

# PRETORIA (regional)

COVERING: Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland



ICRC regional delegation

The ICRC has worked in South Africa since the early 1960s, opening a regional delegation in Pretoria in 1978. It visits detainees, monitoring their conditions; helps refugees and asylum seekers to restore contact with family members; and supports research on violence reduction among South African youth. It promotes ratification of IHL treaties and their national implementation and encourages the incorporation of IHL into military training and university curricula. The ICRC supports the region's National Societies in building their capacities.

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

### In 2013:

- ▶ in addition to security detainees in Lesotho, detainees in Swaziland and migrants held at an immigration detention centre in South Africa, as well as some foreign detainees in that country, received ICRC visits
- ▶ with a number of countries in the region taking steps towards the promotion and implementation of IHL-related instruments, Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland signed the Arms Trade Treaty
- ▶ over 3,000 South African peacekeepers bound for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan received briefings on IHL rules specific to their missions

## EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)

Protection	377
Assistance	-
Prevention	1,131
Cooperation with National Societies	578
General	-

**2,086**

of which: Overheads 127

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	69%
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	5
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	24

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

**MEDIUM**

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
RCMs collected	115
RCMs distributed	177
Phone calls facilitated between family members	366
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	10
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	11,901
Detainees visited and monitored individually	31
Number of visits carried out	12
Number of places of detention visited	8
<b>Restoring family links</b>	
RCMs collected	11
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	1

## CONTEXT

South Africa remained influential, politically and economically, within the region and in Africa more generally. It took part in diplomatic initiatives regularly and provided troops for peacekeeping operations abroad: the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC) and Sudan, for instance. It hosted the Fifth Summit of the BRICS group of emerging economies comprising Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa. It also continued to host African Union institutions such as the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), a large diplomatic community, regional offices of UN agencies, humanitarian agencies, think-tanks and major media agencies.

Governments in the region continued to grapple with socio-economic issues, including migration and, particularly in South Africa, urban violence. In February, South African police arrested a group of Congolese nationals on charges of violating the Regulation of Foreign Military Assistance Act, which seeks to curb mercenary activity in the country. In Swaziland, demonstrations against government policies and inadequate services, characterized by a strong police and military presence and pre-emptive arrests, occurred regularly; this was particularly in evidence before parliamentary elections in August. Botswana and Lesotho remained politically stable.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The Pretoria delegation focused on promoting wider understanding of IHL and other humanitarian principles, as well as on reinforcing the ICRC's standing as a reference on IHL for political/military authorities and other influential regional actors.

The ICRC continued to visit foreign/security detainees in Lesotho, in accordance with its standard procedures. Discussions with the detaining authorities about access to places of detention in Swaziland resulted in ICRC delegates visiting detainees at three police stations and two prisons; they also had discussions with police and correctional officers about international norms applicable to law enforcement and detention. Delegates also visited – for the first time – migrants held at a South African immigration detention centre as well as Congolese detainees in Pretoria. Some of those visited in Lesotho and South Africa restored/maintained contact with their families through phone calls/RCMs. Prison authorities in Lesotho and Swaziland developed their management skills at ICRC-run courses.

The ICRC continued to engage with national and regional authorities on promoting/implementing IHL. Delegates made presentations on IHL and the ICRC's work at several meetings and other events: for instance, a workshop on ratifying and implementing the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court hosted by Botswana, which ratified the Amendments during

the event. The region's national IHL committees kept abreast of and conferred on IHL-related matters, such as the Arms Trade Treaty, which was signed by Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland.

The ICRC raised awareness of pressing humanitarian issues – such as the need to safeguard access to health care – among key decision-makers in the region. It made presentations on IHL and humanitarian issues to the PAP during meetings and workshops. Following a presentation on sexual violence, the PAP issued a resolution calling on African parliaments to assist victims, improve the monitoring of abuses and punish perpetrators. Together with a South African think-tank, the ICRC hosted a seminar on the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. The South African government's Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and the ICRC discussed IHL-related developments.

The delegation also sought to strengthen knowledge of IHL among the region's armed forces, with an emphasis on predeployment training for peacekeeping troops. Delegates briefed over 3,000 officers of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) bound for the DRC and Sudan on IHL rules specific to their missions. The SANDF and the ICRC discussed expanding their training cooperation to include ICRC support for incorporating IHL in SANDF doctrine, training and operations. The ICRC also provided training/technical assistance for other military officers in the region.

The ICRC reached out to a broad range of civil society actors, with a view to securing support for promoting IHL and humanitarian principles. This included providing support for a programme run by a local NGO seeking to mitigate the risk of violence, and for a research initiative to gauge its results among young people in South Africa. The ICRC also continued to assist universities in strengthening their IHL instruction capacities, by providing material/technical support for IHL lecturers and sponsoring students for IHL competitions abroad.

Throughout the region, the ICRC worked closely with the National Societies, providing them with material/financial/technical support for strengthening their capacities in the areas of emergency response, restoring family links, communication and management. Movement partners met regularly to exchange views and coordinate their activities.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Inmates in some places of detention in Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland received ICRC visits, conducted in accordance with the organization's standard procedures, during which delegates monitored their treatment and living conditions in relation to internationally recognized standards. Following visits, the detaining authorities received confidential oral and written reports providing the ICRC's observations and, where necessary, recommendations for improvement.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	LESOTHO	SOUTH AFRICA	SWAZILAND
<b>ICRC visits</b>			
Detainees visited	600	8,800	2,501
Detainees visited and monitored individually	11	20	
Detainees newly registered	3	20	
Number of visits carried out	2	3	7
Number of places of detention visited	1	2	5
<b>Restoring family links</b>			
RCMs collected		11	
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	1		

## **Migrants held in South Africa and detainees in Swaziland receive ICRC visits for the first time**

Over 8,000 migrants held at a South African immigration detention centre were visited for the first time, following a formal agreement with the detaining authorities. Twenty Congolese nationals detained at the Pretoria Correctional Centre in relation to the Regulation of Foreign Military Assistance Act were registered during visits by ICRC delegates; they also availed themselves of family-links services to locate or contact their relatives.

Some 2,500 detainees held in three police stations and two prisons in Swaziland also benefited from ICRC visits. Access to these detainees followed from dialogue with the Swazi police and correctional services on the ICRC's mandate, activities and standard procedures.

## **Foreign detainees in Lesotho contact their families**

During ICRC visits, 11 foreign nationals held at the Maseru Central Correctional Institution in Lesotho, including eight security detainees, received food and hygiene items and maintained regular contact with their families abroad through monthly phone calls facilitated by the National Society since March.

## **Authorities learn more about improving detainees' treatment and living conditions**

During meetings with ICRC delegates, the detaining authorities in Swaziland were reminded about international norms applicable to law enforcement operations, particularly with regard to the use of force in arrest and detention, and discussed a training plan for police officers on such norms. Two senior officers of the Swazi Correctional Services participated in an ICRC-organized prison management course in Geneva, Switzerland. Meetings were held with correctional service experts from the South African Development Community (SADC), with a view to supporting their prison reform initiatives.

## **AUTHORITIES, ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

### **Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland sign Arms Trade Treaty**

National authorities in the region furthered their understanding of IHL through ICRC presentations at various workshops and meetings; some of them took steps towards its implementation/promotion. Botswana ratified the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court during a workshop it hosted to promote the ratification and implementation of the Amendments. High-level representatives from Lesotho and South Africa at the workshop confirmed their countries' commitment to ratify the Amendments. As announced at the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Zambia, the South African cabinet approved the ratification of the Convention and forwarded it to parliament for review.

At meetings and through newsletters, national IHL committees in the region exchanged views on the Health Care in Danger project and on current IHL developments, including the Arms Trade Treaty, which Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland signed in September.

### **PAP calls on parliaments to address the problem of sexual violence**

Fourteen members of the PAP participated in an introductory workshop on IHL, after which, issues related to the International

Criminal Court and various IHL-related instruments were reflected in their plenary speeches and debates. Following an ICRC presentation on the issue of sexual violence in armed conflict, the PAP adopted a resolution calling on parliaments to work with the ICRC and other organizations to take steps to improve the monitoring of abuses, assist victims and punish perpetrators.

At a seminar co-hosted with a South African think-tank, representatives from the region's governments, the diplomatic community and civil society discussed the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and ways in which they could contribute to nuclear disarmament.

Twelve representatives from DIRCO discussed current IHL developments at a round-table meeting. DIRCO officials and the ICRC met to formalize South Africa's hosting of a Health Care in Danger workshop in 2014.

### **Peacekeepers further their understanding of IHL before deployment**

During predeployment briefings, over 3,000 South African soldiers bound for the DRC and Sudan furthered their understanding of IHL and humanitarian considerations specific to their missions. These briefings also underscored the need to safeguard access to health care. Planned post-deployment debriefings to review the performance of these troops had not yet taken place as they were still on mission at year's end. Over 250 junior and senior officers also learnt more about IHL and the ICRC's work during presentations and training sessions.

The SANDF and the ICRC broadened their dialogue on IHL training for SANDF officers/peacekeepers. Discussions with senior officers aimed at expanding the scope of ICRC support to include helping SANDF incorporate IHL in their doctrine, training and operations.

Elsewhere in the region, officers from the defence forces of Botswana and Swaziland benefited from ICRC technical input during military exercises and IHL training, respectively.

### **South African youth participate in a programme seeking to mitigate the risk of violence**

Disaffected South African youth participated in a programme seeking to mitigate the risk of violence by encouraging them to play football and develop leadership and other life skills. This was carried out by Amandla, an NGO, with ICRC support. Amandla's facilitators and community members trained in first aid, and some participants attended sessions regularly with the help of transportation allowances. A research project found that in two townships, the initiative had a positive impact on those who took part regularly and helped explain the causes of youth violence.

Contacts were developed with UNICEF, the provincial government of the Western Cape, the University of Cape Town and other ICRC delegations, with a view to carrying out further studies on violence.

### **University lecturers and students put their IHL knowledge to use**

All 15 universities in the region that had included IHL in their curricula benefited from ICRC assistance in strengthening IHL teaching/research and in highlighting humanitarian issues for future decision-makers. Lecturers on IHL received material/

technical support for enhancing their teaching skills; some of them conducted research and published articles on the subject. Students and faculty members throughout the region added to their knowledge of IHL at events such as the All-Africa Course on International Humanitarian Law, and through a newsletter. Moreover, some students, with ICRC sponsorship, participated in the 2013 Jean-Pictet Competition on IHL (see *Bangkok*) and in the All Africa International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition (see *Nairobi*).

### Media promote public awareness of the ICRC's work

Using information provided by the ICRC, journalists raised awareness of humanitarian issues and Movement activities in the region: for example, a South African journalist visited ICRC operations in the Central African Republic and drew attention to the effects of violence against the provision of health services in the country. Members of the media throughout Africa learnt more about IHL and the protection it affords them during an ICRC presentation at the Highway Africa Conference, the largest gathering of journalists in the continent.

Contacts with civil society organizations were strengthened, with ICRC delegates contributing to public debates and other events to promote the organization's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies worked towards strengthening their capacities in the areas of emergency response, restoring family links, communication and management, with training and material/technical/financial support from the ICRC.

The Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society, with ICRC help, worked to boost its contingency planning/emergency response capacities – particularly in first aid and communication – in preparation for the elections. Volunteers administered first aid to those injured during strikes and election-related demonstrations.

The Botswana Red Cross, the Lesotho Red Cross Society and the Swazi Red Cross continued to help refugees/migrants reconnect with their families through RCMS/phone calls and facilitated passage for some refugees to third countries by means of ICRC-issued travel documents. Staff/volunteers enhanced their ability to provide family-links services through training/refresher courses.

National Societies affected by financial/structural crises received support for their recovery/restructuring efforts. Movement partners met regularly to coordinate their activities.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total		
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>				
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected		115		
RCMs distributed		177		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		366		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		18	3	6
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		10		
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		108	20	40
Documents				
People to whom travel documents were issued		65		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b>				
ICRC visits			Women	Minors
Detainees visited		11,901	134	51
Detainees visited and monitored individually		31		
Detainees newly registered		23		
Number of visits carried out		12		
Number of places of detention visited		8		
Restoring family links				
RCMs collected		11		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		1		

\* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b>				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	28		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	28		

1. Lesotho