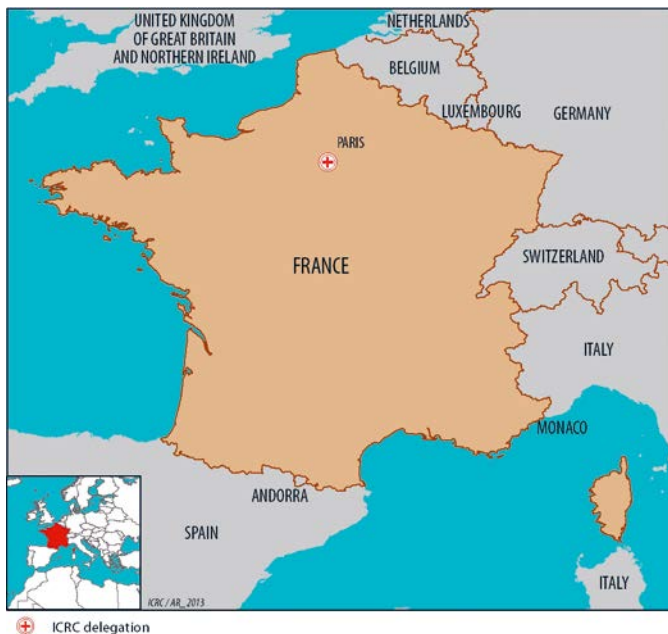


# PARIS

COVERING: France, Monaco



ICRC delegation

The Paris delegation, set up in 2000, focuses on promoting IHL, pursuing humanitarian diplomacy and facilitating ICRC operations in the field. Its target audiences include the French authorities, military and academic circles, the diplomatic community, representatives of third countries, economic interest groups, the media and the French Red Cross.

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

### In 2013:

- French lawmakers moved forward in integrating IHL into domestic law, notably through the adoption of legislation for implementing Additional Protocol III
- high-level meetings with the French authorities tackled the humanitarian needs and challenges, and the Movement's response, in contexts of French military and/or diplomatic interest, such as the Central African Republic and Mali
- the French authorities and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie expressed their formal support for the ICRC's work including through the development of respective cooperation agreements
- the public enhanced its awareness of humanitarian affairs through interactive events and the establishment of a Multimedia Communication Centre, that boosted efforts to promote interest in the subject in France and abroad

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

HIGH

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
RCMs collected	2
Phone calls facilitated between family members	11
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	1
Detainees visited and monitored individually	1
Number of visits carried out	1
Number of places of detention visited	1

## EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)

Protection	64
Assistance	-
Prevention	1,131
Cooperation with National Societies	130
General	-

**1,325**

of which: Overheads 81

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	<b>97%</b>
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	1
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	4

## CONTEXT

France continued to be a major player in international affairs, undertaking high-profile diplomatic and/or military initiatives, particularly in Africa and in relation to the armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria). French armed forces launched military operations in the Central African Republic (hereafter CAR) in December, while a reduced force continued to engage in operations against armed groups in Mali. In Afghanistan, following the withdrawal of its combat troops, France focused on handing over security duties to Afghan forces. French troops also participated in several overseas operations within the framework of European Union and UN peacekeeping and military operations.

French security forces remained on high alert in view of the perceived threat of acts of violence by extremists domestically or against French interests abroad.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, France regularly communicated its views on policy and legal issues including those relating to the Arms Trade Treaty and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Several intergovernmental and international organizations maintained their headquarters in France. Representatives of various foreign armed groups based in the country retained links to their places of origin.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The Paris delegation remained a key element of the ICRC's humanitarian diplomacy network, through which the organization sought support for its operations worldwide, promoted IHL and its further integration into domestic legislation, increased understanding of its mandate and stimulated debate on humanitarian issues. In France, this network comprised the French authorities, Paris-based international organizations and representatives of foreign armed groups.

Regular contacts between the authorities and the ICRC, including high-level meetings with the French president, the Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministries and the Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'homme (CNCDH), enabled exchanges on humanitarian issues of common concern including IHL applicability with regard to detention, the conduct of hostilities, cyber warfare and multinational forces. Such exchanges also led to the development of cooperation framework agreements with the French authorities and with the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF). The French leadership's recognition of the ICRC's humanitarian role enabled the ICRC's president to take part in the Summit on Peace and Security in Africa, held in Paris and attended by heads of African States.

The ICRC lent its expertise to the authorities concerned in acceding to/ratifying or implementing IHL or IHL-related treaties. Lawmakers also took stock of ICRC input on bills to allow French courts to exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction over war crimes and on other legislation related to IHL, including on forced disappearance and procedural safeguards; the latter as part of enforcing States' agreements with international criminal tribunals (see below). Amendments to domestic law enforcing Additional Protocol III took effect.

Dialogue with military operational commands and the Defence and Foreign Ministries focused on humanitarian issues, particularly in the CAR and Mali where French forces operated, and in contexts where France exercised diplomatic influence. The ICRC also assisted the Defence Ministry and military academies in promoting IHL among the armed forces and further incorporating it in military doctrine, training and operations.

Presentations at universities and research centres enabled students, academics and lawyers to add to their knowledge of IHL and the ICRC's work.

Engagement via traditional and social media helped raise awareness of and support for IHL, humanitarian issues and the Movement throughout the francophone world. These efforts resulted in broad media coverage of Movement activities worldwide and encouraged the public to contribute to shaping dialogue on humanitarian issues, for example by participating in Web-based debates organized by the delegation. To coordinate the dissemination of information on humanitarian affairs more effectively, the ICRC established a Multimedia Communication Centre, which helped to swiftly relay key messages to audiences in France and abroad.

Delegates visited one detainee convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) who was serving his sentence in France. Afterwards, they shared their findings and recommendations with the detaining authorities as part of the ICRC's ongoing dialogue with European States on enforcing international sentences. The delegation also facilitated family contact for a person previously detained at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba who had resettled in France.

Cooperation with the French Red Cross, including its governing board, centred on contexts in which both it and the ICRC were active. This facilitated coordination in several areas including IHL promotion, family-links services, and first-aid training by the French Red Cross for the benefit of National Society/ICRC operations in Africa.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

France was among several States that had signed an agreement with the UN on enforcing sentences handed down by the ICTY. One detainee convicted by the ICTY and serving his sentence in France received a visit from the ICRC, conducted according to its standard procedures. Delegates discussed their findings and recommendations confidentially with the detaining authorities as part of the ICRC's ongoing dialogue with European States on enforcing international sentences (see *Brussels* and *Europe*).

High-level meetings with the authorities explored common concerns related to detention, including the possibility of ICRC visits to French nationals arrested in Mali and subsequently transferred to and charged in France. In addition, the authorities regularly consulted the ICRC on the legal framework applicable to arrests and detention by French forces in the CAR and Mali.

ICRC support enabled a man resettled in Bordeaux following his release from the Guantanamo Bay internment facility to meet his son from Bosnia and Herzegovina, for the second consecutive year.

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

In light of France's influence in international affairs, exchanges with the authorities, including the president, armed forces and civil society advanced discussions on IHL and humanitarian issues and garnered support for the ICRC's work worldwide.

### **Cooperation agreements developed with French authorities and OIF**

Meetings during the ICRC president's visit centred on, *inter alia*, the details of a cooperation framework agreement with France on areas of mutual concern, with the authorities reaffirming their support for ICRC activities, including through funding. The French authorities further demonstrated their recognition of the organization's humanitarian role by inviting the ICRC president to the Summit on Peace and Security in Africa, held in Paris, which provided opportunities to further relations with African leaders. The delegation also participated in the first World Francophone Women's Forum in Paris.

Discussions with the OIF led to a cooperation agreement on promoting IHL within the OIF network.

### **Lawmakers move forward in integrating IHL into domestic legislation**

Following France's signing of the Arms Trade Treaty, the parliament adopted laws that would allow the ratification of the treaty pending the Council of Europe's authorization. With ICRC input, lawmakers adopted a bill allowing French courts to exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction over war crimes and legislation related to forced disappearance and procedural safeguards as part of enforcing States' agreements with international criminal tribunals (see *People deprived of their freedom*). Amendments to domestic law enforcing Additional Protocol III took effect.

During bilateral meetings, the authorities consulted the ICRC about the "Strengthening IHL" process and IHL-related issues concerning detention, cyber warfare, multinational forces, chemical weapons, and women in armed conflict. The CNCDH continued to invite ICRC representatives to its meetings as observers, and drew on the ICRC's input and materials on issues of mutual concern, for example regarding the safety of humanitarian personnel in the field.

### **Dialogue with government ministries tackles humanitarian concerns overseas**

Dialogue with the Defence and Foreign Ministries and military operational commands focused on contexts where French troops operated – the CAR and Mali, for instance – and where France had diplomatic interest/influence, as in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and Syria. Discussions took place on IHL, the conduct of hostilities and protection issues, with visiting ICRC representatives briefing the authorities on the humanitarian needs and challenges on the ground.

France-based representatives of foreign armed groups, such as those from the CAR and Syria, deepened their understanding of humanitarian principles and ICRC operations in the field through similar discussions.

Meetings with officers-in-training at military academies focused on IHL dissemination and its further incorporation in military training and operations, but also increased the officer cadets' knowledge

of the ICRC's activities. Some 70 military legal advisers refined their IHL knowledge at two courses before their deployment. Consultations with military health personnel enlisted their support for the goals of the Health Care in Danger project, which they featured on their website.

Students and lecturers learnt more about IHL at seminars/presentations, including at the national school of administration and at a symposium organized by the legal research centres of Université Paris Sud and Université de Rouen. The ICRC continued to develop an interactive online IHL course to further promote IHL in academic circles.

### **Traditional and social media promote humanitarian concerns**

The French media regularly published articles on humanitarian issues (see above), based on interviews, including with the ICRC president, and on materials provided by the delegation. A photo-journalist won the third ICRC Humanitarian Visa d'Or prize for his depiction of the dangers faced by health care services in Syria. Two journalists won the ICRC-sponsored prize at the Monte Carlo Television Festival for their documentary on child soldiers and sexual violence. The publication of Dr Pascal Grellety-Bosviel's memoirs describing 45 years of humanitarian work with the ICRC and other organizations also generated media coverage and public interest.

The public, demonstrating greater interest in humanitarian issues, followed updates on the ICRC's work and learnt more about IHL and humanitarian developments via the delegation's official social media accounts and the French-language blog hosted by *Le Monde's* website. NGOs, the authorities and youth representatives actively discussed current humanitarian issues at Web-based debates organized by the ICRC and streamed live by French radio.

The establishment of the Multimedia Communication Centre in Paris bolstered efforts to promote support for IHL, humanitarian issues and the ICRC's work among audiences in France and abroad.

### **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Regular dialogue enabled the French Red Cross and the ICRC to coordinate their activities, particularly in IHL promotion, restoring family links and first-aid training, and to discuss matters related to the overseas contexts in which both operated. Cooperation continued on capacity building, particularly in first aid and the application of the Safer Access Framework, for Movement operations in Africa and for the National Society's overseas branch in French Guiana.

The National Society and the ICRC continued to work together to help migrants in France restore family links and particularly to facilitate the authentication by asylum authorities of ICRC detention attestations.

Joint events held with the Red Cross of Monaco as part of its 65th anniversary promoted the Movement among the Monégasque public and strengthened relations with the National Society.

<b>MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION</b>		Total		
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>				
<b>Red Cross messages (RCMs)</b>				
RCMs collected		2	UAMs/SCs*	
Names published on the ICRC family-links website		11		
<b>Documents</b>				
People to whom travel documents were issued		2		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>				
<b>ICRC visits</b>				
Detainees visited		1	Women	Minors
Number of visits carried out		1		

\* Unaccompanied minors/separated children