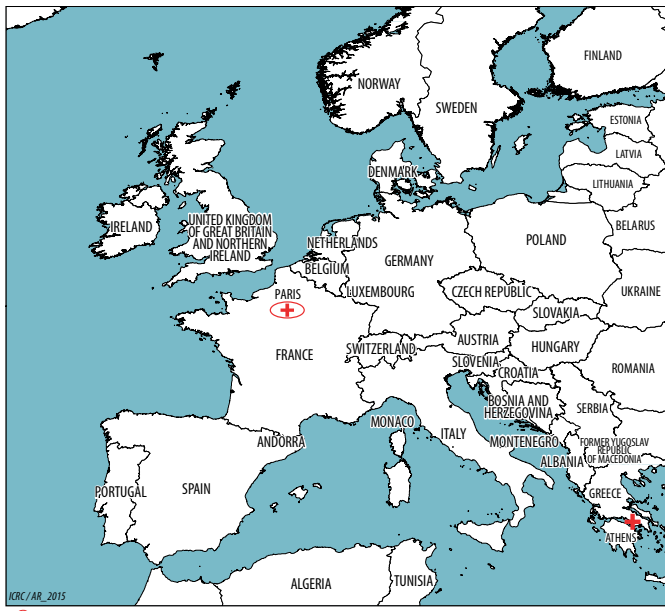


# PARIS (regional)

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/humanitarian concerns with the authorities, military and academic circles and third-country representatives, raising awareness of the ICRC's mandate and mobilizing political/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.

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2015

- ▶ Migrants restored/maintained contact with their relatives at various points of their journey with the help of National Societies, which scaled up their family-links activities with ICRC support.
- ▶ The authorities and other stakeholders expanded their response to shipwrecks in the Mediterranean, aided by ICRC training and technical/material support for managing human remains.
- ▶ Detainees, including migrants in Greece and people remanded/convicted by international criminal tribunals, eased their circumstances with the help of ICRC material assistance or advice to the detaining authorities.
- ▶ European authorities incorporated the ICRC's views in discussions/decisions on issues relating to, *inter alia*, data protection and ICRC confidentiality, and implementing/strengthening IHL.
- ▶ The French armed forces drew on ICRC input for revising their policies on detention and the protection of civilians. Troops bound for missions abroad refreshed their knowledge of IHL at ICRC presentations.

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	2,059
Assistance	282
Prevention	2,004
Cooperation with National Societies	504
General	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,876</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<b>298</b>

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	95%
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	8
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	16

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

**HIGH**

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>	
<b>Red Cross messages (RCMs)</b>	
RCMs collected	3
RCMs distributed	13
Phone calls facilitated between family members	611
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	371
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Detainees visited and monitored individually	49
Number of visits carried out	21
Number of places of detention visited	18
<b>Restoring family links</b>	
RCMs collected	2
RCMs distributed	7
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	2

## CONTEXT

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, France played a major role in international affairs. France and several other European countries undertook diplomatic and/or military initiatives in places such as the Central African Republic (hereafter CAR), Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria), Ukraine and the Sahel region, in some cases as part of international coalitions.

Security was high on the agenda across Europe, particularly in light of the growing numbers of people arrested or detained allegedly for being connected with fighting groups abroad, and attacks on domestic soil, which drove France to reaffirm its commitment to fighting “terrorism”.

Concerns regarding the continuous arrival into Europe of people fleeing conflict/violence-stricken countries gained momentum. Migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, endured difficult conditions at the main reception points (Greece, Italy, Malta, and Spain); an unprecedented number perished or went missing while crossing the Mediterranean or Aegean Sea. This prompted the European Union to lobby for measures to reinforce solidarity among Member States, strengthen its presence at sea, and prevent illegal movement through cooperation with third countries. Several countries adopted more restrictive border/immigration policies, including administrative detention.

The Hague, Netherlands, is host to the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, and the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT), which took over the residual functions of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

## 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, broadened understanding of its mandate and stimulated debate on humanitarian issues.

Dialogue with European authorities and other stakeholders emphasized, among other priorities, the importance of confidentiality in the ICRC’s work, and the organization’s concerns regarding the potential implications of data-protection laws for humanitarian activities. The authorities took these into consideration; the Council of Europe’s Ad Hoc Committee on Data Protection drafted an explanatory memorandum that reflected the ICRC’s position. States also looked to the ICRC as a source of reference on the humanitarian situation in conflicts abroad and on the implementation of IHL, including sanctions for violations. A number of States ratified IHL-related treaties, and several took domestic measures to implement the Convention on Cluster Munitions. In France, meetings with the president, officials from the defence and foreign ministries and operational/strategic commands of the armed forces tackled humanitarian issues in contexts of diplomatic or military interest to the country. French forces learnt more about the ICRC’s mandate and activities through presentations at high-level coalition exercises and briefings for troops bound for overseas missions. Cooperation on the further incorporation of IHL in military doctrine took shape.

Members of civil society discussed IHL and humanitarian affairs at events co-organized by the ICRC. French-language updates

and audiovisual materials disseminated by the delegation and the ICRC’s multimedia communications centre in Paris helped broaden awareness of such matters among French-speaking audiences throughout the world.

National Societies and the ICRC fostered strategic partnerships and reinforced joint action in order to address humanitarian issues of common concern and strengthen the Movement’s global response to situations of armed conflict/other violence, as well as to the needs of vulnerable migrants in Europe. Regional meetings facilitated coordination and sharing of expertise among Movement components, and National Societies at the main reception points received support to bolster their capacities and help migrants restore family contact. After processing the Hellenic Red Cross’s backlog of tracing cases, the ICRC’s temporary office in Athens closed in June. With ICRC support, the Hellenic Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross recruited/trained more volunteers to provide family-links services, and set up service points at various locations, enabling migrants to touch base with relatives via phone calls or the internet along their journey. Migrants also searched for missing relatives through a photo campaign run by Movement partners throughout Europe.

As the authorities and other stakeholders expanded their response to shipwrecks in the Mediterranean, the ICRC provided training and technical/material support to facilitate proper management and identification of the remains of deceased migrants. The ICRC also stepped up its activities for migrants in immigration detention, conducting more visits than in 2014 and providing hygiene items to help ease their conditions.

People convicted by the ICTY and serving their sentences in European countries, and people remanded by the MICT/ICTY and the ICC in The Hague, continued to receive visits. The international criminal tribunals and penitentiary authorities looked to the ICRC for advice on the enforcement of sentences, to ensure that their policies and practices 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, facilitating family contact where possible.

## CIVILIANS

### **Migrants touch base with their families at various points during their journey, as the Movement scales up family-links activities**

The ICRC worked closely with National Societies, especially in countries along migration routes, and helped them strengthen their ability to respond to migrants’ needs. Before closing in June, the ICRC’s temporary office in Athens finished processing the Hellenic Red Cross’s backlog of tracing cases dating back to 2010, took on new tracing requests and helped hundreds of migrants phone their family members. The Hellenic Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross received technical and financial support throughout the year to boost their family-links services, enabling them to recruit and train new volunteers and respond to needs following shipwrecks and the mass influx of unaccompanied minors. They also set up service points at various locations, with internet access and phone-charging stations, which migrants used to contact their relatives during their journey.

Through the Trace the Face campaign run by more than 20 European National Societies and the ICRC, people looking for their relatives

had photos of themselves or their missing relatives published on the ICRC's family-links website (familylinks.icrc.org) or on posters displayed in public spaces, including reception/transit centres. Some people were reunited with their relatives through the concerted efforts of the Movement's family-links network, aided by new data-sharing tools developed with ICRC support.

Movement partners in the region bolstered their response to the plight of migrants and discussed common approaches – for instance, at the 12th Mediterranean Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, held in San Marino. European National Societies also discussed the implications of data-protection regulations for family-links activities at a meeting in Ireland (see *London*); they adopted a common code of conduct in this regard.

### Forensic services strengthen their ability to manage human remains and data on missing persons

The pertinent authorities and other stakeholders continued to receive support in the search for missing migrants and the identification of human remains.

In Greece, national coastguard, police and fire brigade personnel and Hellenic Red Cross volunteers on the islands of Alexandroupolis, Chios, Kos, Lesbos, Rhodes and Samos strengthened their ability to handle human remains properly through ICRC training sessions; they received body bags and protective equipment to aid them in their work. In Lesbos, the local authorities, UNHCR, other actors and the ICRC drew up standard operating procedures to ensure coordinated responses in the event of shipwrecks; meetings with stakeholders also addressed the lack of burial places, which led to the establishment of a new cemetery for deceased migrants. Following shipwrecks near Farmakonisi and Lesbos, the Hellenic Red Cross and the ICRC supported the authorities' response, providing forensic supplies/equipment, assisting families in the identification process, facilitating burials and collecting DNA samples from the relatives of those still missing.

Representatives of the Greek and Spanish authorities attended a training course in Geneva, Switzerland, to reinforce their countries' ability to manage/identify human remains.

In Italy, the forensic laboratory of the University of Milan's Medico-Legal Institute continued to work on identifying the remains of migrants who perished off the coast of Lampedusa in 2013. ICRC-provided software helped them centralize all available data on missing migrants/unidentified bodies, contributing to the positive resolution of some cases. Drawing on ICRC input, the Italian Red Cross prepared guidelines and procedures that would enable it serve as the national forensic services' counterpart in

contacting/exchanging information with the families of deceased migrants, in order to facilitate the identification process.

The ICRC contributed its expertise during meetings of the working group set up by European National Societies to deal with challenges to forensic work and the restoration of family links. In October, Movement components and other stakeholders in the Mediterranean met at a conference in Barcelona, Spain, which followed up the 2013 conference in Milan, Italy. Representatives discussed best practices for managing the remains of deceased migrants and further involvement of the Movement in the process.

### Former Guantanamo internees reunite with their families

The ICRC continued to follow up people previously held at the Guantanamo Bay internment facility who had resettled in Europe after their release. One former internee received a visit from his family, and two others were joined by their wives, with ICRC financial assistance. Other family visits were being organized, amidst challenges related to tightened security rules across Europe and the prevailing situations in the families' countries of origin.

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People detained or held on remand under the authority of the MICT and the ICC in The Hague, and ICTY-convicted detainees serving their sentences in European countries, continued to receive visits from the ICRC. Dialogue with the detaining authorities at both prison and national levels focused on recommendations that would benefit, as much as possible, the wider detainee population in the places visited.

The international tribunals, including the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the ICRC took up matters related to the enforcement of sentences during regular meetings. The MICT and the ICC continued to solicit the ICRC's advice to ensure that their detention policies complied with internationally recognized standards and best practices. Discussions on detainees' health issues moved forward, and meetings on medical ethics were held with the MICT.

### Detained migrants exchange news with their families

Migrants, including unaccompanied minors, held in Greece received ICRC visits, during which they contacted their loved ones via RCMs and phone calls. Most of them also received hygiene and cleaning products, recreational items and phone cards to help ease their situation. After these visits, the ICRC shared its feedback with the authorities, focusing on issues related to the migrants' treatment and living conditions.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Norway	Sweden	Poland	ICC/ICTY/ MICT
<b>ICRC visits</b>									
Detainees visited and monitored individually	3	1	3	1	12	2	1	2	24
<i>of whom boys</i>					2				
Detainees newly registered			1		12				
<i>of whom boys</i>					2				
Number of visits carried out	1	1	4	1	9	1	1	1	2
Number of places of detention visited	1	1	3	1	7	1	1	1	2
<b>Restoring family links</b>									
RCMs collected					2				
RCMs distributed					7				
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative					2				

In Malta, detained migrants contacted their families through services provided by the Malta Red Cross Society with ICRC technical/financial support. Increased provisions of phone cards and IT/phone equipment prepared the National Society for a possible surge in arrivals of migrants.

### **ICRC access to some security detainees remains elusive**

In France, the ICRC conducted follow-up visits to two detainees – previously held in Afghanistan and Jordan and visited there by the ICRC – and shared its findings confidentially with the detaining authorities.

Building on its improved understanding of data-protection and confidentiality issues, the ICRC sought to resume dialogue with some European States on the possibility of visiting people held on security-related charges, but to no avail.

### **ACTORS OF INFLUENCE**

In light of European countries' influence in international affairs, meetings with the authorities, the armed forces and members of civil society sought to advance discussions on IHL and humanitarian issues and to secure support for its work throughout the world.

### **European authorities address ICRC concerns regarding data-protection legislation**

Regional forums provided opportunities to present the ICRC's views on priority issues, including data protection, the Health Care in Danger project, the Strengthening IHL process and preparations for the 32nd International Conference. The Paris delegation supported the delegation in Brussels, Belgium, in its representations to European authorities and other stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of confidentiality in the ICRC's work and of ensuring that the potential implications of data-protection laws for humanitarian activities were taken into consideration in their decisions (see *Brussels*). Active participation in the meetings of the data-protection committee of the Council of Europe (COE) led to the ICRC's position being reflected in the explanatory memorandum of the COE's "modernized" convention on data protection.

During bilateral meetings and thematic events, the French president and officials from the defence and foreign ministries exchanged views with ICRC representatives on the humanitarian situation in contexts of political/military interest to France, and on such subjects as the scope of applicability of IHL, "terrorism", cyber warfare, detention and multinational forces.

### **Authorities push forward with measures to implement IHL**

Key actors in the region continued to show support for IHL and the ICRC. European National Societies and the ICRC engaged in dialogue with national authorities and regional organizations, promoting support for IHL and issues of common humanitarian concern, and helping advance treaty participation and implementation (see *International law and policy*). Luxembourg and Romania ratified Additional Protocol III; San Marino and Switzerland ratified the Arms Trade Treaty; the Czech Republic and Malta ratified the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute; and Iceland and Slovakia ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Iceland and Spain adopted domestic legislation implementing the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and the Italian parliament discussed a bill prohibiting financing for such weapons. Germany completed the destruction of its cluster munitions stockpile, and Poland contracted a third party to do the same.

Through dialogue, seminars and regional forums such as the Genocide Network, national authorities/IHL committees and National Societies drew on the ICRC's advice on matters relating to IHL implementation, including sanctions for war crimes and other violations, and sought its views on the classification of conflicts and on the concept of direct participation in hostilities. The French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights, which also dealt with IHL-related matters, continued to involve the ICRC as an observer in its meetings, drawing on the organization's input in its preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit and for launching studies aimed at strengthening IHL, particularly with regard to the protection of cultural property and the responsibility of States to ensure respect for IHL.

### **French forces learn more about the ICRC's activities**

Dialogue with the French Armed Forces (FAF) – in particular with the commands/establishments involved in preparing forces and in planning/conducting external operations (OPEX) – centred on the ICRC's humanitarian concerns and activities in contexts where the FAF was engaged; this paved the way for ICRC presentations during high-level coalition training exercises and IHL briefings for troops bound for the Sahel. A senior FAF officer attended an IHL course in Algeria (see *International law and policy*).

Dialogue with the Joint Concept, Doctrine and Experimentation Centre encouraged the further incorporation of lessons learnt in French military guidelines and doctrine. Areas of cooperation included the implementation by FAF-OPEX of recommendations related to the protection of health-care services, and ICRC input on revisions to the FAF's policies on detention and the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

### **Civil society engages in discussions on humanitarian issues**

Seminars and debates organized by the ICRC in France facilitated discussions of IHL, humanitarian needs in conflict-affected contexts and the ICRC's mandate/activities among academics, humanitarian professionals and NGOs. Around 100 university students in Monaco learnt about the history of IHL/the ICRC during seminars conducted at the invitation of the government.

Updates related to operations/specific issues, translations of selected articles from the *International Review of the Red Cross* and audiovisual materials disseminated via the delegation and the ICRC's communication centre in Paris kept French-speaking audiences abreast of IHL-related developments and global humanitarian issues, including the plight of migrants in Europe.

Press coverage of ICRC activities brought important humanitarian issues to the fore. Media interviews given by visiting ICRC representatives, including the president, drew attention to the needs in such places as Iraq, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The fifth Visa d'Or award for humanitarian photojournalism, sponsored by the ICRC, went to a photojournalist who covered the Minova rape trials in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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

The region's National Societies and the ICRC continued to strengthen their partnerships, drawing on each other's fields of expertise to reinforce/expand their capacity to respond to crises within Europe and abroad and to address other humanitarian issues of common interest: besides migrants and IHL (see above), these included support for victims of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, first aid, the Health Care in Danger project and rapid deployment mechanisms.

The Hellenic Red Cross pursued efforts to stabilize its organizational structure; however, legal challenges to the new statutes adopted by its general assembly in April postponed elections and structural changes envisaged under the new statutes. The Italian Red Cross continued to receive support as it sought to change its legal status from “public entity” to “voluntary association”.

The International Federation and the ICRC worked in close coordination to support National Societies’ efforts to respond to the needs of migrants in Europe.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>					
<b>Red Cross messages (RCMs)</b>			UAMs/SC*		
RCMs collected		3			
RCMs distributed		13			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		611			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		92	23	15	26
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		7			
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		371			
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		22			
<b>Document</b>					
People to whom travel documents were issued		3			
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines		292			
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>					
<b>ICRC visits</b>			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		49			2
Detainees newly registered		13			2
Number of visits carried out		21			
Number of places of detention visited		18			
<b>Restoring family links</b>					
RCMs collected		2			
RCMs distributed		7			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		2			

\*Unaccompanied minors/separated children