

PARIS

COVERING: France, Monaco



Throughout the region, the ICRC engages in regular dialogue on IHL, its implementation, and other humanitarian concerns with the authorities, military and academic circles, and third country representatives; increases awareness of its mandate; and mobilizes political and financial support for its activities. It visits people held by international criminal tribunals based in the region. It also follows up on people formerly held at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba. The ICRC works with the National Societies on their international activities and IHL promotion and, through them, enables migrants to contact their families.

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

In 2014:

- ▶ agreements signed with the French authorities and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie bolstered cooperation in humanitarian activities and efforts to promote IHL
- ▶ dialogue with the French Defence Ministry's strategic planning and conduct of operations centre created new possibilities for interaction with military bodies involved in training/education/external operations
- ▶ experts and members of the general public discussed humanitarian issues through communication efforts such as webcast debates and at a conference on sexual violence in armed conflict
- ▶ the French Red Cross and the ICRC signed a letter of intent and strengthened cooperation in first aid, IHL promotion, family-links services for migrants, and communication

YEARLY RESULTS

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

HIGH

PROTECTION	Total
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	2
Detainees visited and monitored individually	2
Number of visits carried out	2
Number of places of detention visited	2

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)	
Protection	44
Assistance	-
Prevention	1,407
Cooperation with National Societies	101
General	-

1,552

of which: Overheads 95

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	97%
PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	10
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	14

CONTEXT

France continued to play a major role in international affairs, undertaking high-profile diplomatic and/or military initiatives in contexts such as the Central African Republic (hereafter CAR), Mali and the Sahel region, Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) and Ukraine.

The French government reorganized its forces in the Sahel, ending Operation Serval in Mali, and launching Operation Barkhane, aimed at countering armed groups in Africa with a 3,000-strong force spanning Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. French forces continued to engage in operations against armed groups in the CAR under Operation Sangaris, and in Iraq under Operation Chammal. They also participated in several overseas operations within the framework of European Union (EU) and UN peacekeeping and military operations; France maintained logistical forces in Afghanistan.

French security forces remained on high alert in view of the perceived threat of violence by religious extremists, domestically or against French interests abroad. Security remained high on the agenda, particularly in light of arrests/detention of people allegedly connected to fighting groups abroad.

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

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 incorporation in domestic legislation, increased understanding of its mandate and stimulated debate on humanitarian issues. In France, this network consisted of the French authorities, Paris-based international organizations and representatives of foreign opposition groups.

The signature of a cooperation agreement between the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and the ICRC paved the way for enhanced cooperation between the two organizations in the French-speaking world. The ICRC also signed a framework agreement with the French government, which reaffirmed the government's support for the ICRC's activities, including through funding. Regular contact between the authorities and the ICRC included high-level meetings with the French president, the Defence/Foreign Affairs Ministries, and the Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'homme (CNCDDH), which provided opportunities to exchange views on common concerns such as detention, new technologies of warfare, the conduct of hostilities and multinational forces.

Dialogue with the Defence/Foreign Affairs Ministries focused on issues of common interest – in the CAR, Iraq, Mali and the Sahel region, Ukraine, Syria, and elsewhere – and on the potential implications for humanitarian activities of ongoing EU data protection reforms. The ICRC also assisted the Defence Ministry and military academies in further incorporating IHL in military doctrine/training/operations, including through IHL training for legal advisers preparing for deployment abroad.

Dialogue was also established with the French Defence Ministry's strategic planning and conduct of operations centre, which created

new possibilities for interaction with French military bodies involved in training and education, as well as commands engaged in external operations.

Contacts with key members of civil society and engagement on social media helped raise awareness of and support for IHL, humanitarian principles/activities and the Movement. This also contributed to media coverage of Movement and ICRC activities worldwide, and encouraged the wider public to contribute to dialogue on humanitarian issues, including through webcast debates within the framework of the "5 à 7 du CICR" series and the ICRC's annual conference (on sexual violence in armed conflict). The ICRC's Centre for Multimedia Communication increased its production of audiovisual materials, which enhanced the delegation's ability to produce and disseminate materials promoting the organization's key messages to audiences in France and abroad.

Delegates visited one detainee convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and serving his sentence in France. Afterwards, they communicated their findings to the detaining authorities, as part of the ICRC's ongoing dialogue with European States on enforcing international sentences. A French national, previously detained in Afghanistan – and met several times by the ICRC before his transfer to France – was also visited.

The ICRC also continued to follow up persons previously held at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and resettled in France.

Cooperation with the French Red Cross and the Red Cross of Monaco centred on contexts in which both the pertinent National Society and the ICRC were operational. A letter of intent, strengthening partnership with the French National Society, was signed.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

France was one of several States that had signed an agreement with the ICTY on the enforcement of sentences. The ICRC visited, according to its standard procedures, one detainee convicted by the ICTY and serving his sentence in France.

Subsequently, the detaining authorities received feedback and recommendations, tying into the ICRC's ongoing dialogue with European States on the enforcement of international sentences.

High-level meetings and correspondence with the authorities, including the prime minister, explored common concerns related to detention, and the possibility of ICRC visits to persons detained in France in connection with conflicts to which the French army was party. The French authorities developed, with contributions from the ICRC, legal frameworks for arrests and detention in the CAR and Niger.

A French national, previously detained in Afghanistan and met several times by the ICRC there, was transferred to France; delegates made a follow-up visit to him. The findings of the visit were shared with the detaining authorities.

With ICRC support, one person previously held at the Guantanamo Bay internment facility, and resettled in France, received a visit from his son living in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Dialogue resumed with two other resettled former internees on their situation.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

In light of France's influence in international affairs, the ICRC, in its interaction with the authorities – including the president, the armed forces and civil society – sought to advance discussions on IHL and humanitarian issues and to gather support for the ICRC's work worldwide.

Cooperation agreements signed with French authorities and the OIF

Dialogue with the OIF led to the signing of a cooperation agreement on promoting IHL and its incorporation in the training programmes of the OIF's member States. The ICRC participated in the 15th Francophonie Summit where the French selection of the *International Review of the Red Cross* was also launched (see *Dakar*). The French authorities and the ICRC also signed a framework agreement, which reaffirmed the government's support for the ICRC's activities, including through funding.

The CNCDH continued to involve the ICRC as an observer in its meetings. Drawing on the organization's input, the CNCDH learnt more about the "Strengthening IHL" process and detention activities, and called for the inclusion in diplomatic/international discussions of the need to provide more effective protection for humanitarian workers.

Humanitarian concerns shared with Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministries

Meetings organized by the delegation enabled the French presidency, the Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministries to exchange positions with visiting ICRC representatives, including the ICRC president, on the humanitarian situations in the CAR, Iraq, Mali, Nigeria, the occupied Palestinian territory, Syria and Ukraine and topics such as the potential implications of EU data protection reforms for humanitarian activities, cyber warfare and legal issues related to French military operations abroad, particularly on detention and the conduct of hostilities. An ICRC president visited Monaco for the first time: these issues were discussed there as well.

Dialogue was established with the French Defense Ministry's strategic planning and conduct of operations centre, which created new possibilities for interaction with French military bodies involved in training and education, and with commands engaged in external operations.

Contacts with military operational commands and academies focused on IHL and its further incorporation in military doctrine/training/operations. ICRC presentations enabled 50 senior French and foreign officers, as well as representatives of the Centre for Higher Defence Studies, to refine their knowledge of IHL and the ICRC; 23 legal advisers from the Defence Ministry, preparing to serve abroad, learnt more about issues related to non-international armed conflict and about detention issues related to armed conflict in general.

Discussions with France-based representatives of foreign opposition groups, such as those from the CAR, Niger, and Syria, helped them enhance their understanding of humanitarian principles and ICRC operations.

General public discuss humanitarian issues during ICRC webcast debates and other events

The general public learnt more about humanitarian issues and the ICRC's work through some 60 sets of audiovisual materials produced by the Centre for Multimedia Communication. A broader audience did the same through videos promoting the ICRC's activi-

ties worldwide, which were subtitled in various languages and disseminated via several platforms. The centre also provided support for other delegations' efforts: for producing a series on the humanitarian consequences of the conflict in Ukraine, for example.

Members of civil society followed and discussed humanitarian issues on the ICRC's regularly updated French-language blog and social media accounts, and participated in four ICRC webcast debates on such topics as women in armed conflict and dialogue with armed groups, as part of the "5 à 7 du CICR" series.

Senior officials from the Defence/Foreign Affairs/Justice Ministries, as well as representatives of NGOs, women's associations, and the legal and medical communities, participated in the ICRC's annual conference (on sexual violence in armed conflict).

University students and researchers learnt more about IHL and the ICRC at various presentations. A French military officer and an academic scholar took part in reviewing the Commentaries on the Geneva Conventions.

Journalists, basing themselves on interviews and other ICRC materials, published articles drawing attention to humanitarian issues, including the situation in the CAR, Mali, the occupied Palestinian territory and Syria, and to the 150th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. A photojournalist won the fourth Visa d'Or Humanitaire competition for his depiction of the dangers faced by emergency response and health-care providers in the CAR.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The French Red Cross and the ICRC signed a letter of intent strengthening cooperation, particularly in IHL promotion, restoring family links for migrants, communication and first-aid, which opened more opportunities for technical exchange and review meetings.

With ICRC support, the French Red Cross continued to help restore family links for migrants in France and to facilitate the authentication of ICRC detention attestations by the authorities responsible for asylum seekers.

Through regular dialogue, the French Red Cross and the ICRC coordinated their activities and shared their perspectives on contexts in which both were operational, including the CAR, Iraq, Mali and Niger. Emphasis was placed on efforts to bolster the French Red Cross's activities in support of the response to the Ebola outbreak in Guinea (see *Guinea*).

The French Red Cross worked with the ICRC to mark its 150th anniversary via various communication projects, including a documentary that was disseminated on social media platforms, and also through high-level participation in related events.

Relations were also deepened with the Red Cross of Monaco, including through a high-level meeting. The ICRC and the National Society jointly organized a regional first-aid meeting in Burkina Faso (see *Abidjan*), and agreed to formalize their partnership with an agreement concerning first aid.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION				
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits		Women	Minors	
Detainees visited	2			
		Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually	2			
Number of visits carried out	2			
Number of places of detention visited	2			