



lima (regional)

The delegation in Lima opened in 1984, becoming a regional delegation in 2003. It visits detainees, endeavours to ascertain the fate of missing persons and assists people affected by the lingering consequences of past conflict in Peru. It reinforces the capacities of the region's National Societies to respond to situations of internal strife, and works with police forces to integrate into their doctrine, operational procedures, manuals and training programmes human rights norms applicable to the use of force during social unrest. The ICRC promotes the national implementation of IHL and its integration into academic curricula, works to promote the dissemination of humanitarian principles in secondary schools and supports the IHL integration efforts of the region's armed forces.

COVERING

Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	1,064
Assistance	363
Prevention	1,453
Cooperation with National Societies	637
General	-

► **3,518**

of which: Overheads 215

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	82%
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PERSONNEL

6	expatriates
33	national staff (daily workers not included)

KEY POINTS

In 2007, the ICRC:

- ▶ visited more than 700 people detained in connection with past conflict in Peru
- ▶ provided structural support and advice to the Peruvian penitentiary authorities to improve their response to detainees' needs
- ▶ officially presented the Bolivian penitentiary authorities with the results of a survey on the country's penitentiary system and detention conditions
- ▶ worked with the Peruvian authorities, organizations concerned and associations of families of missing persons to help clarify the fate of some 13,000 people officially unaccounted for in connection with 20 years of armed conflict
- ▶ established a cooperation framework with the Bolivian and Ecuadorian National Societies to strengthen their emergency response capacities, particularly in situations of internal violence
- ▶ signed a cooperation agreement with the Bolivian authorities and the police with a view to integrating relevant human rights norms into the training and operations of the national police force

CONTEXT

In Bolivia, tensions remained high between farmers/indigenous people living in the highlands, who were strong supporters of President Evo Morales, and residents of the wealthier lowland departments of Santa Cruz, Tarija, Beni and Pando, who were opposed to his policies. Public demonstrations throughout the year culminated in violent clashes in Sucre in November between the police and demonstrators seeking to reinstate the city as the seat of government and parliament. Three people were reportedly killed in the violence, some 400 were injured and scores were arrested. The body in charge of drafting a new constitution finished its work without the contributions of members of the opposition, who had boycotted the process, further fuelling tensions. When the central government announced in December that tax revenues from the country's hydrocarbons would no longer be controlled by the regions, the four lowland departments threatened to declare autonomy, prompting the government to place the army on high alert.

In Ecuador, tensions persisted in oil-producing regions, with the population protesting against the perceived unfair distribution of oil revenues. Relations with neighbouring Colombia remained strained. President Rafael Correa attributed the continued influx of refugees into Ecuador to the policies of the Colombian government and voiced objections to the fumigation of land close to the Ecuadorian border under "Plan Colombia".

In Peru, thousands of people took to the streets in June and July to demand a more equitable redistribution of the country's wealth. According to reports, four people died during the protests, dozens were injured and some 300 were arrested. In the regions of Alto Huallaga, Ayacucho, Huancavelica and the Ene-Apurimac river basin, clashes between alleged members of the Shining Path and law enforcement officials reportedly resulted in the deaths of some 15 people and scores of arrests. There were also increasing reports of people caught between alleged threats by members of the Shining Path and fear of arrest by law enforcement agencies. In December, the trial began of former president Alberto Fujimori on charges of corruption and human rights violations allegedly committed during his presidency.

On 15 August, an earthquake hit the coastal regions of Peru, killing more than 500 people, injuring more than 1,600 and destroying hundreds of homes.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

	Total
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)¹	
Detainees visited	745
Detainees visited and monitored individually	257
<i>of whom females</i>	45
Number of visits carried out	32
Number of places of detention visited	18
DOCUMENTS ISSUED	
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	6

1. Peru only

ICRC ACTION

The regional delegation monitored the conditions of detention of people held for security reasons in Peru. It also provided expertise and structural support to prison authorities in Bolivia and Peru in their efforts to upgrade general conditions and health services for detainees.

The ICRC increased its presence in regions where a resurgence of activity by alleged members of the Shining Path led to a worsening of the security situation for resident communities.

In Peru, the ICRC continued to work with the authorities, organizations concerned and associations of families of missing persons to help clarify the fate of some 13,000 people officially unaccounted for in connection with 20 years of armed conflict.

In light of the social unrest in the region, the ICRC reinforced the capacities of National Societies to respond effectively to the consequences of violence. It developed a joint strategy with the Ecuadorian Red Cross to define priorities for humanitarian action and to ensure that their roles were complementary. It also assessed six Bolivian Red Cross branches in violence-prone areas to determine how best to reinforce their operational capacities.

The ICRC continued to provide the region's armed forces with technical advice in the integration of IHL into their doctrine and training. It also supported the integration of pertinent human rights norms into the manuals and training programmes of the region's police forces, signing a cooperation agreement to this effect with the Bolivian Ministry of Interior.

The teaching of IHL in universities in the region and in secondary schools in Bolivia and Peru continued to expand, particularly in Peru. Journalists attending workshops organized by the ICRC learned about the organization's mandate and activities and the provisions of IHL and international human rights law applicable in armed conflict and other situations of internal violence. The ICRC continued to work with the region's national IHL committees to encourage legislative authorities to integrate IHL instruments in general, and the Rome Statute in particular, into national legislation.

CIVILIANS

The ICRC reinforced its presence in areas of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru affected by social unrest and strengthened its relationship with the Bolivian and Ecuadorian National Societies to be better placed to respond to the needs of victims of internal violence (see also *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

In Peru, in the region of Alto Huallaga, the ICRC maintained close contact with the Public Prosecutor's Office, with NGOs working in the area and with community leaders, in order to stay abreast of events and coordinate activities. Relevant authorities were notified of protection problems, including cases of families not informed of the whereabouts of arrested relatives or of the transfer of arrested people far from their homes. People affected by threats in the region of Alto Huallaga were offered ICRC assistance in reaching safer areas. Following violent demonstrations in Peruvian cities, and on the basis of allegations collected by the ICRC regarding abuses in the use of force, the police authorities were encouraged to take further measures to ensure the appropriate use of force in law enforcement operations.

- ▶ in Peru, 1 family affected by threats travelled to a safe area with ICRC assistance and received food and essential household items for one month

In the aftermath of the earthquake in Peru in mid-August, Peruvians living abroad were able to obtain news of their relatives in Peru by accessing specific Peruvian government websites, the addresses of which had been disseminated worldwide by the ICRC.

In Bolivia, the ICRC kept in contact with the police forces to remind them of the need to respect people no longer participating in disturbances and to use appropriate force in law enforcement operations. It supported the National Society in responding to the needs of victims of the unrest. During the November clashes in Sucre, for example, the local branch of the Bolivian Red Cross evacuated some 60 weapon-wounded people and provided first aid to another 40.

In Ecuador, the National Society had pre-positioned material and equipment to be used for first-aid activities and evacuations during potential unrest. The ICRC and the Ecuadorian Red Cross conducted a fact-finding mission in the border area with Colombia. In view of ongoing tensions in the country and the potential needs of people affected by the spillover of the conflict in Colombia, the Ecuadorian Red Cross and the ICRC developed a strategic framework to strengthen the National Society's response to the needs of victims of violence.

Persons missing in connection with past conflict in Peru

Although the Peruvian government made progress in making reparations to family members of missing persons and normalizing their legal status, more needed to be done to determine what had happened to the more than 13,000 people who, according to official figures, were unaccounted for in connection with 20 years of armed conflict in Peru. Organizations working on the issue of missing persons received support from the ICRC, including help in coordinating their activities.

The Public Prosecutor's Office and the Medical Forensic Institute stepped up their investigations and exhumations, uncovering 18 burial sites containing 121 sets of human remains, 63 of which were identified. The Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team, a local NGO, collected 1,066 completed ante-mortem forms in Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Junín and Lima. Organizations working on the identification of human remains received training and technical support in the use of the software developed by the ICRC for the management of ante- and post-mortem data.

Forensic experts from the region honed their knowledge and shared best practices with their counterparts from other Latin American countries by participating in several conferences organized with ICRC support, including:

- a sub-regional meeting of representatives of institutes of forensic medicine from Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Peru held in Lima in October
- a meeting of forensic experts held in May in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to discuss the identification of human remains in connection with armed conflict, situations of internal violence or natural disaster (see *Buenos Aires regional*)

People in the province of Ayacucho profoundly affected by the disappearance of family members received psychological support at home and in meetings and workshops organized by REDINFA, an NGO dedicated to helping affected children and their families. Forensic teams working in Ayacucho and Lima also learned coping mechanisms during workshops conducted by REDINFA. A Peruvian Health Ministry official and three NGO representatives travelled to Guatemala in February to attend the First International Conference on Psychosocial Work in the Exhumation Process, Forced Disappearance, Justice and Truth (see *Mexico City regional*), bolstering efforts on the part of members of civil society and the Ministry of Health to provide psychological support to family members.

- 26 people travelling to exhumation sites to help with identification had their travel expenses covered by the ICRC
- 155 people acted as witnesses in ongoing investigations, with ICRC support
- 6 people who received the remains of their relatives had help with transport and the purchase of a coffin
- 3 family associations participating in a national event held in June in Huancavelica for people affected by political violence received office supplies and bus fares

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Peru, several hundred people remained detained under anti-terrorist laws or for alleged acts of "rebellion". Although total numbers decreased as many were released after serving sentences dating back to the 1990s, the number of newly registered detainees rose as new anti-"terrorist" measures were enforced by the authorities. The ICRC continued to visit detainees held for security reasons and to submit confidential reports on its findings, observations and recommendations to the authorities.

Although a family-visits programme was suspended in 2005, transport costs were paid in exceptional cases to enable children or elderly parents living in remote areas to visit detained family members. Among them were two children living abroad as refugees who visited their detained mother for the first time in years.

Detainees affected by the earthquake in mid-August received 400 mattresses and 80 blankets.

- 745 detainees visited, of whom 257 monitored individually (including 45 females) and 45 newly registered (including 6 females), during 32 visits to 18 places of detention
- 10 RCMs collected from and 5 RCMs distributed to detainees and 16 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative
- 24 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support
- 6 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

The maximum security prison of Challapalca, located in an isolated region 4,600 metres above sea level, was again used as a detention centre as of October 2007. In 2005, the inmates had all been transferred to other prisons following calls for its closure by the international community and human rights groups.

Structural support to the penitentiary authorities

Detainees in Bolivia and Peru benefited from measures undertaken by penitentiary authorities with ICRC support, including:

- measures taken by the Peruvian Ministry of Justice to uphold the right to a fair trial of those accused, following an ICRC study of the system of court-appointed lawyers
- a manual on human rights applicable to detention produced by the Peruvian penitentiary authorities
- consideration by the Bolivian penitentiary authorities of reforms to address a variety of structural problems following the submission of an ICRC survey on detention conditions

Improving health in prisons

Under a multi-year programme to support the Peruvian penitentiary authorities, staff working with the national coordinating body for health care in prisons continued to be trained in drug management and to benefit from ICRC technical expertise in prison health care. In addition, a total of 82 health promoters in 10 detention centres received training.

Bolivia's national body for penitentiary health, which also received technical advice from the ICRC, monitored general sanitary conditions in detention centres and developed new information systems to keep track of detainees' health status. Bolivian health professionals working in prisons who attended the fourth meeting on penitentiary health care, organized jointly by the penitentiary authorities and the ICRC, learned about the newest developments in the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in closed environments, the management of chronic illnesses, and the importance of nutrition and oral hygiene.

Prison health care professionals from Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru attended a seminar on penitentiary health care in Chile in November (see *Buenos Aires regional*).

AUTHORITIES

National IHL committees in the region worked towards the ratification of IHL instruments, such as: Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on explosive remnants of war (in all three countries) and the Convention's amended Article 1; the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property (in Bolivia and Ecuador); and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

The ICRC encouraged national IHL committees to keep at the forefront of their work the issue of the appropriate use of force and the protection of persons caught up in situations of internal violence.

- ▶ parliaments in Bolivia and Peru examined draft laws on the inclusion of the repression of war crimes in national legislation, in line with the Rome Statute
- ▶ Bolivia and Ecuador signed the newly adopted International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
- ▶ the Ecuadorian parliament adopted in June a law on the protection of the emblem
- ▶ for the third year in a row, Peru promoted a resolution on the issue of missing persons and the assistance owed to their families at the General Assembly of the Organization of American States

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

During workshops conducted by the armed forces in all three countries, participants designed projects aimed at integrating IHL into military decision-making processes. These were submitted to the relevant authorities for approval. In Ecuador, the army, the air force and the navy introduced IHL and international human rights law into their academic courses.

Following the signing, early in 2007, of a cooperation agreement between the Bolivian Ministry of Interior, the police and the ICRC on the integration of relevant human rights norms into police manuals, training and procedures, the police conducted two refresher courses for police instructors. It also began incorporating pertinent human rights norms into its manuals. In Ecuador, police instructors started using in their courses a recently approved manual on international human rights law applicable to policing. In Peru, the police authorities were in the process of granting formal approval to a document paving the way for the integration of international human rights law into all instruction manuals and training courses. In all three countries, the dialogue between the police forces and the ICRC provided a major opportunity to share concerns about the appropriate use of force during law enforcement operations in order to prevent abuses and casualties during episodes of unrest or tension.

- ▶ 34 students from Ecuador's main police academy attended a seminar on international human rights law
- ▶ Peruvian police familiarized with a manual on international human rights law applicable to policing during 5 workshops
- ▶ law enforcement units in Quito, Ecuador and Cajamarca, Peru, attended a pilot course on human rights norms applicable to policing

CIVIL SOCIETY

The media were kept informed of ICRC activities in the region through press releases, newsletters and videos. During workshops, journalists learned about the mandate and activities of the Movement, IHL and international human rights law and the usefulness of the Safer Access approach in reaching victims during situations of violence. They understood better the human-

itarian consequences of armed conflict and internal violence, in particular the issue of persons unaccounted for, and published more accurate articles on humanitarian issues. In Bolivia, journalists occasionally alerted the Bolivian Red Cross and the ICRC to incidents of violence as they unfolded.

Over the years, 35 universities in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru and schools for the judiciary and diplomats had been integrating the teaching of IHL into their curricula. In 2007, eight law faculties received technical advice from the ICRC on the introduction of IHL modules in the mainstream compulsory curriculum. Lecturers and students from Lima's principal universities attended presentations on the ICRC's study on customary IHL and on the UN Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

In Bolivia, staff turnover in the Ministry of Education slowed down the implementation of an Exploring Humanitarian Law programme initiated in 2005 to teach basic IHL principles to secondary school children. In Peru, the programme had progressed to the point where its implementation could be handed over to the Ministry of Education. Teacher-trainers from the nine regions of the country where the programme was being taught received advice from the ICRC on producing a plan of action for the programme's implementation to be presented to the Ministry of Education.

- ▶ 21 teachers in the northern Amazonas region of Peru affected by the presence of anti-personnel mines and 26 teachers from the Bolivian departments of Beni, Pando and Santa Cruz attended separate train-the-trainer workshops on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Owing to the potential for social upheavals in the region, the ICRC focused on strengthening the National Societies' emergency response capacities.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross reinforced its cooperation with the ICRC, drawing up a joint strategy to respond more efficiently to the humanitarian consequences of unrest. A first group of staff and volunteers received training in the rapid deployment of first-aid teams during demonstrations.

The Bolivian Red Cross was in the process of decentralizing its operations and strengthening its network of volunteers. Six branches located in violence-prone areas were assessed by the ICRC with a view to providing them with the appropriate emergency equipment and to training their staff in first aid and the Safer Access approach. At a communication workshop, staff learned how to handle public information in situations of violence.

In spite of the institutional crisis affecting the Peruvian Red Cross, volunteers managed to channel the international aid sent after the earthquake to the affected communities and were involved in reconstruction programmes. Together with the International Federation, they set up a logistics base in the earthquake-affected region, with initial on-site support from the ICRC.

The Bolivian Red Cross was in the process of revising its statutes. The Ecuadorian Red Cross was instrumental in promoting the new emblem law approved by parliament.



mexico city (regional)

The Mexico delegation opened in 1998, becoming a regional delegation in 2002. It strengthens the capacities of the region's National Societies, mainly in the areas of dissemination and tracing, assists Colombian refugees in Panama's Darién region and the local populations hosting them, monitors the conditions of detainees in Mexico and Panama, and endeavours to ascertain the fate of missing persons, particularly in Guatemala. The delegation hosts the Advisory Service on IHL for Latin America and the Caribbean. It also seeks to integrate IHL into academic curricula and the doctrine and training of the armed forces (human rights norms applicable to the use of force in the case of the police).

COVERING

Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	568
Assistance	52
Prevention	2,595
Cooperation with National Societies	842
General	-

► **4,058**

of which: Overheads 248

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	82%
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PERSONNEL

7	expatriates
24	national staff (daily workers not included)

KEY POINTS

In 2007, the ICRC:

- ▶ organized jointly with a Guatemalan NGO the First International Conference on Psychosocial Work in the Exhumation Process, Forced Disappearance, Justice and Truth
- ▶ pursued its visits to detainees in Mexico, especially in the state of Oaxaca, and its efforts to conclude a comprehensive agreement on prison visits with the Mexican authorities
- ▶ promoted the inclusion of the repression of war crimes in national legislation throughout the region
- ▶ welcomed the enactment of a new criminal code in Panama incorporating a comprehensive chapter on the repression of war crimes
- ▶ completed the training phase of a programme enabling more than 100 university lecturers to teach IHL
- ▶ assisted the Mexican Red Cross in tracing people affected by floods in the states of Tabasco and Chiapas

CONTEXT

In El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, violence linked to the expansion of organized crime gangs or *maras*, made up of juvenile delinquents, continued to take its toll. Governments treated the problem primarily as a threat to national security, rather than as a social issue.

In El Salvador, people participating in street demonstrations or social protests risked arrest under new anti-terrorist legislation. The region's armed forces established military police battalions to support traditional police units in fighting organized crime.

Social unrest continued to simmer in the impoverished Mexican state of Oaxaca, and student protests flared up at the end of the year in the state of Guerrero. The Mexican Supreme Court ordered an investigation into human rights violations alleged to have taken place after the federal police were sent in to deal with the protests. President Felipe Calderón created a special force within the army, answerable directly to the Office of the Presidency, to support the police in law enforcement operations.

To stem the tide of Central American and Mexican migrants crossing into the United States of America, the US government went ahead with plans to build a 1,100-km fence along the US-Mexican border and to deploy National Guard troops to support border patrols. Although these measures did not deter would-be migrants from attempting the crossing, it led to an increasing number of them dying in the desert or being deported to their countries of origin, with many languishing in border towns between Guatemala and Mexico.

In Mexico, the Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR) claimed responsibility for a series of explosions which damaged pipelines belonging to the State oil and gas company.

In Guatemala, some 8,000 of an estimated 45,000 families had received compensation for the death or disappearance of a relative during the non-international armed conflict that had spanned more than 30 years. In August, Congress approved the creation of an independent International Commission against Impunity in response to concerns that clandestine security organizations had continued to operate with impunity since the signing of the peace accords in 1996. Also in Guatemala, more than 50 candidates and campaign aides were murdered in the run-up to general elections held in September 2007 – the worst spate of political violence the country had seen since the end of the conflict.