

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES**May-June 1986***Africa****Sudan**

Mr. J.-M. Bornet, ICRC delegate-general for Africa, went to Khartoum where he was received on 3 June by the Sudanese Prime Minister, Mr. Sadiq el Mahdi. The discussions centred mainly on the ICRC's work in Sudan and in the Horn of Africa.

The ICRC continued the operation undertaken from Kenya in April (ICRC office and storage depots in Lodwar-Lokichogio), involving the provision of relief supplies and the evacuation of the wounded in southern Sudan, continued. However, because of adverse weather and dangerous conditions, the operation was scarcely stepped up despite the increase in the number of displaced people in the Narus area (20,000 by the end of June).

In addition, after contacts made in Khartoum and with the local authorities, an ICRC sub-delegation was opened on 26 June in Juba, a city under government control, initially to determine the needs of the people in the region and the level of danger.

Ethiopia

The general tendency towards an improvement in the state of health of the people affected by the conflict and the drought in Tigray (apart from central Tigray) and Eritrea was confirmed during the period under review. Nevertheless, the delegates noted a less encouraging state of affairs in Sekoto (Wollo) and in the mountainous regions in southern Hararge, despite the joint rescue operation (JRO) mounted by the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross. In May and June relief distributions continued in these regions and reached approximately 400,000 people. In addition, more than 60,000 families were supplied with farming tools.

In connection with the effects of the Ogaden conflict, the ICRC was not authorized to renew its visits in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, to all the Somali prisoners of war being held in Ethiopia. However, on 24 June an ICRC doctor was able to examine people detained in Harar prison.

The family-reunification programme set up in Wollo in co-operation with the Save the Children Fund continued. It involves putting unaccompanied children on display during food distributions so that they might be recognized by a relative. Since this method was deployed, 735 children have found their families again.

South Africa

The ICRC delegation in South Africa continued its efforts to support the National Society in its assistance programme for the victims of the troubles. During the events in Crossroads which occurred on 18 May one third of this township was destroyed and the victims were helped by the South African Red Cross which provided first aid (setting up first-aid posts), distributed food and blankets and opened temporary reception centers.

On 13 June, the day after President Botha declared a general state of emergency, the ICRC delegation renewed its offer of services to the South African Government, asking to be allowed to visit those who had been arrested as a result of this legislation.

Latin America

El Salvador

ICRC delegates visited security detainees throughout the country in 128 places of detention in May and 106 in June (penitentiary establishments under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and provisional detention centres run by the armed forces and security corps). Some 800 persons applied each month to the ICRC Tracing Agency in El Salvador for information concerning missing relatives, presumed to have been detained or displaced.

Over 107,000 and 118,000 people benefited from the ICRC and Salvadorean Red Cross food aid programme in May and June respectively. A total of 925 tonnes of supplies were distributed. In addition, 500 families in the north of Morazan received maize seed under a new programme which should help to improve the nutritional situation of the civilian population. The medical campaigns (treatment of civilians, transfer of the severely ill and injured to hospital establishments, distribution of medical supplies to civilian hospitals) and the campaigns to improve hygiene were continued.

Several more conferences on international humanitarian law and the work of the Red Cross were organized for the armed forces.

Nicaragua

Full visits were conducted in May and June to the Zona Franca prison in Managua and to Chinandega, Esteli, Granada, Juigalpa and Matagalpa prisons, with the participation of the ICRC medical team.

The programme of assistance to the civilian population affected by the conflict, mainly focussing on food, brought relief to over 12,000 people in May and nearly 20,000 in June in the regions of the Atlantic coast, the north-east (the Rio Coco region) and the north-west of the country. The Nicaraguan Red Cross has been closely associated with this operation.

Peru

The protection of persons detained under Decree-Law 046 continued in Lima and in the provinces, including those regions where the state of emergency had been declared. ICRC delegates were granted access to penitentiary establishments, as well as to the provisional detention centres run by the police and civil guard.

Following the uprisings which took place on 18 June in three prisons in Lima and the measures taken by the authorities to re-establish order, the ICRC asked to carry out a visit immediately, in order to evaluate detainees' needs after these events, provide them with any assistance they might require and keep their families informed. Less than a fortnight later, visits were made to Canto Grande and Lurigancho in the capital and to the prison in Ica, where medical supplies and clothes were also distributed.

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The ICRC has continued to visit security detainees in the prisons under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice in *Chile*. At the end of June it also resumed its visits in *Colombia*.

Asia/Pacific

Conflict in Afghanistan

Following the fruitful discussions held in Kabul in April, the ICRC submitted a further aide-memoire to the Afghan authorities, setting out its intended programme of action and measures as regards visits to persons detained. This document was handed to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sarwar Yourish at a meeting in Geneva on 19 May.

The mission to Kabul in April by the Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific had also focussed on the principles which would govern medical assistance work in Afghanistan, in collaboration with the Afghan Red Crescent. In May the ICRC sent a document to the National Society, setting out detailed proposals for co-operation in the two medical fields of rehabilitation of the physically handicapped and war surgery.

Viet Nam

A second seminar to disseminate international humanitarian law was organized for the National Society's leading members by the ICRC and the Vietnamese Red Cross from 24 to 27 June (the first seminar had taken place in November 1985).

Malaysia

May saw the resumption of the series of visits to persons held in administrative detention under the Internal Security Act (ISA), which had been broken off in 1983 when the ICRC was not granted access to all the detention centres where detainees in this category were held. From 5 to 15 May a team of ICRC delegates visited 72 ISA detainees in three detention centres (including that to which access had been refused in 1983).

The Malaysian authorities subsequently agreed to allow the ICRC to visit other categories of ISA detainees. These visits, to ten detention centres, began on 16 June and were completed in July.

Indonesia

From 25 March to 21 May ICRC delegates conducted a series of visits to persons detained following the attempted *coup d'état* in September 1965 (formerly category G 30.S/PKI). 92 prisoners were visited in 15 detention centres throughout the country. The last series of visits to these people dated back to 1983.

ICRC delegates also carried out a series of visits, from 18 to 28 June, to the persons detained in connection with the situation in East Timor. Delegates visited 227 detainees in two detention centres in Dili and two other prisons in Djakarta.

Middle East

Conflict between Iran and Iraq

In May and June the ICRC continued its visits to Iranian prisoners in Iraq; conversely, it was not able to resume its protection activities for Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran since these activities had been suspended by Iran on 10 October 1984.

Mr. Pasquier, Director of Operations at the ICRC, visited Iran between 12 and 15 May to discuss with the Iranian authorities the resumption of the ICRC's protection activities for Iraqi prisoners of war.

In the course of his mission, Mr. Pasquier met Mr. Mohayeri, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Larijani, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr. Mahalatti, Director General of the Department for International Organizations. Discussions also took place with officials from the Iranian Red Crescent.

From 21 April to 15 May ICRC delegates visited some 10,000 Iranian prisoners of war in nine camps and four military hospitals in Iraq.

In May and June the ICRC continued to exchange family messages between Iranian prisoners of war and their families and between Iraqi prisoners of war and their families.

Lebanon

After the fighting which broke out on 26 May in Beirut in the region of the Borj El Brajneh Palestinian camp and intermittently in Chatila camp the ICRC remained in constant contact with the parties involved in order to assist the victims and evacuate the wounded. Extensive medical aid (distribution of medical material and medicaments) was provided for the hospitals and the emergency centres in West Beirut and in the southern suburbs of Beirut to treat those who had been wounded in the fighting. Similar assistance could not be supplied to the camps: the ICRC was advised by all concerned that the military situation in the field would prevent humanitarian activities in the camps. It is to be noted, however, that the dispensaries in Chatila and Borj El Brajneh camps had been visited by the ICRC before the beginning of the fighting: a large quantity of medicaments and medical material was distributed in Chatila whereas it was established that such supplies were not needed in Borj El Brajneh. In connection with relief supplies, a material assistance operation was mounted for 415 families who had been displaced because of the events: they were given blankets, family parcels and sets of kitchen utensils.

Another medical assistance operation was mounted in Machgara, in the Bekaa, where fighting occurred in June: after having made contact with the various parties to the conflict, two delegates and a nurse went to this town to bring medical aid to the victims of the fighting.

In addition, regular surveys were conducted in May and June in the hospitals and dispensaries in the various regions of Lebanon: medicaments and medical equipment were distributed depending on requirements.

The ICRC continued its activities in the orthopaedic centers of Beit Chebab, Sidon and in the workshop at Hammana run by a Dutch team assisted by an ICRC technician.

Europe

Spain

Between 24 April and 29 May a team of ICRC delegates visited 455 detainees being held under the anti-terrorist law in 15 places of detention (including two hospitals) under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice.

This mission came within the framework of a series of visits which started in May 1984. Accompanied by a delegate and a doctor who had taken part in the visits, the delegate-general for Europe and North America went to Madrid on 1 July 1986 to report to the relevant authorities.