

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES*  
*July-August 1988*

## **Africa**

### **Ethiopia/Somalia**

The repatriation of prisoners of war and civilian internees began following the agreement signed on 3 April 1988 between Ethiopia and Somalia. During July, ICRC delegates visited and registered the prisoners of war and civilian internees in both countries. For many of those held in Somalia, this was the first visit by the ICRC in eleven years of captivity. The repatriation operation was organized in co-operation with the authorities and the National Societies of the two countries concerned. On 23 August, the first flight left Mogadishu for Dire Dawa (Ethiopia) with an initial group of 176 Ethiopians and a Cuban prisoner of war who had been held in Somalia for over ten years.

Between 28 August and 1 September, 3,543 Ethiopians (prisoners of war and civilian internees), one Cuban and 246 Somali prisoners of war were repatriated with the assistance of the ICRC, requiring a total of twenty flights between the two localities.

### **Sudan**

In July, after receiving the agreement of all the parties concerned, the ICRC carried out several surveys of the situation in the south of the country, namely in Wau, Juba, Malakal, Kongor and Yirol. On the basis of its findings, a plan of action was drawn up and submitted to the Government and the SPLM/SPLA opposition movement. By the end of August, the ICRC had received a favourable reply from the Sudanese Government but was still awaiting an answer from the SPLM/SPLA.

### **Mozambique**

On 19 July the ICRC had to interrupt the flights it had been making since 23 April to several destinations in Sofala province. It was also

unable to gain access to the other provinces, except for the provincial capitals. Assistance operations were consequently restricted to those towns. However, visits to security detainees awaiting trial or already sentenced continued throughout the two months under review. The team of ICRC delegates that began a visit to the Machava prison in Maputo on 27 June saw 409 security detainees under the responsibility of the Ministries of State Security or Defence. The delegates then visited two detention centres in Beira where they saw 125 security detainees.

A first training course for tracing staff from provincial branches of the Mozambique Red Cross was organized in Maputo from 22 to 27 August.

## **Angola**

On 29 July, ICRC delegates in Luanda visited for the first time a Namibian prisoner of war who had been captured on 24 September 1987 in southern Angola.

## **Latin America**

### **Peru**

In spite of repeated representations, the ICRC did not obtain permission to resume its activities in the Ayacucho emergency zone (visits to places of detention and ad hoc assistance operations), which had been suspended at the end of June. The institution's activities in Lima and other regions continued (visits to people detained by the Ministry of the Interior under anti-terrorist legislation; medical and material assistance to detainees and to the most needy of their families; assistance programmes for civilians) with a certain number of restrictions on access to detainees held by the Ministry of the Interior. ICRC delegates also undertook various missions to assess the situation in the emergency zones in Tingo Maria (Huanuco Department), Tocache (San Martín Department) and Abancay (Apurímac Department) in preparation for medical assistance, dissemination and other projects.

### **Other activities**

Security detainees were visited in *Chile, Colombia, Nicaragua* and *El Salvador*.

Programmes to assist civilians in *El Salvador* and *Nicaragua* were continued. On 19 July, President Ortega awarded the Nicaraguan government's medal for the most successful industry to the Erasmo Paredes Herrera orthopaedic centre in Managua, where the Ministry of Health and the ICRC have been running an orthopaedic programme since 1984 for people disabled in the conflict in that country.

Missions were carried out in *Brazil*, *Cuba*, the *Dominican Republic*, *Ecuador*, *French Guyana*, *Grenada*, *Haiti*, *Mexico*, *Panama*, *Paraguay* and *Venezuela*.

An ICRC delegation, led by Mr. Athos Gallino, a Committee member, travelled to Buenos Aires where it took part in the twelfth ordinary session of the Latin American Parliament. It then went on to Montevideo for the closing session of the third course for National Society dissemination officials in Latin America.

## **Asia**

### **Afghan conflict**

The delegate-general for Asia and Pacific carried out a mission in Pakistan from 11 to 15 July. There he met both with government officials, including the late General Zia ul Haq, and representatives of the Afghan opposition to discuss matters of humanitarian concern arising from the Afghan conflict. In his discussions with the opposition, he raised the issue of protection for civilians and access to people—whether Afghans or Soviets—detained in connection with the conflict and the problems of respect for the emblem and security for ICRC staff on Afghan territory.

Several missions were carried out from Pakistan to assess the situation in the border regions while an initial mission to Mazar-i-Sharif, in Balkh Province, gave the delegates a better idea of the medical services in the region.

From 30 July to 16 August visits were made to sentenced detainees held by the Ministry of State Security at Pul-i-Charki prison in Kabul.

### **China: Tibet**

The regional delegate based in Hong Kong was on mission in Tibet from 21 to 28 August. There he met with leading officials of the Red

Cross Society of China in the Autonomous Region of Tibet and with officials of the local branches in Lhasa and Shigatse. This was the first visit by an ICRC representative to Tibet.

## **Indonesia**

The regional delegate based in Jakarta was in Irian Jaya from 16 to 22 July. There he made a general survey of the situation of people who had returned to their villages after fleeing to Papua New Guinea following the events of 1984.

The ICRC also visited some 60 "Ex-G.30S.PKI" detainees arrested following the attempted *coup d'Etat* in 1965 and now held in 13 places of detention on 6 different islands of the Indonesian archipelago.

## **Middle East**

### **Iran/Iraq**

The summer of 1988 was marked by Iran accepting United Nations resolution 598 and the entry into force, on 20 August, of a cease-fire between the two belligerents. Point 3 of resolution 598 deals with the repatriation of prisoners of war and therefore directly concerns the ICRC by virtue of the institution's mandate under Article 118 of the Third Convention. As it will probably be asked to carry out the vast operation required, the ICRC has remained in close contact on the subject with the United Nations and with Iran and Iraq. President Sommaruga met with Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar on 24 August and with Dr. Velayati, the Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs, on 30 August. At the same time, the ICRC was studying the legal and operational implications and preparing a document for the parties concerned entitled "Principles and Operational Procedures for the Release and Repatriation of POWs Captured During the Iran/Iraq Conflict".

Iraq gave the ICRC permission to register for the first time Iranian prisoners of war captured in 1987 and 1988. ICRC delegates on their fourth annual series of visits registered 5,364 POWs in three days before permission was once again withdrawn on 28 July. The visits in Iran have not yet been resumed.

**Israel and the occupied territories**

ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories continued their activities related to the events which have been affecting the occupied territories since December 1987. An enumeration made in the Israeli detention centres on 29 August revealed that there were on that date 6,023 people held in connection with the "Intifada" (17% more than on 31 May). Of these, 2,305 were in administrative detention. On 18 August, the ICRC published a press release entitled "Two detainees shot dead in Israel: ICRC reaction" to protest about the death of two administrative detainees when clashes broke out at the Qeziot detention centre and the fact that the centre is situated in the Negev desert.

On 19 August, the ICRC published a second press release to protest about a fresh series of expulsions of Palestinians from the occupied territories. The press release pointed out once again that such expulsions constituted a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. A total of 32 people had been expelled by Israel since the beginning of the year.

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