

# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

of the Red Cross

Humanitarian debate: Law, policy, action



# ICRC: 150 years of humanitarian action



ICRC

### Aim and scope

Established in 1869 the International Review of the Red Cross is a periodical published by the ICRC. Its aim is to promote reflection on humanitarian law, policy and action in armed conflict and other situations of collective armed violence. A specialized journal in humanitarian law, it endeavours to promote knowledge, critical analysis and development of the law and contribute to the prevention of violations of rules protecting fundamental rights and values. The Review offers a forum for discussion on contemporary humanitarian action as well as analysis of the causes and characteristics of conflicts so as to give a clearer insight into the humanitarian problems they generate. Finally, the Review informs its readership on questions pertaining to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and in particular on the activities and policies of the ICRC.

---

### International Committee of the Red Cross

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening international humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

### Members of the Committee

President: Peter Maurer  
Vice-President: Olivier Vodoz  
Permanent Vice-President: Christine Beerli

Mauro Arrigoni

Christiane Augsburger

Paolo Bernasconi

François Bugnion

Bernard G. R. Daniel

Melchior de Muralt

Paola Ghillani

Jürg Kesselring

Claude Le Coultre

Thierry Lombard

Yves Sandoz

Rolf Soiron

Bruno Staffelbach

Daniel Thürer

André von Moos

### Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief: Vincent Bernard

Editorial assistants: Mariya Nikolova  
and Elvina Pothelet

Publication assistant: Claire Franc Abbas

Book review editor: Jamie A. Williamson

International Review of the Red Cross

19, Avenue de la Paix

CH - 1202 Geneva

t +41 22 734 60 01

f +41 22 733 20 57

e-mail: [review@icrc.org](mailto:review@icrc.org)

### Editor-in-Chief

Vincent Bernard  
ICRC

### Editorial Board

Rashid Hamad Al Anezi  
Kuwait University, Kuwait

Annette Becker

Université de Paris-Ouest Nanterre La  
Défense, France

Françoise Bouchet-Saulnier

Médecins sans Frontières, Paris, France

Alain Déléroz

International Crisis Group, Brussels,  
Belgium

Helen Durham

Australian Red Cross, Melbourne,  
Australia

Mykola M. Gnatovskyy

Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko  
University, Ukraine

Bing Bing Jia

Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

Abdul Aziz Kébé

Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar,  
Senegal

Elizabeth Salmón

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú,  
Lima, Peru

Marco Sassòli,

University of Geneva, Switzerland

Yuval Shany

Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel

Hugo Slim

University of Oxford, UK

Gary D. Solis

Georgetown University, Washington DC,  
USA

Nandini Sundar

Delhi University, New Delhi, India

Fiona Terry

Independent researcher on humanitarian  
action, Australia

Peter Walker

Feinstein International Center,  
Tufts University, Boston, USA

Volume 94 Number 888 Winter 2012

**INTERNATIONAL**  
**REVIEW**  
of the Red Cross

**Humanitarian debate: Law, policy, action**

**ICRC: 150 years of  
humanitarian action**

## CONTENTS

### ICRC: 150 YEARS OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

---

- 1195 Editorial: The quest for humanity – 150 years of international humanitarian law and action**  
Vincent Bernard, Editor-in-Chief
- 

- 1209 Interview with Peter Maurer**  
*President of the ICRC*

### Perspectives on the ICRC

---

- 1223 Observations on the 150th anniversary of the ICRC**  
*John B. Bellinger III*
- 1229 A Guantanamo detainee's perspective**  
*Sami El-haj*
- 1233 The indispensable organization**  
*Kristalina Georgieva*
- 1239 Forced displacement and the role of the ICRC: perspectives for the twenty-first century**  
*António Guterres*
- 1243 Thirty years of working within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in a country affected by conflict**  
*Ahmed Mohamed Hassan*
- 1251 The ICRC and the changing humanitarian landscape**  
*Ban Ki-moon*
- 1255 The ICRC at 150: reflections of an Asian admirer**  
*Tommy Koh*

Articles published by the Review reflect the views of the author alone and not necessarily those of the ICRC or of the Review. Only texts bearing an ICRC signature may be ascribed to the institution.

**1261 A beneficiary's perspective on the ICRC**

*Farzana Sadat*

**1263 Reflections on the ICRC's present and future role in addressing humanitarian crises**

*Matthias Schmale*

**1269 Working towards a better world**

*James G. Stavridis*

---

**Articles**

---

*Turning points in the history of the ICRC and the Movement*

**1273 An institution standing the test of time? A review of 150 years of the history of the International Committee of the Red Cross**

*Daniel Palmieri*

**1299 Birth of an idea: the founding of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: from Solferino to the original Geneva Convention (1859–1864)**

*François Bugnion*

**1339 1863: the creation of the first National Society at the beginning of the Movement's history**

*Stefanie Haumer*

**1349 In folio**

**Looking back over 150 years of humanitarian action: the photographic archives of the ICRC**

*Valérie Gorin*

Articles published by the Review reflect the views of the author alone and not necessarily those of the ICRC or of the Review. Only texts bearing an ICRC signature may be ascribed to the institution.

**1381 The ICRC and the detainees in Nazi concentration camps (1942–1945)**  
*Sébastien Farré*

**1409 ‘Organising the unpredictable’: the Nigeria–Biafra war and its impact on the ICRC**  
*Marie-Luce Desgrandchamps*

**1433 Complementarity between the ICRC and the United Nations and international humanitarian law and international human rights law, 1948–1968**  
*Katharine Fortin*

#### *The ICRC today*

**1455 New technologies and new policies: the ICRC’s evolving approach to working with separated families**  
*Olivier Dubois, Katharine Marshall and Siobhan Sparkes McNamara*

**1481 A new challenge or a new role? The ICRC in Northern Ireland**  
*Geoff Loane*

**1503 Challenges to international humanitarian law: Israel’s occupation policy**  
*Peter Maurer*

**1511 International humanitarian law, ICRC and Israel’s status in the Territories**  
*Alan Baker*

#### **Comments and opinions**

---

**1523 Médecins Sans Frontières and the ICRC: matters of principle**  
*Rony Brauman*

Articles published by the Review reflect the views of the author alone and not necessarily those of the ICRC or of the Review. Only texts bearing an ICRC signature may be ascribed to the institution.

- 1537 Humanitarian care and small things in dehumanised places**  
*Paul Bouvier*

---

### Reports and documents

---

- 1551 Bringing the Commentaries on the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols into the twenty-first century**  
*Jean-Marie Henckaerts*
- 1557 International Tracing Service: 'Respect for the past, responsibility for the future'**  
*Speech by Peter Maurer, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, at the International Tracing Service, Bad Arolsen, on 19 November 2012*

---

### Books and articles

---

- 1563 Henry Dunant: La croix d'un homme**  
*Corinne Chaponnière*  
*Book review by François Bugnion*
- 1567 New publications in humanitarian action and the law**  
*This selection is based on the new acquisitions of the ICRC Library and Public Archives*
- 1585 Erratum: International Law and the Classification of Conflicts**  
*Edited by Elizabeth Wilmshurst*  
*Book review by Roberta Arnold*