

# PARIS (regional)

COVERING: Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden (with specialized services for other countries)



Formalized in 2000, the Paris office merged with the Europe regional delegation in 2015. It engages in dialogue on IHL and humanitarian concerns with the authorities, military and academic circles and third-country representatives, raising awareness of the ICRC's mandate and mobilizing political and financial support for its activities. It visits people held by international tribunals and follows up on former internees of the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba. With National Societies, it helps migrants restore family links, visits those detained and offers guidance on human-remains management. It partners National Societies in their international activities and IHL promotion.

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

HIGH

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ Migrants, including asylum seekers and refugees, sought contact with their families through the Movement's family-links services; National Societies expanded or strengthened their delivery of these services, with ICRC support.
- ▶ With ICRC financial, material and technical assistance, Greek forensic authorities, and coastguards from six islands, developed their ability to recover and identify human remains, following shipwrecks in the Mediterranean.
- ▶ Migrants held in Greece and people remanded or convicted by international criminal tribunals were visited and/or given material aid. ICRC-provided internet access helped minors in two centres maintain contact with their families.
- ▶ National IHL committees in the region and from other countries discussed how to strengthen protection for civilians during armed conflict, at a meeting organized by the Swiss authorities, the Swiss Red Cross and the ICRC.
- ▶ The French Armed Forces consolidated and expanded their knowledge of IHL and the ICRC's activities as they deepened their dialogue with the organization at both institutional and field levels.

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>	
<b>Restoring family links</b>	
Phone calls facilitated between family members	18,735
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	8
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Detainees visited	14,508
Detainees visited and monitored individually	37
Number of visits carried out	83
Number of places of detention visited	30
<b>Restoring family links</b>	
RCMs collected	5
RCMs distributed	2
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	13

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	4,230
Assistance	495
Prevention	2,183
Cooperation with National Societies	691
General	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,635</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>466</i>

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	85%
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	11
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	24

## CONTEXT

Migrants, including asylum seekers and refugees, crossed the Mediterranean Sea towards Europe, and arrived mainly in Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain. To manage the influx, the European Union (EU) strengthened internal mechanisms for resettlement and secured its borders. The closure of Greece's border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the implementation of the EU–Turkey agreement to resettle migrants, led to a decrease in new arrivals, but left some 62,000 migrants stranded in Greece. This in turn increased the number of reception centres across the country, with some of them turned into closed facilities.

Owing to recent attacks and arrests made in connection with violent extremism in the region, security remained high on the agenda of European countries.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, France played a major role in international affairs. Alone or as part of international coalitions, France was involved in diplomatic or military initiatives in various contexts overseas. The Hague, Netherlands, continued hosting the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the branch of the UN Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT) which carried out tasks inherited from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

The Council of Europe continued promoting human rights and the rule of law.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Following the closure of Europe's eastern land borders and the implementation of the EU–Turkey agreement, the ICRC scaled up its response to the evolving needs of migrants, especially those stranded in Greece.<sup>1</sup> In March, it opened a mission in Athens, Greece, to expand its operational capacity to help migrants. It also reopened its mission in Budapest, Hungary, to increase coordination with the International Federation, particularly in relation to the needs of migrants.

With ICRC technical, financial and material support, National Societies – notably in Greece and Italy – bolstered their family-links services for migrants. For instance, migrants sought to contact their relatives through a photo campaign run by Movement partners across Europe or through family-links service points in ports or reception centres. In light of the frequency of shipwrecks in the Mediterranean, the ICRC developed physical description data forms, which supplemented tracing requests collected by the Movement with additional information necessary for identifying bodies or human remains. ICRC technical and material support helped Greek forensic authorities to conduct recovery operations after shipwrecks. The national authorities in Greece, Italy and Malta – together with the National Societies concerned and the ICRC – took steps to standardize forensic procedures and establish a centralized database for ante- and post-mortem data.

The ICRC increased its visits to some 14,000 migrants held in Greece and shared its findings and recommendations with the authorities. Detained migrants eased their conditions, partly through ICRC-distributed hygiene and other essential items;

unaccompanied or separated minors regularly contacted their families through video calls, using ICRC-provided equipment. With training conducted by the police and the ICRC, directors enhanced their knowledge of managing detention places.

The Paris delegation remained a crucial element of the ICRC's humanitarian diplomacy network, through which the organization sought support for its operations worldwide, broadened understanding of its mandate and promoted IHL. National authorities, regional organizations and the ICRC maintained dialogue to further IHL implementation and advance treaty participation. States drew on the ICRC's reading of the humanitarian situation in conflicts abroad and on the implementation of IHL, including sanctions for violations.

In France, meetings with the president, and regular interactions with officials from the defence, foreign affairs and justice ministries, as well as the operational and strategic commands of the armed forces, tackled humanitarian issues in contexts of diplomatic and military interest to the country. Military officers consolidated their knowledge of the ICRC's mandate and activities through dialogue at strategic, operational and tactical levels in both France and the field. With ICRC support, the defence ministry and the armed forces promoted IHL in military academies and its incorporation in military doctrine, training and operations.

Members of civil society discussed IHL and humanitarian affairs at events organized by the ICRC. French-language audiovisual materials produced by the ICRC and disseminated through television, radio and online media helped broaden awareness of such matters among French-speaking audiences throughout the world. The ICRC also partnered other organizations, such as the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, in promoting IHL and other matters of common concern; the French translation of the ICRC's commentaries on the 1949 Geneva Conventions got under way.

The ICRC visited people convicted by the ICTY and serving their sentences in Europe, and people remanded by the MICT and the ICC in The Hague. Detaining authorities drew on ICRC findings and recommendations to ensure that their policies complied with internationally recognized standards and best practices. The ICRC followed up the situation of people resettled in Europe after their release from the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba.

## CIVILIANS

As migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, continued to arrive or remained stranded in the region (see *Context*), the ICRC allocated more resources to help National Societies working along migration routes to bolster their family-links services for migrants and their response to such emergencies as shipwrecks.

### Separated migrants in Greece and southern Italy contact their relatives

With ICRC technical and financial support, the Italian Red Cross continued running service stations – equipped with phone-charging posts and internet – at ports and reception centres in southern Italy; newly arrived migrants used these stations to contact their families. With ICRC financial backing, technical advice and staff training, the Hellenic Red Cross coped with the increased demand for family-links services; it helped over 10,000 people to phone their families. The Malta Red Cross Society

1. For more information on the budget extension appeal, please see: [https://xnet.ext.icrc.org/applic/extranet/rexdonors.nsf/0/4B8C6FDD15D73187C125802700228E2B/\\$File/UpD\\_Paris%20BudgetExt\\_REX2016\\_362\\_Final.pdf](https://xnet.ext.icrc.org/applic/extranet/rexdonors.nsf/0/4B8C6FDD15D73187C125802700228E2B/$File/UpD_Paris%20BudgetExt_REX2016_362_Final.pdf)

bolstered its emergency-preparedness by pre-positioning materials and training its volunteers to provide family-links services and psychosocial care. With ICRC technical support, the Cyprus Red Cross Society reinforced its family-links services to cope with new arrivals of migrants.

Through the Trace the Face campaign run by 28 European National Societies with ICRC support, people sought to reconnect with their families by having photos of themselves or their relatives published on the ICRC's family-links website ([familylinks.icrc.org](http://familylinks.icrc.org)) or on posters displayed in public spaces, such as reception and transit centres, in several European countries. To supplement this, a multilingual social media page – containing search matches for missing people and safety tips to prevent separation – was launched.

At the sixth conference on migration held in Barcelona, Spain, National Societies and other stakeholders in the Mediterranean region and the ICRC exchanged expertise in restoring family links and in forensic work.

### **Authorities in Greece improve their management of human remains, following shipwrecks**

In light of the frequency of shipwrecks in the Mediterranean, the ICRC developed physical description data forms to supplement tracing requests – collected by the Movement in countries of origin, transit and destination – with additional information necessary for identifying bodies or human remains. National Societies in Greece and Italy employed these forms; other National Societies in the region trained in using them.

In Greece, forensic authorities, and 181 coastguards from six islands, conducted recovery operations following shipwrecks, with the ICRC's technical assistance – including training for the coastguards – and year-round provision of equipment: 2,500 surgical masks, 6,000 gloves, body bags, and computers and other electronic devices. Through the Hellenic National Society's services backed by ICRC financial support, families opened tracing requests for relatives who disappeared in 19 shipwrecks; 85 cases were ongoing, and 8 positively closed. With ICRC assistance, some families covered their expenses for identifying or burying deceased relatives. Workers in cemeteries for migrants learnt how to manage unidentified human remains.

In Italy, the University of Milan's Medico-Legal Institute continued coordinating with the authorities and the ICRC to identify the remains of migrants who had perished off the coast of Lampedusa in 2013.

Drawing on ICRC expertise, the authorities in the region took steps to standardize procedures for managing and identifying human remains, to facilitate the process of providing answers to the families concerned. To this end, they were urged also to establish a centralized database for ante- and post-mortem information in accordance with data protection laws. In Greece, at a round-table organized by the police and the ICRC, high-level government officials, police personnel, forensic experts, coastguards and the president of the National Society discussed the need for a legal framework to establish such a database.

In Italy, the national authorities, the National Society and the ICRC drafted an agreement to share forensic information. In Malta, a similar agreement between the national authorities and the National Society was being prepared.

### **Former Guantanamo Bay internees are followed up**

The ICRC continued following up the situation of people resettled in Europe after their release from the Guantanamo Bay internment facility. It urged the authorities concerned to support the integration of these people in their respective host countries. One former internee spent time with his family at an ICRC-organized visit. Efforts to organize family visits for other former internees continued, despite difficulties caused by tightening security rules across Europe or obstacles in the families' countries of origin.

### **PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

The ICRC visited 12 people detained or held on remand under the authority of the MICT and the ICC in The Hague, and eight people convicted by the ICTY and serving their sentences in four European countries. The ICRC shared with the detaining authorities its findings and recommendations to help them ensure that their detention policies complied with internationally recognized standards and best practices; recommendations aimed as much as possible to benefit the wider detainee population in the places visited.

At an ICRC workshop, officials from 12 European penitentiary administrations, the ICC, the MICT, the Council of Europe and WHO exchanged best practices in managing the needs of elderly detainees.

### **Migrants held in Greece restore contact with their families**

In Greece, the ICRC visited more than 14,000 migrants in 23 places of detention – including police stations and pre-removal and closed reception centres – and checked on their treatment and living conditions. Following visits, the ICRC shared its findings and recommendations with the local and central authorities, particularly the police and the Alternate Minister of Immigration Policy. At training sessions organized by the police and the ICRC, the directors of all pre-removal centres and their deputies learnt more about managing their centres and providing family-links, health and hygiene services.

Migrants phoned their relatives or opened tracing requests through the Hellenic Red Cross or the ICRC. Unaccompanied or separated minors held in two reception centres regularly contacted their families through video calls made with ICRC-provided equipment. A total of 3,700 migrants – including 200 unaccompanied minors – and other vulnerable groups, eased their conditions, partly with ICRC-distributed phone cards, hygiene kits, clothing and recreational items.

With ICRC technical input, staff from the Finnish Red Cross and the Swedish Red Cross discussed, at a workshop, topics such as needs analysis and standard visiting procedures, in view of designing their own activities for detained migrants, particularly unaccompanied minors. Following this, representatives from 16 European National Societies and the International Federation discussed, among other things, ways to reinforce their technical support to one another and to coordinate their approaches in immigration and detention, at a workshop organized for the first time by the Norwegian Red Cross, the Swedish National Society and the ICRC. The Cyprus Red Cross Society and the Maltese Red Cross also received ad hoc technical or financial support in developing their activities for detained migrants.

After reopening its mission in Budapest, the ICRC initiated dialogue with the interior ministry, and visited five detention places in Hungary to assess detainees' treatment and living conditions,

with a view to starting regular visits according to the organization's standard procedures. With technical and financial support from the International Federation and the ICRC, the Hungarian Red Cross developed its family-links activities for detained migrants.

## ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

At bilateral meetings, forums and other events, the ICRC's dialogue with the authorities in the region – including regional organizations such as the EU and the Council of Europe – sought to keep IHL and humanitarian issues on their agenda, and secure support for the organization's activities worldwide, including the Health Care in Danger project and strengthening the response to sexual violence. The French presidency and the defence, foreign affairs and justice ministries exchanged views with the ICRC on the humanitarian situation in contexts of military interest to France – such as the Central African Republic, Mali and the Lake Chad region – and on topics such as the fight against “terrorism”, multinational forces and cyber warfare.

Through the data protection committee of the Council of Europe, the ICRC elaborated its views on EU data-protection reforms, particularly the potential consequences for its working procedures.

### National IHL committees in the region discuss the protection of civilians during armed conflict

European National Societies and the ICRC maintained dialogue with the national authorities and regional organizations to promote support for IHL and advance treaty participation. Discussions with the national authorities and National Societies – notably, in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Slovakia and Sweden – highlighted topics on IHL implementation, such as the Strengthening IHL process, the outcomes of the 32nd International Conference and sanctions on war crimes. European national IHL committees and other IHL-implementing bodies and their counterparts from other countries discussed how to strengthen protection for civilians during armed conflict, at a meeting in Switzerland organized for the fourth time by the Swiss authorities, the Swiss Red Cross and the ICRC (see *International law and policy*).

Greece ratified the Arms Trade Treaty, Additional Protocol III, the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute, and other IHL treaties were yet to be ratified by some European States.

The ICRC continued working with the Clinique de droit international pénal et humanitaire (Canada) on the French translation of its commentaries on the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

At seminars and competitions organized by National Societies and academic institutions, with the ICRC's help, academics discussed IHL and humanitarian issues. As part of the partnership between the government of Monaco and the Paris Institute of Political Studies to raise awareness of international development issues, students of Sciences Po Mediterranean in Menton, France, learnt more about IHL, during ICRC-led sessions.

The Organisation internationale de la Francophonie and the ICRC continued implementing their partnership on IHL dissemination projects, such as organizing a seminar on improving respect for IHL, for magistrates from French-speaking African countries (see *Abidjan*). The French selection of the *International Review of the Red Cross* emphasized topics, such as the issue of sexual violence, the deployment of multinational forces and cultivating respect for the law.

### French forces consolidate their knowledge of ICRC activities

The French Armed Forces (FAF) deepened their dialogue with the ICRC at strategic, operational and tactical levels; two of its high-level officials visited the ICRC's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Its command units involved in planning and carrying out external operations held discussions with the ICRC on the conduct of hostilities, with a view to incorporating IHL in their operational guidelines and military doctrine. At the FAF War College's invitation, the ICRC attended its final graduation exercise as an observer.

The ICRC contributed its expertise to the annual training session for the legal advisers of the defence ministry.

Using materials from its website, the ICRC prepared a monthly newsletter for interlocutors in the FAF.

### The media highlight humanitarian needs in the region and beyond

Audiovisual content produced by the ICRC, and disseminated through television and radio programmes and online platforms,

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	Denmark	Estonia	Germany	Greece	Italy	ICC/ICTY
<b>ICRC visits</b>						
Detainees visited	2	3	2	14,488	1	12
<i>of whom women</i>				327		
<i>of whom minors</i>				1,062		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	2	3	2	17	1	12
<i>of whom women</i>				1		
<i>of whom girls</i>				1		
<i>of whom boys</i>				6		
Detainees newly registered				17		
<i>of whom women</i>				1		
<i>of whom girls</i>				1		
<i>of whom boys</i>				6		
Number of visits carried out	1	1	2	76	1	2
Number of places of detention visited	1	1	2	23	1	2
<b>Restoring family links</b>						
RCMs collected				5		
RCMs distributed				2		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative				13		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	1					



broadened awareness of IHL, humanitarian issues and the ICRC's mandate and work among French-speaking audiences. Such efforts included the "5 à 7 du CICR" interactive debate series on the delegation's blog, a forum for members of civil society to discuss contemporary humanitarian issues. Press activities emphasized humanitarian needs in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) and Yemen; documentaries and a video campaign highlighted the plight of migrants in Europe, including those in other countries whose relatives went missing in Europe. The sixth ICRC-sponsored Visa d'Or award for humanitarian photojournalism went to a photojournalist who covered the demobilization of child soldiers in Colombia (see *Colombia*).

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The International Federation and the ICRC worked closely to coordinate support for National Societies' response to the needs of migrants in Europe, including detained migrants (see *People deprived of their freedom*); they focused on Greece, Italy and Malta (see *Civilians*). They also ensured a coherent response in countries affected by armed conflict and other violence, such as Armenia, South Sudan and Syria, among others.

With ICRC technical assistance, the French Red Cross reinforced the application of the Safer Access Framework to its first-aid and ambulance services, and to its branch in Mayotte, to strengthen its emergency-response capacities, particularly during situations of violence (see *Context*).

The efforts of the Hellenic Red Cross to stabilize its organizational structure continued to be hindered by legal challenges to the new statutes approved by its general assembly in April 2015. The Italian Red Cross continued the process of transitioning from a "public entity" to a "voluntary association". In the meantime, the ICRC continued to support the operations of both National Societies (see *Civilians*).

The region's National Societies – notably in France, Norway, Spain and Sweden – and the ICRC reinforced their partnerships and drew on each other's areas of expertise to consolidate their efforts to address humanitarian issues of common interest. The Danish Red Cross and the German Red Cross concluded multi-year partnership agreements with the ICRC.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>					
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>					
Phone calls facilitated between family members		18,735			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>					
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		89	20	13	19
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		14			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		8			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		85	20	13	20
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		14			
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>					
<b>ICRC visits</b>					
Detainees visited		14,508	327	1,062	
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>					
Detainees visited and monitored individually		37	1	1	6
Detainees newly registered		17	1	1	6
Number of visits carried out		83			
Number of places of detention visited		30			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>					
RCMs collected		5			
RCMs distributed		2			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		13			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		1			

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>				
<b>Health</b>				
Visits carried out by health staff		21		
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	15		