

## **Declaration of succession of the Republic of Croatia to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols**

On 11 May 1992, the Republic of Croatia deposited with the Swiss Government a declaration of succession, without reservations, to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977. These instruments were already applicable to the territory of Croatia by virtue of their ratification by the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on 21 April 1950 and 11 June 1979 respectively.

In accordance with international practice, the four Conventions and the two Protocols came into force for Croatia retroactively on 8 October 1991, the date of the Republic's independence.

The Republic of Croatia is the **170th** State to become party to the Geneva Conventions. It is the **112th** State party to Protocol I and the **102nd** to Protocol II.

The instrument of succession was accompanied by a declaration regarding Croatia's recognition of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, under Article 90 of Protocol I. The Republic of Croatia is the **28th** State to make the declaration concerning the Commission.

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### **Death of Professor Gejza Mencer**

The ICRC was deeply saddened to learn of the death recently, at age 83, of Professor Gejza Mencer, a member of the Czechoslovak Red Cross Federal Committee and an expert of world renown on international humanitarian law.

Gejza Mencer was a university professor of public international law, a member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, and Chairman of the National Society's Sub-Commission on International Humanitarian Law. He devoted much of his life to the development

and dissemination of international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles and ideals, both nationally and internationally, and from 1979 to 1981 was Vice-Chairman of the joint ICRC/League of Red Cross Societies Working Group in that field. He was one of the National Society's delegates to the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts (1974-1977), and represented it at many International Red Cross and Red Crescent meetings between 1973 and 1986. He lectured at numerous foreign universities and was the author of a number of books and studies on the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, public international law and international protection of the environment.

Thanks to his keen mind and outgoing nature, Professor Mencer was able to communicate to students his passion for humanitarian law and action. He was held in high esteem in Czechoslovakia and abroad for his professional competence, his warm personality and his talents as a speaker.

Professor Mencer was awarded the Henry Dunant Medal in 1989 in recognition of his dedication to the Red Cross mission of protecting the individual in time of armed conflict.

The ICRC will remember Professor Mencer with continuing gratitude as a great champion of the humanitarian cause.

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## **Professor Hamed Sultan**

It is with deep sorrow that we learned of the death in Cairo in early March of Professor Hamed Sultan.

A well-known personality in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and in international circles in general, Professor Sultan led the Egyptian delegation to the 1971-1972 Conference of government experts and to the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts (1974-1977), where he was elected Chairman of Committee III. He soon emerged as a leading figure at the Conference, and played a key role in bringing it to a successful conclusion. In the words of Ambassador George Aldrich, head of the United States