



Jordan

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

⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC warehouse

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

894,863

Assistance

84,457

Preventive action

551,365

Cooperation with National Societies

94,412

General

-

▶ **1,625,098**

of which: Overheads **99,184**

PERSONNEL

29 expatriates

100 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- ▶ The ICRC in Jordan provided substantial logistical and material support for ICRC operations in Iraq and in Israel and the Palestinian territories.
- ▶ Visits were carried out to places of detention to monitor the treatment and living conditions of detainees and to enable them to maintain contact with their families through the RCM service.
- ▶ The ICRC tracing and RCM service enabled families in Jordan to locate and restore contact with relatives detained/interned abroad and helped refugees and persons who had fled the hostilities and insecurity in Iraq keep in touch with family members.
- ▶ Jordanian nationals released from detention/internment in Iraq were repatriated under ICRC auspices.
- ▶ The ICRC helped to coordinate the smooth running of an ambulance service between Jordan and the West Bank for the transfer of emergency medical cases.
- ▶ A cooperation agreement was signed with the Jordanian Red Crescent covering tracing, mine-risk education and the promotion of IHL.

CONTEXT

Jordan pursued a policy of broad economic reform to improve living standards through measures to reduce national debt and high levels of poverty and unemployment.

King Abdullah of Jordan continued to help seek solutions to end decades of Middle East turmoil, notably through efforts to revive the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and to stabilize the situation in Iraq.

Security remained tight in Jordan's main cities and on its borders with Iraq and the West Bank to prevent illegal entry. The heightened security came in the wake of several attacks by unidentified assailants against the Jordanian security forces and amid reports that armed groups intent on acts of violence were attempting to cross into Jordan from Iraq. In April security forces seized cars packed with explosives and arrested several suspects said to be planning attacks on the prime minister's office, the intelligence services headquarters and the US embassy in Amman.

There was an increase in the number of Iraqis entering Jordan towards the end of the year. At the beginning of December, the local press reported that 13,000 people had crossed the border in the space of two weeks.

Amman remained a key coordination centre for the operations in Iraq of many international relief organizations which had relocated to the Jordanian capital owing to the prevailing insecurity in Iraq.

ICRC ACTION

The main core of ICRC expatriates working in Iraq relocated to Amman after the bombing of the ICRC's Baghdad offices in October 2003.

Substantial quantities of food and other essentials, medical supplies and spare parts for water and sanitation infrastructure were transported by air or overland from Amman to Iraq. Amman also remained a major hub for the delivery of relief supplies to the Palestinian territories.

Demand for the ICRC tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) service remained high among families in Jordan wishing to restore or maintain contact with relatives detained in Jordan or abroad, or living in conflict-affected countries such as Iraq. These services also constituted a vital means of communication for Iraqi and third-country nationals who had fled Iraq in 2003 and had since been located in a strip of no-man's-land between the Jordanian and Iraqi borders and in a camp inside Jordan.

The ICRC continued to facilitate family reunions in the event of a relative's death, injury or serious illness, by helping family members to obtain exit/entry visas from the relevant authorities to travel between Jordan and Israel and the Palestinian territories. It also issued travel documents to recognized refugees without valid identification papers upon request by UNHCR or the embassies concerned to facilitate their resettlement in third countries.

ICRC coordination with the authorities concerned helped to ensure that ambulances transporting patients or human remains between Jordan and the Palestinian territories could do so unhindered by administrative or security delays.

Further steps were taken to integrate international humanitarian law (IHL) into national legislation, school and university curricula and the theoretical and operational training of the armed forces. The ICRC also reinforced training and assistance to strengthen the National Society's capacities to promote IHL and to carry out tracing and mine-risk-education activities.

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

Jordanian nationals restored or maintained links with family members either detained/interned or resident in Israel and the Palestinian territories or in Iraq, through the

RCM service. Jordanian families were also able to correspond with relatives held in detention facilities in Afghanistan and at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station by the same means. In addition, the service enabled families in Jordan to exchange official documents such as power-of-attorney papers and certificates of detention with relatives living or detained/interned abroad.

The RCM service was made available to several hundred mainly Iranian Kurds stranded in no-man's-land between Iraq and Jordan since they fled hostilities in Iraq in March 2003.

Tracing requests were processed for Jordanian families seeking to locate and re-establish contact with relatives reported missing in Iraq. Each case was cross-checked in ICRC databases to see whether the person concerned had been registered during ICRC visits to places of detention in Iraq. Similar requests from non-Jordanian nationals were relayed to the tracing unit of the Jordanian Red Crescent.

Official documents such as power-of-attorney papers and certificates of detention were exchanged between families in Jordan and relatives living or detained in other countries or in the Palestinian territories.

- 3,640 RCMs and 30 official documents such as power-of-attorney papers and certificates of detention relayed between families in Jordan and relatives either living or detained/interned abroad
- 36 tracing requests opened, of which 9 resolved

Aiding resettlement of refugees

ICRC travel documents were issued to facilitate the resettlement in third countries of hundreds of non-Jordanian nationals, either refugees or persons who had fled to Jordan from the fighting in Iraq. Beneficiaries included nearly 400 Iranian Kurds in the camp in the no-man's-land between Jordan and Iraq who were accepted for resettlement by Sweden.

- 616 travel documents issued to facilitate the resettlement of refugees and other non-Jordanian nationals in third countries

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits to detainees

ICRC delegates visited people deprived of their freedom in various places of detention, including facilities run by the General Intelligence Directorate (GID) and correc-

tional rehabilitation centres under the authority of the Public Security Directorate (PSD). A visit was also made for the first time to the penitentiary section of the Al-Bashir civilian hospital in Amman.

In late July the ICRC resumed visits to GID facilities after a three-month suspension owing to problems of access to certain detainees.

In cooperation with the Jordanian prison services, the ICRC delivered money, clothes and letters sent to foreign detainees in Jordan by their families. It also acted as a conduit for similar assistance to Jordanian nationals detained/interned abroad, notably in Iraq, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

A seminar on IHL and the ICRC's standard procedures for visits to places of detention was organized for PSD officers.

- 39 visits made to 7,218 detainees in 11 places of detention

WOUNDED AND SICK

Whenever ambulances transporting urgent medical cases between the West Bank and Jordan encountered security-clearance delays or border closures, the ICRC interceded with the authorities concerned to speed up administrative procedures. Working closely with the Jordanian and Palestine Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC notified the authorities in advance of emergency medical evacuations to ensure rapid access to hospitals and other health-care facilities.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC's legal advisory service continued to lend support to the national committee for the implementation of IHL. Discussions with the committee, civilian and military magistrates and the National Society focused on ways to accelerate Jordan's ratification and implementation of IHL instruments. Particular emphasis was placed on drafting laws on the protection of the emblem, on the 1977 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines and on the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). A draft law amending the law on the Jordanian Red Crescent and incorporating some provisions of the draft law on the emblem was submitted to parliament for approval.

Four Jordanian government representatives participated in the second regional meeting on the national implementation of IHL organized in Rabat in December. (See

Tunis). Two members of the national IHL committee and the head of the legal department of the armed forces attended a conference in February in Cairo to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Members of the national IHL committee also took part in the third regional meeting of government experts on IHL held in Cairo in February (see *Egypt*). In addition, the legal adviser of the National Commission for Demining and Rehabilitation participated in a regional course on IHL and human rights law in May/June in Beirut (see *Lebanon*).

The Judicial Institute of Jordan and the ICRC organized a three-day specialized workshop on the ICC Statute attended by 29 Jordanian judges. The ICRC also provided the Institute's library with reference documents and publications on IHL for use by judges, lawyers and law students.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Significant progress was made in incorporating IHL into the teaching and training programmes of the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF). In December the JAF training director confirmed that a decision had been taken to integrate the subject at training and operational levels. Following meetings with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other senior members of the military command structure to discuss implementation mechanisms, a committee of seven officers was created to draw up an IHL teaching programme schedule.

As part of the planned implementation process, the ICRC held seminars on IHL and its mandate and role for senior military and security officers and instructors. At the request of the Jordanian military authorities, similar presentations were given to officers of the Iraqi armed forces attending courses given by the JAF.

- ▶ 544 senior armed and security force officers and instructors attended courses on IHL
- ▶ Iraqi armed forces officers, in training by the JAF, attended a session on IHL given by the ICRC

CIVIL SOCIETY

Steps were taken to speed up the integration of IHL into the curricula of Jordanian universities and secondary schools and to

promote greater knowledge of the subject among key circles in Jordanian society such as the media.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the ICRC organized a first train-the-trainer workshop on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme for teachers and supervisors from schools selected to pilot-test the programme. The teachers were then expected to start introducing the programme into extracurricular activities.

A draft memorandum of understanding on the introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval. The ICRC followed up with the Ministry on the memorandum and on the composition of the new technical committee set up to support its implementation. Four ministry officials participated in the third regional seminar on the implementation of Exploring Humanitarian Law in Cairo in November–December (see *Egypt*).

With eight Jordanian universities having incorporated IHL into their law curricula, contacts were established with a view to extending teaching of the subject to other universities throughout the country. The minister of education reasserted his support for such a move at the third regional seminar on the subject held in Amman from 29 August to 9 September.

In March the ICRC presented a paper on the legal protection of civilians in times of armed conflict at the second regional training workshop on Human Rights and Human Society for judges and lawyers, organized by the Regional Human Security Centre at the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy. At the invitation of the Amman Centre for Human Rights, the ICRC briefed its members on ICRC activities in Jordan and elsewhere in the Middle East.

From 11 to 13 May, the ICRC took part in a conference on IHL organized by Jerash University's law faculty. Around 50 law professors from different Arab universities attended.

The ICRC was increasingly sought after by local and regional Arab media to provide information on its activities in the region and on the relevance of IHL in situations of armed violence and occupation. Sustained contacts with the media provided an opportunity for the ICRC to recall the strictly independent, neutral and impartial nature of its humanitarian mission and to ensure accurate reporting of the organization's activities.

As part of an ongoing effort to promote an accurate perception of the ICRC's mandate and activities, contacts were consolidated with Islamic political and religious circles, including the Faculty of Sharia of the University of Jordan. In December the ICRC gave its first presentation to the faculty on the theme of IHL and the sharia.

The ICRC's magazine *Al Insani* (The Humanitarian), featuring articles and debate on humanitarian issues, was circulated among key sectors of Jordanian society.

- ▶ first group of 24 teachers and supervisors from 12 pilot schools trained in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme
- ▶ 15 law professors participated in a two-day workshop on IHL

NATIONAL SOCIETY

In February the ICRC and the Jordan National Red Crescent Society signed a cooperation agreement covering tracing, dissemination and mine-risk education.

Following the launch of a joint Jordanian Red Crescent/ICRC mine-risk education programme in March, a three-day workshop was held for National Society volunteers. These volunteers then went on to raise awareness among their communities of the danger of mines and other unexploded remnants of war, with a particular focus on schools.

The ICRC conducted a four-day workshop with the Jordanian Red Crescent for National Society training staff. The workshop dealt with case studies on IHL, the Fundamental Principles, the emblem, the Seville Agreement, communications guidelines, the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and cooperation, as well as measures to develop the National Society's capacities to raise funds and deliver humanitarian services. As part of the capacity-building process, the ICRC sponsored two Jordanian Red Crescent dissemination officers on a three-month course in computer skills.

The Jordanian Red Crescent and the Ministry of Education organized a drawing competition on IHL rules and principles in schools in different governorates to encourage them and their students to take an active part in promoting IHL. Token prizes were awarded to the winners.