



Jordan

The ICRC has been present in Jordan since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Its work there largely consists in visiting detainees to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention, providing tracing and RCM services to enable civilians and foreign detainees to restore family links, and promoting IHL throughout Jordanian society, in close cooperation with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society. The delegation also provides logistical support to ICRC relief operations in Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories and Iraq.

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	1,559
Assistance	-
Prevention	994
Cooperation with National Societies	117
General	-

► **2,670**

of which: Overheads 163

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	112%
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PERSONNEL

17	expatriates
96	national staff (daily workers not included)

KEY POINTS

In 2006, the ICRC:

- ▶ visited people held by the Jordanian authorities to monitor their conditions of detention; offered to mediate between the authorities and detainees and to provide medical aid to those wounded during prison riots in March and April;
- ▶ restored and maintained links between families in Jordan and their relatives detained/interned in Jordan or abroad;
- ▶ provided refugees accepted for resettlement by third countries with travel documents, in collaboration with UNHCR and the embassies of destination countries;
- ▶ welcomed an official order issued by the authorities to integrate IHL into all aspects of military training; made progress in the integration of IHL into law curricula in Jordanian universities and its basic principles into school teaching programmes;
- ▶ cooperated with the Jordanian Red Crescent in the fields of mine-risk education, IHL promotion and tracing;
- ▶ through its regional logistics centre in Amman, stepped up support to ICRC operations in Iraq, the Palestinian territories and Lebanon.

CONTEXT

After a year in office, the government underwent a reshuffle in November. Although the economy strengthened in macro-economic terms, the purchasing power of many households diminished owing to price increases, including on basic items. Security forces were kept on high alert and announced that they had foiled a number of attacks planned against various targets throughout the country.

The increasingly tense situation in the Palestinian territories, resulting in recurrent border closures and tightened immigration procedures, disrupted the transfer of patients to and from the West Bank and Jordan. Iraqis' access to and stay in Jordan came under closer scrutiny from the authorities.

The heightened security came in the wake of simultaneous suicide bombings at three international hotels in Amman in November 2005. In September 2006, an individual fired at tourists, killing one, and at a police officer in downtown Amman. The following month, a car-bomb exploded at the Al-Karama Iraqi-Jordanian border crossing point, killing three border officials and wounding three others.

The State Security Court pronounced several new death sentences relating to planned or actual attacks against national or foreign interests in the country, and a new anti-terrorism law entered into force in November. In the second quarter of the year, Jordanian officials announced the arrest of several people, allegedly linked to Hamas, on charges of smuggling weapons and planning attacks in Jordan.

In March and April, rioting broke out in several prisons holding security detainees. The riots ended after the detainees involved, some of whom had been sentenced to death, released Ministry of Interior officials they had been holding hostage.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)		DOCUMENTS ISSUED	
Detainees visited	7,492	People to whom travel documents were issued	455
Detainees visited and monitored individually	681	People to whom a detention attestation was issued	28
Number of visits carried out	48		
Number of places of detention visited	11		
RESTORING FAMILY LINKS			
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>			
RCMs collected	1,705		
RCMs distributed	1,747		
People reunited with their families	3		
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>			
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	17		
Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)	27		
Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2006	45		

ICRC ACTION

Visits to people deprived of their freedom and the restoration of contact between people in Jordan and members of their families either detained/interned abroad or in Jordan, or between family members otherwise separated by conflict, remained priority activities. The ICRC also continued to facilitate the transfer of medical cases and human remains between the West Bank and Jordan.

Efforts to promote the incorporation of IHL into national legislation and in support of national efforts to integrate IHL into the doctrine, teaching and training programmes of the armed forces and into university and school curricula were favourably received by the authorities concerned. The Jordanian authorities issued an official order to integrate IHL into military training. The ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was successfully pilot-tested in a number of Jordanian schools, and a second and final pilot phase was launched at the beginning of the new academic year, with the extension of the programme to additional schools.

A first ICRC workshop was organized in Jordan for members of the upper and lower houses of parliament. This helped to give senators and deputies a better understanding of IHL ahead of legislators' planned submission to parliament of a number of temporary or draft laws related to IHL in 2007.

The ICRC also cooperated with and provided support to the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in the fields of tracing, the promotion of IHL and the Fundamental Principles, and mine-risk education.

The Jordan delegation continued to play a key role in supporting ICRC operations in

neighbouring Iraq and the Palestinian territories. It also served as a pivotal logistics base for ICRC operations in Lebanon during the July–August conflict. Emergency medical supplies, food and other essential aid were dispatched from ICRC warehouses in Amman by air or road to all three destinations. The precarious security situation in Al-Anbar province in Iraq led to a temporary suspension of road convoys to Baghdad from Jordan, and alternative supply routes were set in place.

CIVILIANS

ICRC tracing and family-links services

People in Jordan and their family members detained/interned in Jordan or abroad were able to restore or maintain contact and to exchange official documents such as passports and power of attorney papers through the ICRC's tracing and family links services. Former detainees obtained ICRC certificates of detention.

Hundreds of refugees (300 Iranian Kurds and 130 Palestinians), who had been stranded in Ruweished camp close to the Iraqi border since they fled Iraq in March 2003, and a group of 195 Iranian Kurds, who had been blocked in a strip of no-man's-land between the two countries since 2005, restored contact with their families by the same means. By the end of 2006, 354 refugees from the Ruweished camp (300 Iranians and 54 Palestinians) had been resettled in Canada, Ireland, Sweden and the United States.

At the request of UNHCR and/or the embassies concerned, recognized refugees received ICRC travel documents to facilitate their resettlement in third countries.

Three children from an orphanage in Jordan were reunited under ICRC auspices with their grandmother in the Palestinian territories, and a female child was located by the ICRC in an orphanage in the Palestinian territories and reunited with her mother in Jordan.

Twenty-four Jordanian nationals detained in Israel received family visits arranged by the ICRC in coordination with the Jordanian and Israeli authorities.

- 1,365 RCMs collected and 1,673 distributed
- new tracing requests registered for 17 people (1 female), mainly from families enquiring about Jordanian nationals detained/interned or living in Iraq; 27 persons located, 45 people (1 minor at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 476 civilians, as well as 109 human remains, transferred to/from the Palestinian territories; 3 children reunited with their grandmother in the Palestinian territories
- 455 recognized refugees issued with ICRC travel documents
- 17 official documents of various types forwarded across borders and frontlines

Logistics support and training

The ICRC logistics base in Amman continued to provide key support to ICRC activities, particularly in Lebanon, Iraq and the Palestinian territories.

During the emergencies arising from the South Asia earthquake in October 2005 and the armed conflict in Lebanon in July–August 2006, logistics experts were immediately dispatched from Amman to set up and support assistance activities in those areas. In addition to serving its intended purpose to support assistance

programmes in the Palestinian territories and Iraq, the Amman warehouse proved to be a valuable asset during the conflict in Lebanon and functioned as a logistics platform for ICRC aid shipments to the country. National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies were also able to use this channel to forward assistance safely to Lebanon.

The regional vehicle workshop prepared and maintained a large number of vehicles used in emergencies and for general operations in the Middle East. The emergency truck fleet was extensively used during the Lebanon crisis. In addition, the trucks were deployed in a cross-border operation between the Syrian Arab Republic and Israel and to provide weekly supplies to the Palestinian territories.

- ▶ 351 staff members trained by the regional training unit in Amman

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC carried out regular visits to people held in detention facilities run either by the General Intelligence Directorate (GID) or by the Public Security Directorate (Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres) to monitor detainee treatment and living conditions. It maintained a confidential dialogue with the Jordanian authorities and submitted a summary report of observations and recommendations made during the visits.

Detainees were able to maintain contact with their families through the RCM service.

Extra visits were made to three Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres in Amman following outbreaks of rioting by detainees there in March and April. ICRC findings and recommendations resulting from these visits were shared with the authorities concerned, in particular aimed at preventing a recurrence of such incidents.

The King of Jordan announced that the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre in the Jaffer area of Maan Governorate was to be closed because conditions of detention there were not appropriate. Various national and international bodies had publicly expressed concern about the conditions in the centre. The ICRC had also visited the centre. At the beginning of December, the centre was shut down, and the inmates transferred to other Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres.

- ▶ 7,492 detainees visited, 681 (1 female, 1 minor) monitored individually, including 543 newly registered, during 48 visits to 11 places of detention
- ▶ 340 RCMs collected and 74 distributed from/to families and their detained relatives
- ▶ 28 certificates of detention issued to former detainees or their families

WOUNDED AND SICK

The transfer by ambulance of patients and the bodies of deceased Palestinians between Jordan and the West Bank continued to be facilitated by the ICRC, in cooperation with the Jordanian and Palestine Red Crescent Societies.

- ▶ 476 patients and 109 bodies of deceased Palestinians transferred between Jordan and the West Bank

AUTHORITIES

A draft law on the Ottawa Convention was finalized by the national IHL committee for presentation to the government, while a draft law on the Rome Statute was under review at the Foreign Ministry. Another draft law amending the Jordan Red Crescent Law, incorporating provisions for the protection of the emblem, still awaited parliamentary approval.

In a further positive development, an official decision was taken to include IHL as a separate subject in diploma courses for trainee judges at the Judicial Institute.

- ▶ 15 judges and 8 representatives from the Military Judiciary Directorate, the Public Security Directorate, the GID and the Jordanian Bar Association participated in an ICRC course on IHL, organized in cooperation with the Judicial Institute of Jordan
- ▶ members of the upper and lower houses of parliament for the first time attended an ICRC seminar, organized jointly with the national IHL committee, on the distinction between IHL and human rights law, national implementation mechanisms and the role of parliamentarians in implementing IHL
- ▶ 29 representatives of various government ministries and bodies attended an ICRC seminar on IHL and a round-table organized with the national IHL committee to review progress and to draft a plan of action for 2007

- ▶ 16 civil judges, 2 military judges, 2 public security officers, 2 public intelligence officers, 2 civil defence officers and 1 attorney attended the 3rd annual seminar on IHL organized by the Judicial Institute of Jordan in collaboration with the ICRC

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In a key development, the chairman of the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) Joint Chiefs of Staff issued an official order in January to integrate IHL into military training with immediate effect.

- ▶ 215 senior JAF instructors and 75 military officers from 16 countries attended an ICRC refresher course on IHL at the Royal Command and Staff College
- ▶ hundreds of Jordanian and non-Jordanian officers attended 26 ICRC presentations on IHL at various military institutes and colleges
- ▶ 62 JAF officers attended 3 training sessions conducted by JAF instructors, with ICRC support, at various military colleges and institutes
- ▶ 30 Jordanian officers attended a training course on IHL at the Peace Operations and Training Center

CIVIL SOCIETY

IHL teaching in universities

- ▶ 12 of Jordan's 15 universities had integrated IHL into their law curricula by the end of 2006
- ▶ 19 law lecturers and researchers from 9 public and private universities attended a seminar on challenges facing IHL and customary IHL, organized by the ICRC and the national IHL committee
- ▶ 37 law lecturers and postgraduate students, together with key civil society representatives, attended an IHL seminar co-organized by Mutah University and the ICRC in Karak (southern Jordan)

Exploring Humanitarian Law

The introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in 11 schools was a success, and the Ministry of Education approved its extension to a further 24 schools for the 2006–07 academic year.

- ▶ 17 educational supervisors and 30 teachers involved in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme attended 2 training sessions on the programme
- ▶ 20 members of the Education Ministry's curriculum and textbook department attended an Exploring Humanitarian Law workshop
- ▶ 5 members of the Ministry of Education's technical committee participated in the 4th regional conference on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in Tunisia (see *Tunis*)

Media relations

- ▶ 1,250 copies of 2 issues of the ICRC-produced Arabic-language quarterly magazine *Al-Insani* distributed to various government departments and key civil society sectors, including the media

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The ICRC continued to provide training, material and financial support to help strengthen the capacities of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in the fields of dissemination, tracing and mine-risk education.

- ▶ Jordanian and Palestine Red Crescent ambulance services assisted in transferring medical cases and human remains between Jordan and the West Bank (see *Civilians*)
- ▶ 21 Jordanian Red Crescent volunteers attended a training workshop on the dissemination of IHL and the Fundamental Principles
- ▶ Jordanian Red Crescent volunteers received training and training tools on mine-risk education, enabling them to run mine-risk sessions for Jordanian schoolteachers and schoolchildren