

Aware of its role as guardian of humanitarian law, the ICRC is convinced of the usefulness of this Commentary for those who are in charge of implementing the Protocols or making them better known. Since law remains a dead letter unless it is known and implemented, the ICRC sees the publication of the Commentary above all as a step towards guaranteeing better protection to the victims of armed conflict.

The English version of the Commentary on the Additional Protocols will be published by the ICRC during the first half of 1987.

Both versions may be ordered at special prices until 30 June 1987 from *Martinus Nijhoff Publishers* (see enclosed brochure).

An account of the Commentary will appear shortly in the *Review*.

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## **Recognition of the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross**

Geneva, 8 September 1986

CIRCULAR NO. 538

*To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross  
and Red Crescent Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you of the official recognition of the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross by the International Committee of the Red Cross. This recognition, which took effect on 27 August 1986, brings to 138 the number of National Societies members of the International Red Cross.

Founded on 2 December 1977, the Society officially applied for recognition by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 12 November 1984. In support of its application it forwarded various documents, including the text of its Statutes and a copy of Government Decree No. 26/83 of 3 October 1983 attesting that the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross is recognized by the government as a voluntary aid society auxiliary to the public authorities in accordance with the provisions of the First Geneva Convention of 1949. A

report on the Society's activities was subsequently forwarded to the ICRC.

These documents, which were examined jointly by the International Committee and the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, showed that the ten conditions for the recognition of a new National Society by the International Committee had been fulfilled.

The International Committee and the League have observed the activities of the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross for several years. Representatives of the two institutions have ascertained that the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross is set up in conformity with the fundamental principles of our Movement and that it has a sound infrastructure. The Society extends its activities throughout the country and is developing them in several fields: training first-aid workers, assisting disaster victims, growing crops and distributing them to the needy, organizing and collecting blood donations, running a crèche for twins, and preparing a weekly radio information programme.

On 21 February 1974, the Swiss Federal Council received notification of the accession of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, which therefore entered into force on the territory of Guinea-Bissau on 21 August 1974.

The Guinea-Bissau Red Cross is presided over by Mrs. Maria Isabel R. Vieira. Its headquarters is located in Bissau. The Society's provisional address is as follows: Sociedade Nacional da Cruz Vermelha da Guiné-Bissau, rua Justino Lopes No. 22-B.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has pleasure in welcoming the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross to membership of the International Red Cross, in accrediting it and commending it, by this circular, to all other National Societies, and in expressing sincere good wishes to the Society for its future and for the success of its humanitarian work.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE RED CROSS

*Alexandre HAY*  
*President*

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