

South America

CHILE

Visits were made to security detainees in 29 prisons run by the *Gendarmeria nacional* (Ministry of Justice), and to detainees under interrogation at the *Policia de Investigaciones* and the *Carabineros*. Negotiations with the new government which came into power in March resulted in permission to continue these visits.

In total, 193 visits were made and 530 detainees visited. 69 of these 530 were registered for the first time.

Food aid, medical assistance and other assistance in the areas of housing, hygiene, education, clothing and leisure were given to security detainees at a cost of 78,259 Swiss francs. Families of detainees and released detainees also received food aid valued at 232,512 francs and assistance with costs of family visits and other financial aid totalling 10,173 francs. Limited medical assistance was also provided to released detainees.

COLOMBIA

Over the year ICRC delegates made 66 visits to 34 places of detention in Colombia, all of which were under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice. During these visits 810 security detainees were seen and 217 new detainees were registered. In spite of repeated attempts, ICRC delegates were not granted access to detainees being interrogated by the armed forces and the police. Nonetheless, in December 1990 the *Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad* (DAS), which comes under the direct control of the Presidency, gave formal authorization for ICRC delegates to visit its detainees.

Last year the ICRC also assisted in the release of 13 persons captured by opposition movements. Those freed included members of the national police force and the armed forces, as well as seven civilians, two of Swiss nationality.

In order to try to put an end to forced disappearances, the ICRC made constant efforts to obtain access to persons detained for interrogation by the army and the police. At the end of the year the outlook for access appeared positive.

In addition to tracing work, which involved the handling of 39 tracing requests, transport costs were paid to 243 families so that they could visit their detained relatives. On December 24 the ICRC paid for 100 children to visit their incarcerated parents at Medellín.

Relief and medical activities

Throughout 1990 the ICRC provided detention centres and penitentiary infirmaries with medicines, cleaning materials, mattresses, cooking utensils, clothing and sport and leisure equipment at a total value of 5,609 Swiss francs (medical assistance not included). The ICRC also footed the bill for repairs to several odontological units in detention centres and a reserve of medical supplies purchased in view of an anticipated substantial rise in prices. The civilian population also received mattresses, blankets, food and medical supplies at a cost of 8,868 Swiss francs (medical assistance not included), after families were displaced by the violence, especially in the departments of Cesar, Santander and Aranca. Medical supplies distributed amounted to 33,913 francs.

Dissemination activities

Owing to the climate of violence in the country, throughout the year the ICRC continued to work alongside the National Society within the context of its vast programme of dissemination. Major target groups were university students and staff, the national police force, government officials, lawyers, members of the armed forces, the National Society and non-governmental organizations.

PERU

The delegation in Lima, which was opened in 1984, has expanded over the years, to keep pace with the mounting violence throughout the country, in its efforts to assist security detainees and civilians affected by the internal conflict. The expatriate staff was increased to 31 by the end of the year and after numerous field surveys, operations were extended into areas previously cut off to any aid whatsoever. The ICRC therefore played a key role in bringing assistance and protection to victims of the conflict where no one else could.

At the beginning of June the ICRC's Director General carried out a mission to Peru, where he met with the newly-elected President Alberto Fujimori, together with the Delegate General for Latin America and the head of delegation in Lima. The ICRC representatives explained the role of the institution and its activities in Peru.

Travel in the country being particularly precarious, the delegates moving around in the emergency zones were obliged to follow very strict security regulations and, although acceptance of the ICRC and hence its security improved considerably over the year, efforts continued to develop dissemination activities among the armed forces and the opposition, in an

attempt to forestall any future security problems.

With the opening of a new office in Huancayo the ICRC consolidated its presence in the emergency zones. The institution thereby increased public awareness of what the ICRC actually does and as a result became more effective in carrying out its work. By the end of the year, apart from its main delegation in Lima, the ICRC had offices in Ayacucho, Abancay, Tingo María and Huancayo.

Protection activities for detainees

In 1990 a rise in the number of security detainees was noted. Visits to the DIRCOTE (*Dirección contra el terrorismo*) anti-terrorist unit in Lima were resumed on 19 October, after 56 days of denied access.

Visits in 1990 were made to 77 centres of detention under the Ministry of Justice (*carceletas*, penitentiaries in the capital and detention centres in emergency zones) as well as 6 transit centres under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior in Lima and Tingo María. A total of 762 visits were made and 1,967 security detainees were registered, 1,097 for the first time.

Visits to detention centres meant that delegates were able to carry out interviews without witnesses with detainees. Visits also allowed the ICRC to bring medical and material assistance to security detainees, and facilitated the fumigation of several detention centres. Total medical assistance was valued at 63,525 Swiss francs, while material assistance totalled 42,829 francs.

Numerous high-level discussions were held with a view to obtaining access to detainees held for interrogation in places under the army and the police. In this way the ICRC hoped to see an end to