

rests per month), opening and updating files, locating detainees (which involves a monthly update by the Tracing Agency of about 1,000 transfers from prison to prison), and issuing detention certificates.

The Tracing Agency also facilitated the exchange of messages between people in the territories occupied by Israel and their relatives living abroad, particularly in Arab countries.

In 1990, 18,872 arrests were communicated to the ICRC by families, and 18,642 cases were confirmed by the authorities, as well as by ICRC registration. A total of 28,234 certificates of detention were issued to family members in 1990 by the ICRC.

The number of Red Cross messages handled by the ICRC grew from 10,604 in 1987 to 24,367 in 1988, 74,567 in 1989 and 78,144 in 1990.

### Medical activities

ICRC medical staff made regular evaluations of hospitals and dispensaries in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. They distributed medicines and other stocks of medical supplies when necessary, evacuated the wounded from areas affected by the disturbances, monitored their treatment in hospital and provided support when hospitals were overburdened.

The ICRC promoted and supervised training courses given by the Magen David Adom Society on the evacuation of wounded persons for ambulance staff from Red Crescent Societies. The ICRC also encouraged the professional development of existing mobile medical teams in order to improve the care given to conflict victims and the sick and wounded under curfew conditions.

During the last quarter of the year, the Netherlands Red Cross Society and the

ICRC made a joint study of the needs in hospitals in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in order to provide temporary financial assistance for running costs.

### Relief

In 1990, the ICRC provided assistance in the form of blankets and tents for temporary shelter to 400 families whose homes were demolished or walled up by the Israeli armed forces.

### Dissemination

In spite of the many years of ICRC presence in the region, in 1990 there was still a great need for spreading information about the ICRC, why it was in Israel and the territories occupied by Israel, and how the organization worked.

In 1990 the ICRC set up, developed and maintained a systematic dissemination programme for the Israeli armed forces operating in the occupied territories.

A dissemination programme was also set up for the Palestinian population, including members of the local Red Crescent branches.

## JORDAN

The work of the ICRC delegation in Jordan included activities related to the situation in Kuwait, Lebanon and the territories occupied by Israel, dissemination of information on the work of the Red Cross, and cooperation with National Societies.

The amount of tracing work carried out by the delegation increased continuously following the *intifada* in the territories occupied by Israel. Thousands of detention certificates were issued, and the ICRC organized transportation of sick people

jointly with the Jordanian Red Crescent. Furthermore, thousands of family messages — over 28,000 in 1990 — were transmitted (often by VHF).

### **Activities for detainees**

The ICRC delegation visited security detainees and detainees under interrogation. The delegates made 40 visits to six places of detention, where they saw 697 prisoners; of this number, 289 were seen for the first time. The ICRC conducted regular visits and provided relief assistance throughout the year to security detainees in Jordan, including security detainees under interrogation. In the first part of 1990, the ICRC delegation in Amman monitored the release of the security detainees granted amnesty in November 1989. ICRC visits to prisoners who did not benefit from these measures continued. The delegates also visited persons detained after the disturbances in May 1990.

### **Activities for civilians in transit**

In August, following the entry of Iraqi troops into Kuwait, thousands of third-party nationals leaving Kuwait and Iraq were evacuated through Jordan. At the request of the Jordanian authorities, the ICRC, with the cooperation of the Jordan Red Crescent, took action on behalf of the persons stranded at Ruweshid in the no-man's-land between the Jordanian and Iraqi border posts. The Ruweshid transit centre was not designed to accommodate a large number of people for a long period of time. However, most of the returnees did not have the means to travel on. With hot desert conditions and the constant mass influx of evacuees, the centre was soon dangerously overcrowded and conditions deteriorated alarmingly.

### ***Azraq 1 camp***

ICRC delegates, doctors and nurses as well as 30 volunteers from the German Red Cross were immediately sent in to assist with the operation. Relief supplies, including tents, blankets and medical material, were transported by air from Geneva to Amman.

A transit camp with a capacity of 30,000 persons was set up in six days near Azraq, an oasis 100 kilometres from Amman. The tents were laid out in sections, each with a capacity for 500 persons. The camp opened on 12 September. There was an infrastructure for water supply, food distribution, medical care and sanitation facilities. People who arrived received blankets, kitchen sets and stoves. Basic foodstuffs were distributed each day.

More than 66,000 returnees (daily average: 10,300 persons) were sheltered at Azraq 1 during the first 27 days the camp was open (12 September — 10 October). More than 270,000 daily rations of rice, lentils, oil, curry bread, milk, fresh vegetables and fruit were distributed. Baby food was also supplied for infants. Returnees stayed an average of four days at Azraq before leaving Jordan for their homeland. The return journeys were organized and financed by either the International Organization for Migrations or the country of origin of the persons concerned.

On 8 November, the camps again began receiving returnees, and 3,892 people were sheltered for a week.

On 15 November, the Azraq camp was turned over to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to be run jointly with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society.

### ***Transit camp T 1/28***

A new transit camp, T 1/28, was set up 50 kilometres from the border and went

into operation on 1 October, replacing the emergency centre at Ruwesheid.

In addition to relief and medical assistance, ICRC delegates gave protection to returnees by acting as a liaison with their diplomatic representatives and international governmental or non-governmental organizations.

The ICRC retained responsibility for the T 1/28 camp at the end of the year.

## LEBANON

Deteriorating relations between the different factions and widespread fighting displaced many families in 1990 and increased the social and economic disruption in the country. For some periods, Beirut came under daily shelling and civilians left the city and its suburbs *en masse* for safer areas, in particular southern Lebanon. The heavy loss of life and resources weakened the already fragile economic and social structures.

Between March and the end of June, the ICRC assisted approximately 500,000 people in a special operation financed by the European Community.

Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez, the two ICRC orthopaedic technicians abducted in Sidon on 6 October 1989, were released on 8 and 13 August respectively. Following their release, the ICRC reassessed the situation and decided to remain in Lebanon but to reduce its expatriate staff and increase security measures.

In October, the political structure of the country changed and the militia groups withdrew from greater Beirut, creating conditions favourable to the continuation of the ICRC's work. On several occasions the ICRC evacuated civilians and removed bodies during intense inter-Shiite fighting

in the Iklim el Touffah region. The AMAL and Hezbollah signed an agreement in November which reduced hostilities between the two groups there. At the end of the year the weight of the conflict shifted to the southern part of the country where there was an escalation in the conflict between various factions and Israeli troops.

### Activities for detainees

In spite of the widespread conflict in Lebanon and a reduction in ICRC staff, ICRC delegates and doctors visited prisoners held by government forces in Beirut and by the different militias in Lebanon where authorized. On the other hand, Khiam prison, situated within the "security zone", remained closed to the ICRC, despite repeated requests made to the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) and to the Israeli authorities. In addition, family visits for detainees in Khiam prison, authorized until February 1988, remained suspended during 1990. However, ICRC delegates maintained contact with the Khiam centre, as well as other centres where access was not authorized, transmitted messages to families, and distributed medicines and personal items when permitted. In 1990, the ICRC visited 1,879 detainees of whom 1,779 were registered for the first time.

In early December, subsequent to the agreement signed by the AMAL and the Hezbollah in the Iklim el Touffah region, a quadripartite committee of the Hezbollah, the AMAL and the Syrian and Iranian Governments was formed. The ICRC was invited to be the neutral and independent intermediary in two exchanges of prisoners; seven prisoners were released in the first exchange and 93 in the second.

Detainees and families of detainees received 26.9 tonnes of assistance.