in the disputed Shebaa Farms area.

A special Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention was convened by the Swiss government in Geneva on 5 December 2001. The ICRC, taking part as an observer, delivered a statement reaffirming the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the territories occupied since 1967 by Israel and highlighting humanitarian issues arising from the occupation and the ongoing violence.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

The ICRC delegation in Israel, the occupied and the autonomous territories adapted its operations in response to the new developments in 2001, so as to be able to carry out its dual role as guardian of IHL and provider of protection and assistance to the victims. The number of delegates present and the budget for the operation were doubled over the year, reflecting the considerable increase in activities aimed at monitoring the humanitarian situation in the field and providing an effective response.

Protection of the Palestinian civilian population

The increased ICRC presence in the field meant that the organization was closer to the civilian population and more receptive to its needs. It was thus in a better position to document violations of IHL and the social and economic impact on communities of closures, curfews and destruction of houses, and to make oral and written representations to the relevant authorities about observed or reported violations.

The main goal of the ICRC in its capacity as guardian of IHL was to persuade Israel as the occupying power to respect and act in accordance with its obligations vis-à-vis the population living under occupation. It repeatedly drew the attention of the Israeli authorities to the effects of curfews and of the sealing-off of certain areas by the IDF. While recognizing that the State of Israel had legitimate security concerns, the ICRC stressed that measures taken to address those concerns must be in accordance with IHL. As an occupying power, Israel may restrict the freedom of movement of the resident population, but only when and insofar as military necessity dictates, and without discrimination. Furthermore, these security measures must allow for a rapid return to normal civilian life for the population and must not hinder economic activity and public services. Medical personnel and activities must be respected at all times.

While the ICRC saw the need to provide the vulnerable population with material assistance, it had no intention of becoming a substitute for the occupying power, which had the main responsibility of ensuring that the living conditions of the Palestinian population were as normal as possible.

ICRC delegates, deployed throughout the occupied territory, worked on a daily basis to help the civilian population cope with the severe restrictions on movement which affected all aspects of daily life. They regularly facilitated the crossing of checkpoints in emergencies and negotiated access for medical and other public services such as ambulances, repair and maintenance teams, tanker trucks, and sewage and rubbish removal vehicles. The ICRC liaised with the Israeli authorities to facilitate economic activity, for instance ensuring that farmers could get to their olive groves at harvest time. This was made easier by improved coordination, involving the regular exchange of information, between the ICRC and the Israeli civilian administration.

At the same time ICRC delegates worked to raise awareness of the ICRC's mandate and activities among Israeli soldiers manning checkpoints, in order to support these activities and promote more favourable consideration of humanitarian cases.

In October 2001, as the situation in the occupied territories deteriorated, the number of situations requiring ICRC intervention as a neutral intermediary increased, in particular to negotiate the safe passage of ambulances for the transfer of the wounded and the lifting of curfews to allow civilians to stock up on basic necessities.

Assistance for the Palestinian civilian population: closure relief programme

In mid-February 2001, the ICRC launched a large-scale assistance programme to give economic support, in the form of monthly relief packages (food parcels, hygiene and school kits), to Palestinian families living in rural areas of the occupied or the autonomous territories whose income had been badly affected by closures or curfews. Some 21,000 families (around 125,000 people) benefited from this programme during the year.

These distributions were combined with requests to the Israeli authorities to facilitate the movement of persons and goods in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Food parcels for families in Hebron

In addition, from January 2001, one thousand families in Hebron's old city, which was subjected to particularly lengthy curfews throughout the year, were supplied with monthly food parcels donated by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society. The programme was organized by the ICRC and the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and implemented in cooperation with local organizations such as the National Emergency Committee in Hebron.

House destruction relief programme

The Gaza Strip was the area that saw the most widespread destruction of civilian property by Israeli forces, although the West Bank was also affected. The ICRC responded immediately to the needs of people whose houses had been completely or partially demolished by IDF bulldozers, tanks or shelling, providing them with basic shelter materials (tents or plastic sheeting) and household items (blankets and cooking pots). More than 800 families (some 4,800 people) in the Gaza Strip and West Bank received such assistance in 2001.

To avoid duplication of effort, the ICRC coordinated its activities with those of UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The ICRC's assistance was directed mainly to non-refugees and people living in isolated areas.

Family visit programme

Because of the closures and other constraints, the ICRC's programme of family visits to Palestinians detained in Israel in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention was suspended for much of the year. The programme, carried out together with the PRCS, ran for a total of only about five months in the Gaza Strip and two months in the West Bank. The ICRC attaches great importance to this programme and did its utmost to carry it out where possible, despite the additional complications and costs resulting from the procedures imposed by the Israeli authorities and the restrictions on freedom of movement. Over the year, some 4,500 detainees received visits from over 42,000 family members from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. In November, the ICRC organized the distribution of some 850 parcels of clothing sent to detainees by their families in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Protection of the Israeli civilian population

Indiscriminate acts of violence and bomb attacks against Israeli civilians increased dramatically throughout the year, leaving dozens dead and hundreds wounded, in total contravention of the basic principles of IHL.

The ICRC made regular representations to the Palestinian authorities and to all relevant Palestinian parties, drawing attention to the need to take all feasible security and legal measures to prevent attacks on civilians living in the occupied territories, including in settlements, and on Israeli territory.

Maintaining family ties

The ICRC helped maintain links between residents of the occupied and the autonomous territories and their families living in countries without official relations with Israel or in countries affected by conflict by enabling them to exchange Red Cross messages (RCMs). In 2001, a total of 1,697 RCMs were exchanged between civilians (see below for RCMs collected from and distributed to detainees).

For over 30 years, a major problem for the 20,000 Syrian nationals living in the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan, a population protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention, has been their separation from other family members. Through its delegations in Israel and Syria, the ICRC supervised operations enabling 287 students, 266 pilgrims and five brides going to meet their husbands-to-be to cross between Syria and the occupied Golan.¹

Lebanese refugees

At the beginning of the year around 4,000 Lebanese nationals, who had fled to Israel after the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon in 2000, were still in Israel. The ICRC continued to exchange RCMs, official documents and powers of attorney on behalf of separated family members.² Under ICRC auspices, the mortal remains of six Lebanese citizens who had died in Israel were handed over to their families in Lebanon.

In addition, in July the ICRC facilitated the repatriation of the mortal remains of a Lebanese pilot whose civilian aircraft had been shot down over Israel in May.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in Israel

The ICRC delegation pursued its traditional activities on behalf of all detainees protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention. These comprised not only Palestinians but also other persons detained by the Israeli authorities, including Lebanese and Syrian nationals, among them people from the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan, and nationals of States that were at war with Israel or had no diplomatic relations with the country.

The ICRC was still denied access to two Lebanese administrative detainees who had been held since 1989 and 1994 respectively. According to the Fourth Geneva Convention they should have been released at latest following the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. On repeated occasions during the year the ICRC formally requested access to these detainees, one of whom it had never seen. The other one, arrested in 1989, had last been visited in October 2000. In August, the Israeli High Court ruled that the detainees were entitled to receive ICRC visits. However an appeal was subsequently filed against this decision, suspending its execution.

In addition, the ICRC continued to visit 28 other Lebanese nationals detained in Israel, including 19 who had been arrested in southern Lebanon and sentenced by a court in Israel. The transfer of these detainees to Israel was in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Moreover, they should have been handed over to their country of origin after the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The ICRC regularly reminded the State of Israel of its obligations in this regard.

The ICRC visited 5,967 detainees throughout the year, including 2,283 monitored individually, in 47 places of detention in Israel, including prisons, provisional detention centres, a military detention centre, and some police stations. It issued 23,705 certificates of detention and supervised the repatriation of two Lebanese and two Syrian detainees released by the Israeli authorities, after ascertaining in private interviews that they were returning home of their own free will.

The ICRC restored and maintained contact between detainees held in Israeli facilities and their families by arranging for the exchange of 996 RCMs.

Following its visits to places of detention, the ICRC reported on its findings to the authorities and made representations with a view to improving treatment and conditions of detention. Particular attention continued to be paid to detainees under interrogation, who were visited on a regular basis.

The ICRC provided detainees in Israeli prisons with educational and recreational materials throughout the year. Sets of clothing were also distributed to foreign detainees.

¹ See Syria.

² See Lebanon.

Detainees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

In accordance with an agreement signed with the Palestinian Authority in 1996, the ICRC visited civilian and military places of detention in the autonomous territories. It was the only organization to do so on a regular basis. The visits enabled the ICRC to pursue a dialogue with the authorities in charge of the various detention facilities on conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees. It also continued to report its findings orally and in writing to the Palestinian Authority and made representations with a view to bringing about any necessary improvements.

The strict closures imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had a significant impact on material conditions of detention.

ICRC delegates continued to make regular visits to detainees in 45 places of detention in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under the responsibility of the various Palestinian security services. In 2001 it visited 3,538 people, monitoring 1,371 of them individually, and subsequently submitted reports and recommendations to the authorities.

These visits continued, although security concerns resulting from the sharp increase in military operations by the IDF against Palestinian Authority targets and the tight closure of West Bank towns prevented the ICRC from carrying out all visits as and when planned.

Winter clothes and hygiene articles were distributed to all detainees at interrogation centres, and to the most vulnerable detainees held in central or military prisons. This assistance was increased in cases where the detainees received no family visits. Recreational and educational items were also provided.

The delegation pursued its negotiations with the Palestinian Authority regarding access to places of detention under the responsibility of Military Intelligence. The authorities in charge had failed to fulfil the provisions of the 1996 agreement granting the ICRC access according to its standard visiting procedures to all persons detained by the Palestinian Authority.

Israelis captured by Hezbollah

The ICRC endeavoured to obtain information about the three Israeli soldiers and the Israeli civilian held by Hezbollah since autumn 2000 and to gain access to them in order to assess their conditions of detention and treatment, and to give news to their families. It made regular written representations to Hezbollah and to the Lebanese authorities, reminding them of their obligations under IHL. In late October 2001 the IDF officially announced the death of the three soldiers.³

WOUNDED AND SICK

Casualty figures from the violence spiralled during the year, putting great strain on Israeli and Palestinian emergency health services. The ICRC monitored the situation in PRCS mobile field hospitals and other hospitals in the occupied territories, in cooperation with other international and national agencies, in order to detect any needs that were not being met.

The most significant factor affecting the wounded and sick among the Palestinian civilian population was the problem of access to timely and adequate health care. The strict closures imposed and the checkpoints and other physical barriers set up by the IDF severely limited access to the wounded and to hospitals by ambulances, which were sometimes even fired upon. Chronically ill patients had great difficulty in reaching referral hospitals. The situation for the most vulnerable, such as the elderly, the mentally handicapped and social welfare cases, deteriorated further as priority in terms of resources was given to the emergency needs of the injured.

The ICRC made regular representations to the Israeli authorities at different levels regarding the movement of PRCS ambulances. ICRC delegates negotiated safe passage for ambulances and medical staff at checkpoints almost on a daily basis.

The other main problem concerned the transport of medical supplies. On request, the ICRC provided the PRCS and the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Health with logistic support in transporting medical goods within and between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It also transported medical supplies donated by partner National Societies to the PRCS from the ICRC's regional warehouse in Amman, Jordan, to the occupied territories, in coordination with the Israeli authorities.

The bulk of ICRC support for medical services was provided through its cooperation programme with the PRCS (see below).

³ See Lebanon.

AUTHORITIES

During the year there was a sharp increase in the number of representations made by the ICRC to the Israeli and the Palestinian authorities. The ICRC regularly drew the attention of the Israeli authorities to their obligation to respect the rights of individuals and populations protected by IHL, and to favour, or at least not to impede or prevent, the functioning of public services and economic activity in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian authorities were reminded of their responsibility to abide by the principles of IHL, and of their obligation to respect all civilians and take all feasible measures in order to protect them, in particular to prevent the carrying out of indiscriminate attacks. Other matters of concern discussed were the use of civilian homes in confrontations with IDF troops and the humanitarian issues involved in the treatment of Palestinians suspected of collaboration.

The ICRC also strove to obtain assurances from the Israeli and Palestinian authorities that transport of the wounded and sick and relief work could be carried out freely at all times, and that the Movement's activities and emblems would be respected.

All these issues were raised during the visit by the ICRC Director-General to the region in November, when he met the President of the Palestinian Authority and high-ranking representatives of the Israeli government.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC worked to increase awareness of and respect for the principles and rules of IHL and the activities of the Movement among all those involved in the violence. Dissemination sessions were held on a quarterly basis for Israeli Civil Administration cadets, and a dialogue was maintained with IDF soldiers in the field to explain the ICRC's specific role and the medical activities of the PRCS.

Dissemination sessions and workshops were organized for Palestinian security forces and prison officials, during which the ICRC explained its standard working procedures and mandate. The ICRC also drew the attention of members of the security services and other groups concerned to the need to prevent children from participating in armed violence. The increasing violence and operational difficulties encountered by the various security forces slowed down implementation of this programme.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Media and academic circles

The ICRC worked to increase awareness of and respect for the principles and rules of IHL and the Movement's activities in Israeli and Palestinian civil society, by distributing ICRC publications to the media and by organizing dissemination sessions for Israeli and Palestinian leaders and opinion-makers, academic circles and local NGOs. It continued to encourage the teaching of IHL in Israeli and Palestinian universities, and gave a number of presentations for academics and students. However, owing to the closures and security constraints, awareness-raising activities planned with a number of Palestinian universities and other sectors of civil society had to be postponed.

Young people

The ICRC continued to promote the introduction of the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) teaching modules and related material in Israeli and Palestinian secondary schools and in extracurricular activities. Three representatives from the Israeli and two from the Palestinian education authorities took part in a train-the-trainers workshop on the project, organized by the ICRC in Geneva in July. Work continued on adapting the project to the local context and translating it into Arabic and Hebrew.

Special effort was devoted to the question of children and conflict, with the aim of reducing the number of young people killed in the violence. On 17 May, the ICRC issued a press statement on the special care and protection due to children. To familiarize young Palestinians with humanitarian principles, an ICRC drama series was broadcast on Palestinian radio and a series of comic strips was published in magazines for young people, both conveying basic IHL messages. In addition, awareness-raising sessions were held throughout the year for primary-school children in the West Bank and, over the summer, for around 1,800 children and adolescents at 32 youth camps, organized by the PRCS or NGOs, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Magen David Adom

The Magen David Adom (MDA) worked efficiently from the outbreak of violence, in particular as an auxiliary to the Israeli medical services. The ICRC maintained regular contacts with the MDA and, together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, continued to promote its further integration into Movement activities and to encourage co-ordination of disaster-preparedness efforts among all the players involved.

Following the landmark agreement of 20-21 December 2000, concluded under the auspices of the ICRC, in which the MDA and the PRCS agreed on practical steps to increase their cooperation in order to ensure assistance for the wounded and sick and protection of medical services and personnel, the MDA defended the right of PRCS ambulances to move freely and without hindrance in the occupied and the autonomous territories throughout 2001. Despite mounting tension and violence between Israelis and Palestinians, daily cooperation between the two Societies was maintained. This was reflected by the ICRC-sponsored poster published in all major Israeli and Palestinian newspapers on 8 May, in which MDA and PRCS ambulances and staff were pictured together in a common pledge to uphold the Fundamental Principles at all times. In recognition of this shared dedication to saving human life in extreme circumstances, the MDA and the PRCS were awarded the Lisl and Leo Eitinger Fund Human Rights prize by the University of Oslo on 9 October.

In September the MDA, the Israeli Defense Forces Home Front Command, the ICRC and the International Federation held talks on international cooperation in disaster response as a first step in strengthening the MDA's capacity in this domain. A concrete project-planning process to establish a well-run disaster-preparedness/response unit at MDA headquarters was agreed upon. In December the MDA and the ICRC began to work together on the development of an MDA tracing service capable of restoring contact between separated family members, conducting active searches for missing persons, and helping Israeli victims of the Holocaust with the paperwork necessary to claim benefits from compensation funds such as the one set up by the German government. To this end, the ICRC agreed to fund a full-time tracing officer, office equipment and furniture, and to provide intensive training for staff and volunteers engaged in tracing work.

Palestine Red Crescent Society

The PRCS was the key provider of emergency medical services for the Palestinian population throughout the year. Between September 2000 and December 2001, it evacuated and/or treated over 16,000 wounded or sick people. The outbreak of the violence prompted a significant increase in interest among a number of National Societies in supporting the Movement's activities in the occupied and the autonomous territories. A coordination unit comprising representatives of the International Federation, the PRCS and other National Societies met regularly under ICRC leadership to discuss activities and ensure a consistent approach on the part of the Movement.

Twenty-nine National Societies were involved in providing support for the PRCS in 2001. Of these, 11 took on medium-term commitments, including an expatriate presence, within the framework of ICRC delegated or bilateral projects. Many National Societies provided assistance for the PRCS, brought in via the ICRC's logistics base in Amman. The American, Danish, German, Kuwaiti, Syrian and United Arab Emirates National Societies were among those that made donations in kind to the ICRC's relief programmes for the Palestinian population.

The ICRC, which had been building up the PRCS Emergency Medical Service (EMS) since 1996, increased its support in 2001 to strengthen the service's capacity to cope with mass casualties. This included comprehensive training for 2,500 volunteers in areas such as rapid damage evaluation and needs assessment, first aid and the basics of IHL, and the provision of additional equipment such as mobile field hospitals and bullet-proof vests. From April, the ICRC covered all the running costs of the EMS (nearly 100 ambulances and 220 salaries).

A number of National Societies also contributed to this process through delegated projects launched in 2001. A trauma-management project for PRCS emergency medical technicians was delegated to the German Red Cross, while the Hellenic Red Cross renovated and equipped an ambulance station in the West Bank town of Arrabeh. The Norwegian Red Cross initiated a project to strengthen the PRCS logistics system for warehouse and vehicle management.

The ICRC also helped the PRCS develop its dissemination network by providing training in the basic principles of IHL and of the Movement and in IHL teaching methods. PRCS dissemination officers passed on these messages to children and young people as well as to all PRCS staff and its 1,800 active volunteers. The new joint PRCS/ICRC dissemination file was used as the main working tool. The PRCS also strengthened its role in the introduction of the EHL teaching modules in secondary schools. Developed with the support of the ICRC, the PRCS Website scored a remarkable success, averaging over 400,000 electronically counted "hits" per month.

The PRCS also produced material (TV and radio spots) for a new campaign aimed at informing the Palestinian public about appropriate behaviour during shelling and bombing.

JORDAN

Personnel:
7 expatriates
26 locally hired staff

In Jordan, the ICRC focuses on visiting detainees in order to monitor their conditions of detention, on restoring family links between civilians separated by conflict and – in close cooperation with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society – on promoting international humanitarian law (IHL) and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The delegation provides logistic support for ICRC relief operations in Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories, and Iraq.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	557,504
Assistance	95,180
Preventive Action	521,845
Cooperation with National Societies	186,057
General	180,564
Overheads	90,359

1,631,509



⊕ ICRC delegation

CONTEXT

Jordan continued to play a key role in support of the Middle East peace process and stability in the region. The country's official position regarding the events of 11 September came quickly with the Minister for Foreign Affairs announcing that Jordan would be at the forefront of countries ready to unite in the global coalition against terrorism. The Minister also urged the United States not to abandon its active role in forging Middle East peace following the attacks in Washington and New York.

Jordan could not but be increasingly affected by the spiralling violence in neighbouring Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories. It was

exposed to the constant threat of the fighting spreading throughout the region and of more Palestinian refugees swelling its already crowded camps. It also had to deal with increasing numbers of several other categories of people in need, in particular Iraqi refugees.

In June, His Majesty King Abdullah II dissolved the lower house of Parliament shortly before the end of its ordinary term. The King asked the government to prepare a new electoral law that could meet the new challenges facing the country.

A major development for the ICRC in Jordan in 2001 was the significant increase in logistics activities which followed the

setting up of a logistics support unit at the Amman delegation in November 2000 to coordinate the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's relief response to the increased humanitarian needs in Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories. The unit provided technical support and guidelines to the components of the Movement in the region, received the various types of assistance donated by the different National Societies in accordance with these guidelines, and arranged transportation of the goods to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The delegation in Amman also provided logistic support for ICRC activities in Iraq.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

People who had been separated from their families for conflict-related reasons, such as individuals of Palestinian origin and the families of detainees held in Jordan, Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories, or Kuwait, needed help to restore and maintain links with their relatives. The ICRC tracing services remained active and the organization distributed 1,350 Red Cross messages in Jordan in 2001. In view of the situation in Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories, an increasing number of people approached the ICRC to notify it of the reported detention of their relatives by the Israeli authorities. As Jordan maintains diplomatic relations with Israel, Jordanians were referred to the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Palestinians were advised to contact family members in the occupied territories and the autonomous territories directly and refer them to ICRC offices there. The ICRC continued to receive and forward official documents on behalf of people on either bank of the river Jordan.

The ICRC also facilitated the safe passage through Jordan of two Iraqi detainees from Kuwait to Iraq.

Detention certificates

The ICRC continued to process requests for certificates of detention from persons formerly detained in Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. A total of 372 certificates were issued during the year. Persons who had been detained in Jordan and who requested ICRC certificates of detention, or similar documents regarding their detention in that country, were referred to the Jordanian detaining authorities.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC was in general granted access to people held in Jordanian detention centres. Its staff made regular visits to all security detainees at the General Intelligence Directorate (GID) and the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs). In addition, ordinary criminal detainees in all CRCs received a monitoring visit during the year. In 2001, the ICRC made 44 visits to 5,799 detainees in nine places of detention. The ICRC briefed officials on its activities during standard visits, and noted that its working methods and mandate were respected and supported. The ICRC continued to make representations to the authorities wherever necessary.

The foreign detainees visited in Jordan were, at their request, reported to their embassies so that they could be visited by consular representatives. The ICRC continued to convey money and letters to foreign detainees in Jordan and to Jordanians abroad from their families at home.

In May and June the ICRC carried out an overall medical evaluation of places of detention in Jordan. An ICRC doctor visited all eight CRCs, the GID and an institution for juvenile offenders. Each visit included a tour of the premises and medical facilities, and talks with the medical staff in charge. The ICRC presented its findings and recommendations to the Secretary General of the Ministry of Health on 21 June.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to promote national measures for the implementation of IHL, including wide circulation of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and adoption of criminal legislation penalizing violations of IHL.

At the end of the year, Jordan was still in the process of ratifying the Statute of the International Criminal Court, which it signed in 1999 in Rome. Local NGOs and the ICRC were very active in encouraging Jordan and other Arab countries to sign and ratify the Statute. The ICRC maintained contacts with the national committee for the implementation of IHL and presented its observations and remarks on the committee's work to the appropriate authorities. In particular, it requested that the committee's work plan be reviewed. A round-table conference involving the Jordanian and Yemeni national committees took place in Amman to evaluate the work of the two committees and draw up action plans for 2002.

Parliament continued to debate drafts of a new Military Penal Code and Military Trial Regulations which comply with the requirements of Resolution 1 of the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. After Parliament's dissolution in June, however, debate had to be adjourned until the election of a new Parliament.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed forces

IHL was already included in the training and teaching plans of the War College, the Staff and Command College, and the Peacekeeping Institute at the Royal Military College in Zarqa. The ICRC briefed high-ranking officers at the colleges, and officers and trainers at the Peacekeeping Institute, on the responsibility of commanders in ensuring respect for and application of IHL during armed conflicts; it also trained the trainers to introduce IHL to different military units.

Police force

The Public Security Directorate continued to integrate IHL and human rights law into its training courses for police officers. In addition, it also began to introduce the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, IHL and human rights into the curricula of the Royal Police Academy. As part of the process, the Academy invited the ICRC to participate in briefings included in the training courses for commanders and non-commissioned officers.

An IHL train-the-trainers course was held for the Civil Defence Directorate (CDD) trainers. IHL was included in the teaching and training plans of the CDD in 2001.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Universities

The ICRC has become a source of information for academics, university professors and students on issues of humanitarian concern relating to its operations within the region and on general issues of humanitarian law. Increased contacts with young people over the past few years have had a positive effect on the degree of interest shown in the Movement. An increasing number of young people have approached the delegation to request information on the ICRC Website, or to declare their eagerness to engage in volunteer work.

Secondary schools

Jordan's educational programme on IHL and the Fundamental Principles was incorporated into some secondary-school curricula.

Media

Contact with chief editors, columnists and writers increased during the year as the situation in the occupied territories and the autonomous territories deteriorated. Media representatives showed considerable interest in the ICRC's work and regularly called on the delegation for clarification or information.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Jordan National Red Crescent Society continued to develop its activities in accordance with the Movement's Fundamental Principles. The National Society has played a lead role in disseminating IHL and in promoting its implementation. Since 1999, it has played host to the secretariat of the national committee for the implementation of IHL.

The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies continued to cooperate with the National Society, particularly in the area of capacity building and in efforts to enhance the Movement's image in Jordan and throughout the region. With the ICRC's assistance, the National Society reorganized and restructured its dissemination unit, and took on a new disseminator with a legal background. Staff from the National Society's dissemination and tracing departments completed advanced computer and English courses.

People wishing to trace their relatives missing in Jordan were directed to the Jordan Red Crescent to file a tracing request. The ICRC supported the National Society through training for its tracing staff, including a four-week internship offered to two staff members in July and August, during which they accompanied and assisted ICRC tracing staff in their daily work. The ultimate aim was to enable the National Society to set up its own independent tracing department.

The procedure for ambulance transfers to and from the West Bank over the Allenby Bridge remained unchanged: coordination was handled by the ICRC and the actual transportation by the Jordan Red Crescent.

LEBANON

Personnel:
3 expatriates
19 locally hired staff

Since the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000 the ICRC has focused on monitoring the situation of civilians living in the previously occupied zone, in particular returnees who had fled to Israel at the end of the occupation, and restoring and maintaining links between family members who are still separated. As soon as it receives full authorization from the Lebanese authorities, the ICRC intends to start visiting detainees in Lebanon in accordance with its standard procedures. Promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL) and cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross Society in the areas of emergency preparedness (first aid) and mine awareness are other important aspects of ICRC activities in the country.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	602,129
Assistance	660,871
Preventive Action	368,517
Cooperation with National Societies	603,411
General	108,446
Overheads	138,011

2,481,385



⊕ ICRC delegation + ICRC office

CONTEXT

In 2001, southern Lebanon enjoyed a period of relative calm and stability despite the permanent state of tension along the border with Israel, especially in the area of the disputed Shebaa farms. The sudden end to 22 years of Israeli occupation in May 2000 unravelled the social and economic fabric of the region and left an administrative vacuum which in 2001 had not yet been entirely filled by the Lebanese State. Life for the civilian population in the former occupied zone remained difficult, and by the end of the year neither the Lebanese government nor the international community had initiated development programmes for the south.

Of the 5,500 people who fled to Israel following the Israeli withdrawal, some 1,500 had returned to their homes by the end of 2000. In 2001, another 1,500 went home. Meanwhile, over 2,000 Lebanese citizens were still detained by the Lebanese authorities, many in connection with their alleged collaboration with Israel during its occupation of southern Lebanon. While there were isolated cases of violence and harassment, on the whole the return of refugees and released detainees to villages in the south went smoothly.

Political debate in Lebanon in 2001 centred on the question of redefining relations with Syria, in particular after the June withdrawal of Syrian troops from a number of positions around Beirut and Mount Lebanon.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

The ICRC continued to monitor the situation of the civilian population in southern Lebanon closely. While the socio-economic situation was still difficult following the Israeli withdrawal, no needs for humanitarian assistance were observed.

Mine awareness

The presence of tens of thousands of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) in southern Lebanon endangered the lives and well-being of the civilian population. Although clearance operations had started, it was expected that the country would remain affected by mines and UXO for years to come.

The Lebanese army's National Demining Office (NDO) coordinated the mine/UXO-awareness and clearance activities of organizations and agencies operating in the field. In 2001, the ICRC and the Lebanese Red Cross attended regular meetings of the National Steering Committee on Mine Awareness, headed by the NDO, along with other international and national organizations and agencies involved in mine/UXO awareness, in order to exchange information and discuss the progress of their respective activities in Lebanon. A mine-awareness programme, under the coordination of the NDO, was officially launched at the beginning of April with the support of the ICRC and the National Society. Throughout the year, the ICRC took part in or gave presentations at several high-level meetings such as a workshop on demining organized by Lebanon and the UN, a regional conference on landmines organized by Landmine Monitor, and a regional workshop organized by the UN Mine Action Service and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

The ICRC also gave landmine-awareness interviews on Orbit TV and Arab Radio and Television (ART). In June the Arab satellite TV network aired a one-hour programme about landmines in Lebanon which included interviews given by the ICRC, the NDO and the Landmine Resource Centre.

The National Society was also active in promoting mine awareness (see *National Society*).

Returning refugees

During the year, 1,487 of the 5,500 Lebanese who had sought refuge in Israel at the end of the occupation returned to Lebanon under the auspices of UNIFIL.¹ The majority of them (1,372) returned during the last quarter, bringing the total number of returnees since July 2000 to 3,169. The ICRC continued to organize repatriations on medical grounds, and repatriated the mortal remains of nine people during the year. It also continued to exchange Red Cross messages (RCMs), official documents and powers of attorney on behalf of separated family members. Some 589 RCMs were distributed in Lebanon in 2001. There was a reduction in their number in the last quarter owing to the return of Lebanese nationals from Israel. The ICRC continued to monitor the situation in southern Lebanon to ensure that the returnees were able to lead a normal life.

Palestinian refugees

The Palestinian refugees living in camps in Lebanon, many of them for the past 50 years, continued to endure very difficult conditions and the lack of any prospects for the future. Many medical services in the camps still depended on external assistance. In April, the ICRC signed a cooperation agreement with the National Association for Vocational Training and Social Services, a Palestinian NGO, under which the ICRC was to provide funds for renovation work and the purchase of equipment and training materials for four

¹ United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

centres in Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut, Sidon, Tyre, and Tripoli. These projects were successfully completed by the end of the year.

The ICRC regularly provided dispensaries and hospitals in Palestinian refugee camps with basic drugs and medical material, and carried out follow-up visits during the year. It also supplied basic drugs and medical material to 14 dispensaries, two emergency centres, three medical centres, and six hospitals in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. This programme came to a close at the end of the year.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In October 2000, three Israeli soldiers and an Israeli civilian were captured by Hezbollah. The ICRC worked to obtain information about and gain access to the four detainees in order to give news to their families, but in late October 2001 the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) officially announced the deaths of the three soldiers. This was later confirmed by the IDF rabbinate. On 29 November and 3 December, the ICRC made written representations to the Israeli authorities, the Lebanese authorities and the Hezbollah Secretary General, reminding them of their obligations under IHL.

The ICRC pursued its efforts throughout the year to gain access to all detainees within its mandate in Lebanon, and made a written representation to the Prime Minister on the matter. Several meetings took place with the Prime Minister and the Prosecutor-General with a view to obtaining a response from the Lebanese authorities regarding the agreement on prison visits proposed by the ICRC. At the end of the year the proposal remained with the authorities for consideration.

In 2001, the ICRC visited 30 Lebanese detained in Israel in connection with the conflict in Lebanon. At the end of the occupation of southern Lebanon, 16 of them should have been handed over to the Lebanese government, in accordance with IHL, but only two of them had been released by the end of the year. The ICRC facilitated the exchange of RCMs between detainees and their families in Lebanon. Eighteen families whose breadwinners were detained in Israel received 135 family parcels during the year. Because of the prevailing situation in the region, it was impossible to organize visits for families of Lebanese detainees held in Israel.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Palestinian amputees were not eligible to receive prostheses under a Lebanese programme and were dependent on the ICRC for fitting. The ICRC continued to assist the Sidon Orphan Welfare Society and three prosthetic/orthotic centres in Sidon, Beirut, Chebab and Tripoli by providing raw materials and equipment. During the year, 181 Palestinians benefited from physical rehabilitation services, which were provided through the ICRC's Special Fund for the Disabled.

During the year the ICRC carried out several follow-up visits to the dispensaries and hospitals it was providing with basic drugs and medical material, in order to ensure that its assistance was geared to needs. In the Burj el-Barajneh camp in Beirut, the ICRC supplied the Al Qods dispensary with laboratory reagents, and provided technical support and training for a laboratory technician.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC held meetings with the representative of the UN Secretary-General in southern Lebanon and representatives of UNTSO,² UNIFIL, UNICEF and UNHCR to discuss activities and issues of mutual interest.

No progress was made on the establishment of a national committee for implementation of IHL.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed forces

Each State party to the Geneva Conventions is responsible for training and instructing its armed forces in IHL. In Lebanon such instruction, based on ICRC teaching files, was formally incorporated into military training programmes at all levels. IHL was taught by Lebanese army instructors at the Command and Staff College and other training institutions. Eight hours on IHL were included in the programme of the Command and Staff College's course for battalion commanders; six hours for cadets at the Military School; and four hours for company commanders.

During the year an IHL instructor from the Command and Staff College, a Lebanese army medical officer and an air-force Lt. Colonel attended courses at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo.

The ICRC distributed 1,800 dissemination kits to the Lebanese army in the Jezzine area. Some 300 dissemination kits were also given to Hezbollah members in the Marjayoun region.

Police

The internal security forces, under the Ministry of the Interior, were responsible for public order in Lebanon. Knowledge of IHL was indispensable for their work. Following a decision taken by the former government, however, there had been no police recruits at the police academy since 2000. The ICRC distributed 1,500 dissemination kits to the security forces in southern Lebanon.

² United Nations Truce Supervision Organization

CIVIL SOCIETY

As in other countries of the region, the general public in Lebanon had little knowledge of IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities, and IHL was not widely taught.

Media

The ICRC developed good relations with representatives of the Lebanese and international media, and maintained a dialogue with selected journalists. The delegation distributed news about ICRC activities and ICRC periodicals published in Geneva and Cairo to the media.

Universities

The delegation maintained contacts with professors of international law at universities and discussed the possibility of including humanitarian law in the curriculum. ICRC publications and periodicals were supplied to university professors and libraries. Individual university students preparing research papers on the Geneva Conventions and related subjects also received assistance.

The ICRC arranged for two Lebanese professors of international law to take part in the symposium on the Statute of the International Criminal Court held in Damascus in November.³

Secondary schools

The two schools involved in the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) educational project, the International College and the Protestant College, continued to use the pre-pilot teaching material provided by the ICRC. At the International College, the modules were inserted into the "Thoughts

and Issues" syllabus. Over 30 students who took part in the course contributed their new knowledge to a publication on war and terrorism that was to be distributed nation-wide. The head of the philosophy department at the International College and the National Society's coordinator of youth programmes took part in an EHL master trainers' workshop held in Geneva in July 2001. An Arabic translation of EHL material was initiated to facilitate cooperation with the Educational Research and Development Centre in introducing EHL into the curriculum, and to broaden the network of schools involved.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Lebanese Red Cross had to redefine its activities and become self-sustainable following the end of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. Its activities included emergency medical evacuations, first aid and the running of mobile clinics and community health centres. It also conducted a mine/UXO-awareness programme for the population.

Cooperation between the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Lebanon continued, in particular with regard to activities conducted jointly with the National Society. The International Federation had the lead role in the institutional development of the Lebanese Red Cross. On 6 April a new cooperation agreement was signed by the National Society and the ICRC. The agreement was in keeping with the overall development plan of the Lebanese Red Cross, and reflected the redefinition of its activities following the end of the Israeli occupation. It provided for ICRC support in the training of first-aiders and new recruits, and confirmed ICRC financial assistance for first-aid centres in southern Lebanon.

Besides enhancing the National Society's ability to respond to the community's day-to-day first-aid needs, the ICRC's support enabled it to prepare for large-scale emergencies. After the Israeli withdrawal in May 2000, the need for mobile clinics to provide curative care decreased sharply, as there were no longer any restrictions on movement or security constraints. The National Society's mobile clinics therefore began to concentrate on social and preventive matters, with social workers as the focal point. A new plan of action was submitted to the ICRC accordingly. Among other things the plan proposed the holding of summer camps and the introduction of annual medical examinations for schoolchildren. By the end of the year, this scheme was in place in the schools of seven villages in southern Lebanon.

Within the framework of the national mine/UXO-awareness programme, 12 National Society instructors gave 216 mine-awareness presentations and distributed information in schools in the south, conducted four sessions for the local community, organized a two-day workshop, with ICRC support, for students from the Public Health Faculty of the Lebanese University, and introduced mine/UXO awareness into the programme of three summer camps organized in southern Lebanon for 390 children. Mine awareness was included in the children's games, stories and drawings. Printed material was handed out during summer festivals, reaching about 4,000 children. Some 29,000 story books, 40,000 pocket calendars and 1,400 posters were also distributed to back up mine/UXO-awareness activities.

In consultation with the International Federation, the ICRC supported the plans of the National Society President to organize a General Assembly in 2002 for the first time since the early 1990s.

³ See Syria.

SYRIA

Personnel:
2 expatriates
7 locally hired staff

The ICRC in Syria acts as a neutral intermediary in humanitarian matters for the Syrian inhabitants of the Syrian Golan occupied by Israel, who are protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention. In particular, it facilitates the passage of Syrian nationals, mainly students and pilgrims, who have to cross the demarcation line to complete their studies in Syrian universities or fulfil their religious obligations, and restores and maintains links between family members separated as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The delegation also works to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law (IHL) and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in close cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	317,282
Assistance	1,274
Preventive Action	433,994
Cooperation with National Societies	121,545
General	25,799
Overheads	73,085
972,979	

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA SYRIA



ICRC delegation

CONTEXT

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who succeeded his father in mid-2000, continued to consolidate his position while gradually introducing measures to modernize the country and decentralize the economy. On 22 December 2001, the new government was officially sworn in, comprising 19 members of the Ba'ath party, eight of the Progressive National Front and seven independents.

Foreign policy focused on the violence between Israel and the Palestinian population living in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. Tension mounted in spring when Israel bombed a Syrian radar station and other installations

in Lebanon, reportedly in response to Hezbollah's attacks on Israeli positions.

Most of the 20,000 Syrian nationals living under the protection of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the part of the Golan occupied by Israel since 1967 were still not allowed to cross the demarcation line into Syria proper. The installation of 16,000 Israeli settlers in this occupied territory constitutes a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In October, Syria was elected to the UN Security Council for the period 2002-2003.

ICRC ACTION

Golan

In its role as neutral intermediary, the ICRC passed on to the Israeli government the Syrian authorities' concern about a number of humanitarian issues pertaining to the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan. During the year the ICRC, in coordination with UNDOF,¹ supervised operations enabling 287 students, 266 pilgrims and five brides going to meet their husbands-to-be to cross between Syria and the occupied Golan, thus providing the population with opportunities for contact and exchanges of news.

In order to facilitate administrative procedures for the inhabitants of the Golan, the ICRC delegation in Damascus forwarded powers of attorney to and from the territory. These documents allowed the establishment of marriage contracts, the buying and selling of land and so on. The ICRC handled 21 powers of attorney during the year.

Refugees

According to UNHCR statistics, there were over 21,000 non-Palestinian refugees in Syria. In cooperation with different embassies and UNHCR, in 2001 the ICRC issued 375 travel documents for 606 refugees, mostly Iraqis accepted for resettlement in third countries. The closure by UNHCR of the Al-Hole refugee camp in northern Syria led to a reduction in the number of travel documents requested.

The ICRC also provided a channel of communication for Iraqis, Afghans and Somalis and Palestinians living in Syria. Family news was exchanged via Red Cross messages (RCMs), and official papers, including school certificates, were delivered. Thanks to improved relations between the Syrian and Iraqi governments, fewer people needed the RCM network to exchange news with members of their families. In 2001 the ICRC distributed a total of 28 RCMs to civilians in Syria and collected 12.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Throughout the year the ICRC helped Syrian nationals detained in Israel to re-establish and maintain contact with their relatives in Syria, through the RCM network. The ICRC also distributed RCMs from Syrian nationals detained in other countries, and helped detainees from the Golan detained in Israel by transferring money from their families. A total of 57 certificates of detention or release were issued for Syrian, Iraqi, Iranian and Palestinian ex-detainees in places of detention visited by the ICRC.

In December, at the request of the Syrian authorities and in cooperation with the ICRC's delegations in Amman and Tel Aviv, the ICRC's Damascus delegation arranged for the repatriation of a Palestinian ex-detainee, who had been held in Syria and who wished to join his family in East Jerusalem.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC continued to encourage the Syrian armed forces to incorporate IHL into official training courses for instructors by pursuing contacts with training officers and providing them with ICRC publications on the subject. It also maintained contacts with UNDOF and UNTSO,² the forces responsible for monitoring observance of the cease-fire agreement between Israel and Syria, and provided them with publications on IHL and the ICRC.

CIVIL SOCIETY

A large part of the ICRC's work in Syria in 2001 was devoted to promoting knowledge of IHL and the activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. For some years, Syrian civil society had been showing growing interest in these subjects.

General public

The Third International Women's Art Festival on the theme "Women and War" was held in Aleppo in May. The ICRC, in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, contributed to the event by organizing an exhibition of the works of 35 renowned Syrian painters and sculptors depicting the suffering of women in conflict situations. The exhibition was then shown at the ICRC delegation in Damascus, where it was opened by the Minister of Culture. Some 600 people were present at the opening, including artists, intellectuals, officials and diplomats, university lecturers, and representatives of the local and regional media, whose coverage of the event attracted further visitors.

¹ United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

² United Nations Truce Supervision Organization

Media

In recent years the ICRC had fostered closer and more frequent contacts with local, regional and foreign journalists, and as a result was perceived as a reliable source of information on humanitarian issues. In 2001, it held regular meetings with members of the national, regional and international press. Syrian news outlets regularly used information provided by the ICRC on its humanitarian activities in Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories, as the violence there continued to dominate news in the Syrian newspapers. This also provided an opportunity for Syrian journalists to learn more about the ICRC's mandate and its principles of neutrality and impartiality.

Academic circles

For the second year running, the ICRC's close cooperation with the Universities of Damascus and Aleppo continued, with the ICRC regularly providing updated reading material to their IHL libraries which were set up in 2000. This gave law students easier access to IHL reference texts and to reference material in Arabic. International law professors and postgraduate students specializing in international law regularly contacted the ICRC for documents and reference books for use in their research. Closer relations were established in 2001 with the chairmen and staff of the law faculties of both universities, which showed growing interest. The ICRC offered them technical support, as well as supporting IHL seminars for law lecturers and students.

The ICRC and the University of Damascus jointly organized a symposium entitled "The International Criminal Court: A Challenge to Impunity" on 3 and 4 November. This event brought together 16 experts from 11 countries, and from UNHCR, the ICRC and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. All aspects of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court were discussed before an audience of some 150 representatives of the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Higher Education and Justice, lecturers and students from the Universities of Damascus and Aleppo, and members of the public. The aim of the symposium was to promote ratification by the Syrian authorities of the Statute following the setting-up of a national committee to explore the possibility in 2000.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

A sound working relationship was established with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, which continued to develop its activities in accordance with the principles of the Movement. The National Society boosted its public image by giving presentations and organizing seminars and youth camps. The ICRC held training events and seminars on the Movement and IHL for young National Society volunteers. It also continued to finance the National Society's magazine and quarterly newsletter, and contributed articles on IHL for publication. In addition, the ICRC donated two vehicles to the National Society.

Within the framework of the National Society's overall development planning, which was supported and coordinated by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC conducted a course in Aleppo in March for National Society officials. The aim of the course was to help the Syrian Arab Red Crescent develop aspects of its Strategic Development Plan for 2002-2007 in the traditional areas of ICRC support for National Societies, namely the promotion of IHL and of the Fundamental Principles,

tracing services and disaster preparedness and response.

The ICRC continued to assist the National Society in setting up a nationwide tracing service, an activity to be pursued over the following five years in accordance with the Plan. On the ICRC's initiative, as part of her training the dissemination officer spent three days with the Lebanese Red Cross, and one day with the ICRC and one with the International Federation delegation to observe their operational procedures. In addition, on the initiative of the ICRC delegation, the first-ever general training course was held for all the National Society's branch directors and headquarters staff for five days in May.

Demonstrating its resolve and capacity to play a part in the Movement's international activities, the National Society contributed to the ICRC's relief operation in the occupied and autonomous territories. Some 500 hygiene parcels were sent to the ICRC's logistic support unit in Amman, Jordan, and were distributed in October and November to people whose homes had been destroyed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In December 2001, two ICRC water and sanitation engineers went to Syria on a one-week assignment to advise the National Society on how to plan a refugee camp. Technical expertise was provided and a complete plan for a camp was drawn up together with National Society staff.

The ICRC continued to provide technical and financial support for the prosthetic/orthotic workshop run by the Syrian branch of the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Damascus, to allow Palestinian refugees and other needy individuals to be fitted with prostheses. The raw materials and components supplied to the centre enabled its staff to produce 384 prostheses and 40 orthoses during the year.

YEMEN

Personnel:
5 expatriates
10 locally hired staff

In Yemen, the ICRC concentrates on activities for detainees, in particular on monitoring their conditions of detention, with a special focus on vulnerable groups, namely women, minors and the mentally ill. A second priority is to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law (IHL) and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in cooperation with the Yemen Red Crescent Society, and to support the national committee in promoting the adoption of national measures to implement humanitarian law.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	545,381	■
Assistance	465,081	■
Preventive Action	355,114	■
Cooperation with National Societies	128,340	■
General	80,977	■
Overheads	98,684	■
	1,673,577	



ICRC delegation

CONTEXT

Yemen continued to suffer from the effects of a number of conflicts – the 1994 civil war between northern and southern Yemeni forces, the Gulf war and the conflicts in the Horn of Africa. Increased economic hardship and a feeling of insecurity caused by frequent tribal clashes created a bleak outlook for much of the population, despite Yemen's natural resources, tourist attractions and improved diplomatic and economic relations with its neighbours, particularly Saudi Arabia. The economic difficulties, combined with the effects of a rapidly growing population, had a severe impact on the health sector.

Moreover, in certain parts of the country water became an increasingly scarce resource.

In 2001, Yemen put through a number of reforms, which included the adoption of a constitutional reform package and the introduction and election of local and regional councils. These and other measures seemed to confirm the government's determination to modernize and decentralize, and the importance it attached to human rights and the implementation of international law. The issue of women's rights increasingly became a subject of public discussion, and the new post of Minister for Human Rights was assigned

to a woman. Taking advantage of a presidential amnesty, high-ranking military personnel and politicians who had gone into exile during the 1994 civil war returned to the country. This was a further step towards political normalization.

The situation remained relatively calm following the 11 September attacks with the security forces tightening controls and surveillance, particularly in the capital. Arrests of al-Qaeda suspects led to clashes in eastern Yemen causing casualties among the security forces and other bearers of weapons. Tribal clashes claimed a high number of victims.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

The tens of thousands of Somalis who had taken refuge in Yemen as a result of conflict in their own country needed help to restore links with their relatives at home. At the beginning of the year, the ICRC hired and trained a Somali refugee as a tracing officer to collect and distribute Red Cross messages (RCMs) in Aden and in the refugee camp of Al-Kharraz located 160 kilometres west of Aden. In September, the ICRC undertook an evaluation mission to Mukalla in order to establish networks for its future tracing activities for the benefit of 15,000 Somalis living in this isolated area. Tracing activities also continued in Sana'a and in the rest of the country. In 2001, the ICRC distributed 4,277 RCMs countrywide and issued 27 travel documents to people who had received entry visas to third countries for resettlement.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In January, the ICRC presented the authorities with a summary report based on observations made during ICRC visits to central prisons in 2000. Following preliminary talks with the authorities in February, the ICRC was granted access to interrogation centres and places of provisional detention under the authority of the Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of the Interior. In July, the ICRC started a series of visits to such detention centres in Sana'a and Aden. In parallel, visits to central prisons continued.

The ICRC visited 17 places of detention in 2001. During visits in Aden, Al-Mahwit, Mukalla, Seyoun and Sana'a, prisoners in central prisons and in provisional detention places were provided with hygiene articles and educational and recreational materials. Some 1,350 people benefited from such distributions.

The ICRC completed the rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems in Saada and Al-Hodeida central prisons, and sanitized the water reservoir in Dhamar central prison. In July, the organization installed a bread oven in the central prison of Sana'a. At Aden central prison, it carried out an assessment of the sanitation system and a rehabilitation of the sewerage system that included a new sewerage line for the women's section of the prison. Rehabilitation work on the sewerage system at Lahj central prison began in December.

Detained women

Together with the Yemen Red Crescent, the ICRC launched a pilot project to provide female detainees in Al-Mahwit central prison with assistance. This project involved regular visits and training in sewing. The ICRC supplied sewing machines, other supplies and incentive payments to the National Society volunteers taking part. The goal was to relieve the isolation of female prisoners through regular visits from female National Society volunteers, and prepare the prisoners for their future return to society by teaching them a skill. The pilot project was considered a success and the ICRC and the National Society planned to set up similar projects in two other central prisons in 2002.

Psychiatric patients

An average of 300 mentally ill detainees in the central prisons of Sana'a, Taiz and Ibb continued to benefit from a psychiatric-care programme launched in 1995 and delegated to the Netherlands Red Cross. The programme has led to a considerable improvement in the detained patients' hygiene conditions, nutrition and medical treatment. The ICRC carried out monthly field visits to the three prisons' psychiatric sections. On these occasions, problems were discussed and recommendations were made with a view to encouraging the authorities to take over responsibility for the patients' psychiatric care. Following a visit by the ICRC psychiatric consultant and the appointment of a new Netherlands Red Cross project manager, a long-term approach was adopted which focused on reactivating the Mental Health Care Department of the Ministry of Health and phasing out ICRC support. It was agreed with the new State Minister for Human Rights and other authorities that psychiatric patients without criminal records should not be imprisoned but instead should benefit from psychiatric care provided by specialized institutions.

WOUNDED AND SICK

During the course of the year, the ICRC helped the Ministry of Health's prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Sana'a to adopt ICRC technology. In March, the organization delivered orthopaedic materials (components, machinery and polypropylene) to the workshop, the National Artificial Limbs and Physiotherapy Centre, which produced 284 polypropylene prostheses and 1,870 orthoses in 2001.

The ICRC was requested by the Ministry of Health to continue this assistance and possibly extend it to another prosthetic workshop under construction in Mukalla, which was intended to serve patients from the isolated Hadramout governorate. In response, the ICRC conducted an in-depth evaluation in Sana'a, Aden and Taiz in November and discussed its findings with Ministry of Health representatives.

AUTHORITIES

Implementation of IHL is an ongoing process. Many important measures have already been adopted in Yemen. The country's military penal code penalizes war crimes, legislation to protect the red cross and red crescent emblems has been adopted and in 1999 Yemen set up a national committee for the implementation of IHL. The ICRC supported the committee's work by providing it with literature on IHL implementation, subsidizing its acquisition of equipment and stationery, and by making other financial contributions.

In September, a round-table conference involving the Yemeni and Jordanian national IHL committees took place in Amman to evaluate the work of the two committees and draw up action plans for 2002. This event was covered in a special issue of the Yemen Red Crescent's magazine published at the end of the year.

The ICRC funded in full the publication of a compilation of the different texts in Yemeni legislation dealing with IHL. In all, 3,000 copies were produced and distributed to ministries and universities. In addition, the ICRC funded the creation of an IHL documentation centre at the national committee's secretariat. This was officially opened in October under the auspices of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is also the committee's president. The event was attended by high-level representatives from various ministries, the Prosecutor General of the Republic, and representatives of the Yemen Red Crescent and the ICRC. The ceremony was well covered by the press and television.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In contrast with the positive results obtained by the national IHL committee, the dissemination and promotion of IHL among Yemen's armed forces did not advance as intended. The ICRC therefore stepped up its efforts to persuade the Ministry of Defence to organize seminars on IHL for army trainers. The trainers' course for military officers that the ICRC had planned to give was postponed until 2002. However, in coordination with the national IHL committee, it did reach an agreement with the Ministry of Defence's Moral Guidance Department on activities planned for 2002.

Some 8,000 copies of the Yemen Red Crescent magazine, which was funded and co-produced by the ICRC, were distributed in the different military regions throughout the year.

CIVIL SOCIETY

In 2001, Yemeni human rights organizations, academic circles and intellectuals began to devote more attention to IHL. This was the result of a progressive attitude towards human rights, IHL and international treaties on the part of the authorities, as well as the situation in the Near East and the 11 September attacks. Much still needed to be done, however, to raise awareness of IHL among the Yemeni population as a whole.

Non-governmental organizations and the *Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites*

In order to promote IHL among Yemeni human-rights organizations such as the Human Rights Information and Training Centre, the Women's Forum for Research and Training and the Arab Sisters Forum, the ICRC gave presentations at various seminars conducted by these organizations and provided them with IHL publications for their libraries.

A study on traditional judicial customs in Yemen, commissioned by the ICRC in cooperation with the *Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites*, was near completion. The aim of the study was to reach a better understanding of the central role of customary law in the predominantly tribal Yemeni society.

Universities

After introductory courses in humanitarian law were added to the curriculum of the University of Aden's law faculty, the ICRC approached the University of Taiz to determine whether similar courses could be given there. In October, Taiz became the first university in Yemen officially to make IHL an independent and compulsory subject in its law faculty. At a seminar held at the university to mark the occasion, the ICRC gave presentations on IHL attended by high-level representatives of the central and local authorities, law professors and some 300 students. The organization also provided documentation and teaching materials.

Media

The ICRC briefed the media regularly on its activities and featured in several press articles in Yemen. On 8 May, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, the weekly *Yemen Times* published an article on Movement volunteers. The government newspaper, *26 September*, published an interview with the ICRC head of delegation in Yemen on the importance of promoting IHL. The delegation continued to write articles for the Yemeni press on a regular basis.

An agreement was reached with the Ministry of Information to broadcast the ICRC television programme "Century on Trial" on the Yemeni satellite channel. Each of the five episodes is on a different theme: children, women, prisoners of war, the environment and IHL concepts.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The National Society continued to suffer from a severe lack of financial means which prevented it from developing programmes and furthering branch development. Nevertheless, many National Society volunteers from the Sana'a, Taiz, Ibb and Al-Mahwit branches continued to provide important support for the ICRC's psychiatric-care programme delegated to the Netherlands Red Cross and its pilot project for detained women. The extension of the latter to two more central prisons in 2002 will provide another two National Society branches with an opportunity to increase the range of their activities and raise their image considerably.

At the beginning of 2001, the Yemen Red Crescent Society and the ICRC renewed their dissemination agreement for another year. Within the framework of this agreement, 6,000 copies of the National Society magazine *El-Itthar* were published and distributed each quarter to various audiences, including the armed forces. The magazine has enhanced the National Society's profile and has proved an effective tool for disseminating the Fundamental Principles of the Movement. The ICRC continued to provide the Taiz and Aden branches with ad hoc technical and financial support to enable them to publish news bulletins on their respective activities.

Volunteers previously trained by the ICRC conducted 52 dissemination sessions attended by 2,083 people, including scholars and government officials from various governorates.

KUWAIT

Regional delegation

Countries covered:

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates

Personnel:

5 expatriates

12 locally hired staff

The ICRC's presence in the region is linked to the issues of humanitarian concern still outstanding from the Gulf war and to issues regarding detention in Kuwait and Qatar. The ICRC focuses on promoting international humanitarian law (IHL) and its own role as a neutral intermediary in situations of armed conflict and internal violence.

Reinforcing cooperation with the National Red Crescent Societies of the region is another priority.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	968,131	
Assistance	0	
Preventive Action	364,739	
Cooperation with National Societies	118,185	
General	153,930	
Overheads	112,012	
1,716,997		



 ICRC regional delegation

CONTEXT

Relations strengthened in 2001 among the six countries covered by the regional delegation, which are all members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, more commonly known as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Although the territorial dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates remained unresolved in 2001, longstanding disagreements were settled between Saudi Arabia and Qatar over their land frontier, and between Bahrain and Qatar over the Hawar Islands following a ruling by the International Court of Justice in March 2001.

A trend towards gradual political reform was evident, with Bahrain a leading example. In a national referendum held in February, Bahraini voters approved a substantial constitutional reform package providing for a two-chamber parliament and an independent judiciary.

Unresolved issues from the Gulf war remained a thorn in relations between Iraq and Kuwait and neighbouring countries, and continued to affect the overall stability and development of the region.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

The ICRC continued to operate as the neutral intermediary in the search for people still unaccounted for as a result of the Gulf war of 1990-91. In 2001, the ICRC chaired three consultation meetings with France, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United States, i. e. with all the members of the Tripartite Commission except Iraq, which has not attended meetings of the Commission since December 1998. The ICRC also conducted bilateral discussions with Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on relatively well-documented cases of people unaccounted for, which had already been discussed at meetings of the Tripartite Commission or its technical sub-committee.

By the end of the year, in the framework of the Tripartite Commission, the Kuwaiti government was still expecting information from Iraq on 608 people unaccounted for, and the Saudi government on 17 people. The Iraqi government was still expecting information from the Kuwaiti and Saudi governments regarding 778 individual files it had submitted via the ICRC. Another 113 tracing requests, submitted by families in Kuwait directly to the ICRC and not handled within the same framework, were also still pending.

However, progress was made in one individual case. In January, the ICRC forwarded to the Saudi authorities the report of two independent experts on the recovery of the mortal remains of a Saudi pilot found in the Saudi-Iraqi border area during a joint Saudi-Iraqi operation organized under the auspices of the ICRC in October 2000. On 31 August, Saudi Arabia issued a public statement acknowledging that DNA tests had confirmed the identity of the pilot.

On 26 June, the mortal remains of an Iraqi serviceman who had died following an incident (23 May) on the border between Iraq and Saudi Arabia were repatriated under the auspices of the ICRC. On 26 September, the ICRC again acted as a neutral intermediary in repatriating the remains of a Saudi serviceman who had died following an incident (24 August) on the border between the two countries.

Restoring family links

The ICRC's tracing services allowed relatives separated for conflict-related reasons to remain in contact with each other. In particular, the ICRC arranged for the exchange of Red Cross messages to and from Iraqis and stateless people residing or detained in Kuwait, and between residents of the region and relatives in Afghanistan and East Africa. The ICRC also issued travel documents to people of Somali origin and stateless people who had been given permission to settle in other countries but lacked the official papers needed to travel there. In 2001, the ICRC distributed 5,148 Red Cross messages and issued 143 certificates of detention and 30 travel documents in the region.

In three different instances, the ICRC helped to arrange for the repatriation of Iraqis who had completed their prison sentences. As Iraq and Kuwait had no official diplomatic ties, all three Iraqi men transited through Jordan on their way to being reunited with their families in Iraq.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Kuwait

In Kuwait, the ICRC regularly visited detainees who were without diplomatic representation – mainly Iraqis, Palestinians and stateless persons. It monitored their treatment and conditions of detention, and shared its findings with the authorities. In 2001, the organization visited 152 detainees on 97 visits to eight places of detention, and registered 37 detainees.

In April, the Kuwaiti authorities gave the ICRC the go-ahead to arrange visits by family members living in Iraq to Iraqi detainees in Kuwait. The ICRC started working with authorities from both sides in order to organize these visits.

Qatar

Throughout the year, the ICRC visited 34 security detainees – nine of whom were newly registered – held at two detention centres in connection with the 1996 coup attempt. The delegation submitted reports on its findings to the authorities.

AUTHORITIES

Tangible progress incorporating IHL into national legislation had yet to be achieved, although the Kuwaiti Chief of Authority of Military Judgement pledged to work towards the formation of a national committee for IHL.

The ICRC continued to encourage the national authorities of all the countries covered by the regional delegation to ratify the main IHL treaties. On 28 November, Saudi Arabia informed the government of Switzerland, the depositary State of the Geneva Conventions, of its decision to ratify Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions, relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts.

The ICRC led a seminar on IHL in November for the Kuwaiti National Assembly's Commission for Human Rights, which was attended by members of Parliament and staff members of the various National Assembly commissions.

In view of the concern in the region regarding the conflict in Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories, the ICRC met regularly with various national authorities and members of the diplomatic corps to brief them on its role and activities in the area. The ICRC also provided information on its humanitarian operation in Afghanistan, particularly its protection activities on behalf of people deprived of their freedom, many of whom were of Arab origin.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed forces

To promote the incorporation of humanitarian law into the training courses of the region's armed forces and the development of appropriate teaching aids, the ICRC took part in a two-day course on peace-keeping operations held at the Kuwait Staff and Command College, where it presented its mandate and activities, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the basic rules of IHL. The course was attended by 70 officers, mainly from Kuwait but also from other Gulf countries and from Europe, the United States and Asia.

Another 40 officers at the Staff and Command College attended an ICRC presentation on the Movement and the basic rules of IHL. In addition, a one-day seminar on IHL held in Kuwait brought together 24 officers from the armed forces' operational and planning units, and an IHL seminar given at the Authority of Military Judgement was attended by 25 legal officers from various units of the Kuwaiti armed forces.

In Abu Dhabi, 13 officers from various branches of the United Arab Emirates armed forces attended a combined basic and instructors' course given by the ICRC on the law of armed conflict.

Police

At the request of the Qatar Red Crescent Society, the ICRC helped organize and gave a presentation at an IHL and human rights seminar attended by 45 Qatari police and armed forces officers.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Media

The media and academic circles received and relayed information on IHL and the ICRC's mandate. The press covered various ICRC/Red Crescent activities in the contexts of Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq, Israel and the occupied and the autonomous territories, and Saudi Arabia.

The Al-Jazeera television station broadcasting from Qatar presented two interviews with ICRC officials on ICRC activities in Afghanistan and Israel, the occupied and the autonomous territories.

The press, notably in Kuwait, also reprinted excerpts from the *ICRC News* and the ICRC's bi-monthly regional magazine *Al-Insani (The Humanitarian)* produced by the ICRC's delegation in Egypt.

Universities

In the United Arab Emirates, more than 200 students at various academic institutions attended ICRC presentations on the basic rules of IHL, the Movement and ICRC activities. A presentation was given at the Higher College of Technology in Abu Dhabi, and at the college of the same name in Dubai. Three other presentations were given at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi and at Al-Ain University.

Preparations continued for the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" secondary-school IHL programme to be introduced into school curricula in the region.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC worked with National Societies in the areas of dissemination, tracing and international relief efforts.

The Red Crescent Society for United Arab Emirates, in coordination with the ICRC, conducted three basic courses on the Movement and IHL for more than 100 staff and volunteers at its headquarters in Abu Dhabi and at local branches in Dubai and Al-Ain. In Kuwait, the ICRC and the Kuwait Red Crescent Society organized a three-day seminar on the Fundamental Principles, which was attended by some 20 National Society volunteers.

To support dissemination efforts in the region, the ICRC and the Kuwait Red Crescent jointly produced a brochure on assistance operations with the Palestine Red Crescent Society in the occupied and the autonomous territories. The ICRC and the Kuwaiti National Society also organized World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day celebrations on the theme of "Voluntary Service and Society".

The ICRC, as lead agency for the Movement's activities in the occupied and autonomous territories and in Israel, coordinated the assistance work of the National Societies. The United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, which donated 9,000 blankets, and the Kuwait Red Crescent, which provided over 24,000 food parcels, responded especially favourably to the ICRC's appeal for support for the programmes it carries out jointly with the Palestine Red Crescent Society. The United Arab Emirates Red Crescent also supplied 200 tonnes of rice and over 700 blankets for the ICRC's relief efforts in Afghanistan.

TUNIS

Regional delegation

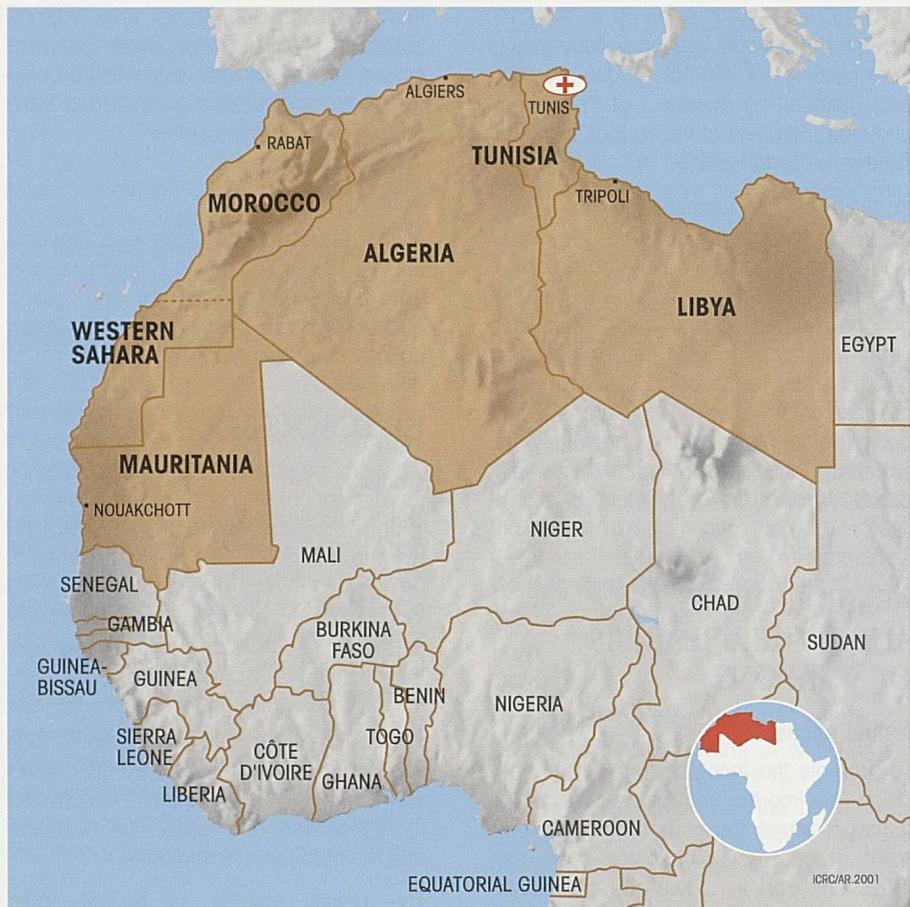
Countries covered:

Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco/Western Sahara, Tunisia

Personnel:

5 expatriates
10 locally hired staff

The Tunis regional delegation focuses on the humanitarian issues arising from the aftermath of the Western Sahara conflict. It also visits detainees in Algeria and has developed its cooperation with the Algerian Red Crescent, which provides assistance for women and children who are victims of violence. The ICRC's work in the countries of the Maghreb involves promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL), cooperation with National Red Crescent Societies, spreading knowledge of ICRC activities, and humanitarian diplomacy.



 ICRC regional delegation

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	
663,360	
Assistance	
348,349	
Preventive Action	
561,857	
Cooperation with National Societies	
736,483	
General	
58,730	
Overheads	
143,834	
2,512,613	

CONTEXT

In Algeria, the government pursued its policies aimed at reforming the State administration throughout 2001. In the meantime, acts of violence continued. The psychological and social effects of the violence besetting the country since 1992 will be felt for many years to come. Between April and July, mounting tension between the authorities and the ethnic Berber population of Algeria's north-eastern region of Kabylie culminated in clashes during which dozens of demonstrators died and over 300 were wounded. A series of government measures was announced to meet the economic, social and cultural demands of the demonstrators.

There was still no breakthrough in the Western Sahara situation. A total of 1,479 Moroccan prisoners were still detained by the Polisario Front more than a decade after the end of active hostilities, while some 150,000 Sahrawi refugees, according to UNHCR, were still living in precarious conditions in camps in the Algerian Sahara. There was one positive development: on 29 June the UN Security Council passed a resolution calling for the immediate release of all prisoners, regardless of the implementation of the political aspects of the 1991 UN peace plan.

Since the lifting of international sanctions in 1999, Libya had been gradually resuming its place in the international community. It was a key player in the establishment in May 2001 of the constituent act of the African Union, formerly the Organization of African Unity.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

The ICRC's Red Cross message (RCM) network enabled many people in the region to restore and maintain contact with their relatives. In 2001 the ICRC delivered 7,350 RCMs to civilians in the countries covered, mainly the families of Moroccan prisoners in the hands of the Polisario Front.

Algeria

Algeria continued to be plagued by violence, which left lasting psycho-social scars on the population. The ICRC backed the Algerian Red Crescent in the running of a programme which provided women victims of violence with psychological support. Child victims of violence also received support at holiday camps organized by the National Society in August. In coordination with the relevant ministries and with ICRC assistance, the Algerian Red Crescent conducted courses for teams dealing with post-trauma syndrome, physicians and psychologists specializing in the treatment of children and young women. In addition, five seminars were held between February and October in Algiers, Tiaret, Skikda, Bechar and Tlemcen, bringing together a total of 200 mental-health workers who had the opportunity to share their experience of treating women and children traumatized by violence.

The ICRC also provided financial and technical support for two new Red Crescent centres set up to help women victims of the violence. In each of the new centres, 80 to 100 women received professional training in sewing, weaving and embroidery, and also had access to psycho-social services.

In 2001 around 150,000 Sahrawi refugees who had been in camps in the Algerian Sahara (Tindouf region) for some 25 years were still living in difficult conditions, entirely dependent on outside assistance. The ICRC provided the Sahrawi Ministry of Health with an ambulance to improve medical care for the refugees.

Western Sahara

With the UN peace plan still in deadlock, the situation of the civilian population living in the Western Sahara continued to give cause for concern. A number of combatants from both sides were still missing after the Western Sahara conflict, and the Polisario Front made it increasingly clear that it wanted answers about its missing combatants. In March, the ICRC requested that the Moroccan *Gendarmerie royale* elucidate the fate of Sahrawis who remained unaccounted for. In response, the *Gendarmerie royale* provided the ICRC with statements to the effect that 24 of the people concerned were alive and well. An ICRC delegate went to Laayoune in November to meet these former combatants, and one was seen in a place of detention near Casablanca. With the exception of only one of them, who was in Mauritania at the time of the visit and was represented by his wife, all the men had private interviews with the ICRC. They were all photographed with the delegate as proof for their families of their well-being, and they all agreed to information about them being passed on to the Polisario Front. Some 150 cases remained unresolved at the end of the year.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Algeria

In Algeria, over 35,000 detainees were held in the 123 penitentiary establishments under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice. In 2001 the ICRC conducted two series of visits to 18 of these places of detention, holding a total of 8,500 detainees. Of this number, 1,026 were interviewed in private by the ICRC in preparation for discussions with the authorities on treatment and conditions of detention.

Western Sahara

In the aftermath of the Western Sahara conflict, the Polisario Front was still holding 1,479 Moroccan prisoners. The average length of their captivity was 17 years; more than 1,000 of them had been held for at least two decades. The long years they had spent growing old in captivity and their uncertainty about the future had taken a heavy toll, and there was a steady increase in the number of cases in need of medical treatment. These cases were entitled to be repatriated as a matter of priority, but no repatriations took place in 2001.

In January the ICRC submitted a summary report to the Polisario Front concerning the prisoners' state of health and living conditions, following its visit to the prisoners in November 2000. In its report the ICRC renewed its appeal for the prisoners to be released. In 2001 the ICRC conducted two series of visits to 12 places of detention. During one of these series, the delegates were accompanied by a doctor, an ophthalmologist and a dentist. Several prisoners were fitted with dentures, while others had surgery for cataract and trichiasis. Prescriptions were made out for 120 pairs of spectacles. The ICRC also provided 470 kg of medical supplies, including ophthalmological and dental materials. Pending the repatriation of the prisoners, the ICRC continued to provide the camps with specialized assistance on a regular basis. Some 1,500 individual aid parcels containing clothing and hygiene articles were distributed.

Throughout the year the ICRC continued to help the 1,479 Moroccan prisoners to maintain links with their families by distributing RCMs and parcels sent by relatives. The ICRC distributed 8,872 RCMs and 177 family parcels to the prisoners in 2001.

On 23 and 25 June, the ICRC met 79 families from Marrakech and Beni Mellal to reassure them about the welfare of their detained relatives, gain insight into the families' concerns and strengthen family links. The meetings were organized in cooperation with the Moroccan Red Crescent and with the support of the *Gendarmerie royale* and the army social services.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Physical rehabilitation

The ICRC carried out an assessment between 24 and 27 March with a view to introducing ICRC technology at the Ben Aknoun prosthetic/orthotic centre in the northern part of Algiers. On 3 June, the ICRC and the Algerian Health Minister signed an agreement on the establishment of a production unit capable of producing 150 prostheses per year for Sahrawi ex-combatants and victims of violence in Algeria. The Algerian Red Crescent was also party to the agreement. Three technicians who were to work in the centre took a course at the ICRC training centre in Addis Ababa in September and November in order to become more familiar with ICRC technology in this field. Contacts were maintained with representatives of the Polisario Front in preparation for the signing of an agreement on the fitting at the centre in Algiers of Sahrawi lower-limb amputees who were refugees in Algeria. From 9 October to 12 November an ICRC technician was in Algiers to help the project get under way.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to encourage the governments of the countries in the region to ratify the main IHL treaties and incorporate their provisions into domestic legislation. Little progress was made, but the ICRC did succeed in raising the profile of IHL and awareness of its importance, in Algeria and Morocco in particular.

The Algerian Red Crescent, with ICRC support, organized a colloquium on IHL on 19 and 20 May in Algiers. The event was chaired by the Algerian President and attended by representatives of the authorities, NGOs and eminent national and international IHL specialists. The ICRC delegation was led by the organization's Vice-President.

In September and October, the ICRC made representations to the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning ratification by Algeria of the four Protocols to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in advance of the Second Review Conference of December 2001.

In Morocco, the ICRC gave a talk entitled "The contribution of international humanitarian law to international security" to approximately 200 diplomats on 18 January. During the presentation, the ICRC emphasized States' obligation to implement IHL. It also gave its annual report on the implementation of IHL to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In April, a seminar held in Mehdia, near Rabat, and attended by 40 professors, government officials and armed and security forces personnel approved the setting-up of a network to promote the teaching and implementation of IHL in Morocco.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC pursued its efforts to promote knowledge of IHL among the armed forces in the region and to encourage the inclusion of IHL in their training.

In February it had talks with a representative of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss possibilities for dissemination of the law of armed conflict. The issue of integrating IHL into training programmes for the armed forces was discussed at the colloquium held in Algiers in May (see *Authorities*).

In Mauritania, also in February, the ICRC organized a combined basic and instructors' seminar on IHL for approximately 30 military and police officers, and provided the Mauritanian armed forces with documents on mine-awareness programmes. In November, a course on IHL was held for 33 high-ranking officers from the armed forces, the *Gendarmerie* and the national guard and six members of the police and civil defence corps, to encourage them to apply the provisions of IHL to their operations.

In April the ICRC conducted a seminar for 26 officers from the Moroccan army and *Gendarmerie royale*, and in September held a combined basic and instructors' workshop for 25 officers from the main training establishments of the Royal Armed Forces. The aim of these events, which covered the different principles of IHL and included practical exercises, was to incorporate IHL into military training programmes.

On 2 May the ICRC organized a one-day IHL session for 30 Tunisian officers who were preparing to take part in a UN peace-keeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Media

On several occasions throughout the year, the ICRC maintained contact with the Algerian and Moroccan media to promote the magazine *L'Humanitaire-Maghreb*, launched by the ICRC in 2000, and to draw attention to the ICRC's activities in the region.

Round-table talks held on 24 May at the headquarters of the Association of Tunisian Journalists, with the support of the Tunisian Red Crescent, were attended by some 20 journalists. The talks – on humanitarian law and human rights, the protection of journalists on dangerous missions and volunteerism – received good media coverage.

In cooperation with the ICRC, the Moroccan Red Crescent organized a meeting on 17 October for about 10 Moroccan journalists at the headquarters of the *Maghreb Arabe Presse*. The ICRC regional delegate replied to questions asked by journalists from the press and national television about ICRC activities in Morocco and elsewhere in the world.

Universities

The ICRC organized a series of courses in the Moroccan universities of Oujda, Marrakech and Casablanca to establish closer dialogue and cooperation with professors involved in teaching IHL. The courses were attended by 200 students from Marrakech University, 50 students from Oujda University, and 20 from Casablanca University. A seminar organized by the Moroccan Red Crescent and the ICRC in Mehdia in April brought together some 40 participants, including several law professors. Certain law faculties of Moroccan universities (Rabat, Oujda and Casablanca) had already incorporated humanitarian law into their curricula, while in some other institutions it was taught as part of the public international law course.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA TUNIS

In Tunisia the ICRC, in collaboration with the Association of International Studies, organized a day of discussions in September on topical humanitarian issues for 50 students from the Institute of International and Diplomatic Relations. The sessions were run by the ICRC, the Tunisian Red Crescent and UNHCR, and dealt with matters such as the ICRC and the challenges of humanitarian action, implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees.

Secondary schools

Some 40 participants, including representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Moroccan Red Crescent and the ICRC, gathered in Rabat to discuss the pilot project for the ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme for schools, and agreed on the need to extend it to other schools in the country. The participants planned a series of measures, including training for teachers and the publication of evaluation reports. From 17 to 22 December, three teachers involved in the implementation of the programme attended a train-the-trainers course in Geneva.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

From 4 to 11 February a course for National Society staff, organized in Tunis by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies with ICRC support, brought together 18 representatives of the Red Crescent Societies of Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania. The course aimed to give the participants a better understanding of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the legal basis of humanitarian action and the functioning of National Societies.

Algeria

In July, August, September and October, the Algerian Red Crescent conducted training sessions for its first-aid trainers in Algiers, Oran, Constantine and Biskra respectively. The team of instructors at the sessions, who had been trained abroad by the ICRC under a previous cooperation agreement, began to pass on the knowledge they had acquired to their colleagues. The sessions involved 120 participants from all four regions, and were also attended by representatives of the Ministry of Health and the civil defence corps. The skills taught at the courses were immediately put into effect in response to the flooding in Algiers in November. On that occasion the National Society also distributed 2,000 blankets and 240 assorted first-aid kits.

Libya

The ICRC provided technical support for a five-day training session held by the Libyan Red Crescent for 60 dissemination officers from all branches of the National Society at the end of January. The ICRC also attended a national seminar, conducted in June by the Libyan Red Crescent, on the establishment of a national relief plan. The seminar was attended by representatives of the National Society, the government, and the armed and security forces.

In May the ICRC Vice-President conducted an official visit to Libya during which National Society confirmed its commitment to strengthening its cooperation with the ICRC, in particular in the field of dissemination of IHL.

Mauritania

The ICRC provided technical and financial support for a seminar on IHL organized by the Mauritanian Red Crescent for high-school students in the Taguant and Taikjikja regions at the end of March. The event served to encourage young volunteers to join the National Society. The ICRC also donated computer equipment to the National Society, which had access to the Internet at its headquarters.

Morocco

The Moroccan Red Crescent received ICRC support for the incorporation of tracing activities into its development plan. In response to a request from the National Society, the ICRC helped to organize a training workshop on tracing for some 20 National Society staff. It also began involving the Moroccan Red Crescent in meetings with the families of Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front, which the ICRC held on a regular basis in order to collect and distribute RCMs and parcels.

Tunisia

On 6 August the ICRC took part in a half-day session for health officers on the protection of women under IHL, held in the National Society tracing centre in Monastir, some 150 km from Tunis. This session was part of a seminar on "Women and humanitarian action", organized by the Tunisian Red Crescent from 2 to 10 August for volunteers and programme officers from the Arab Red Crescent Societies. The ICRC gave a talk on its work in general and its activities for women in particular, focusing on the situation of women in modern armed conflicts and the protection granted them by IHL.