

International Committee of the Red Cross

DEATHS OF ICRC STAFF ON MISSION

SIERRA LEONE: TWO ICRC NURSES KILLED IN AMBUSH

On Friday 27 August 1993, at 10.30 a.m. local time, a convoy of the International Committee of the Red Cross was ambushed near the town of Gorahun in Sierra Leone. During the attack two ICRC nurses, Susanne Buser from Switzerland and Sarah Leomy, a local employee, were killed. Another ICRC nurse, Bernadette Peterhans, was injured.

The ICRC convoy was composed of a Land Cruiser and a lorry, both duly marked with the red cross emblem. For the past 18 months the ICRC, in cooperation with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, has been providing assistance in that area to more than 10,000 displaced persons.

Susanne Buser was born in 1957 and came from Sissach in the Swiss canton of Basel-Land. She was on her sixth mission for the ICRC and had been working in Sierra Leone since July 1992. Sarah Leomy had been with the assistance operation from the start. Bernadette Peterhans, who was born in 1957 and comes from Fislisbach in the Swiss canton of Aargau, received bullet wounds in one arm. Her life is not in danger.

The ICRC, extremely shocked by this tragedy, conveys its deepest sympathy to the bereaved families. It sharply condemns the attack and the failure to respect the red cross emblem. All ICRC operations in that part of Sierra Leone have immediately been suspended.

TAJIKISTAN: ICRC DELEGATE KILLED IN PLANE ACCIDENT

A delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Michel Kuhn, was killed on 28 August 1993, in a plane crash in Khorog in south-eastern Tajikistan.

Mr. Kuhn, who was 44 years old, had carried out many humanitarian missions for the ICRC since he joined its staff in 1982, in particular in Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Namibia, Sudan, Afghanistan and Nagorny-Karabakh. He was due to leave Tajikistan within the next few days to take up his new ICRC post in Azerbaijan.

The ICRC, greatly distressed by the death of one of its delegates, expresses its deepest sympathy to his family.