

humanitarian law, notably the Geneva Conventions. As the promoter and guardian of international humanitarian law, the ICRC must encourage respect for the law. It does so by spreading knowledge of the humanitarian rules and by reminding parties to conflicts of their obligations.

The ICRC has a permanent mandate under international law to take impartial action for prisoners, the wounded and sick, and civilians affected by conflict.

With its HQ in Geneva, Switzerland, the ICRC is based in around 80 countries and has a total of more than 12,000 staff.

In situations of conflict the ICRC co-ordinates the response by national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and their International Federation. It acts in consultation with all other organizations involved in humanitarian work.

The ICRC relies for its financing on voluntary contributions from States signatories to the Geneva Conventions, organizations such as the European Union, and public and private sources.

In 2004 ICRC delegates visited more than 570,000 people deprived of their freedom in some 80 countries. ICRC water, sanitation and construction projects catered for the needs of around 20m. people. The ICRC supported hospitals and health care facilities serving some 2.8m. people. It also provided essential household goods to more than 2.2m. people, food aid to 1.3m. people and assistance to another 1.1m. people in the form of sustainable food production and micro-economic initiatives.

*Headquarters:* 19 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

*Website:* <http://www.icrc.org>

*President:* Jakob Kellenberger (Switzerland).

#### Further Reading

Moorehead, Caroline, *Dunant's Dream: War, Switzerland and the History of the Red Cross*. HarperCollins, London, 1998

## International Criminal Court (ICC)

*Origin.* As far back as 1946 an international congress called for the adoption of an international criminal code prohibiting crimes against humanity and the prompt establishment of an international criminal court, but for more than 40 years little progress was made. In 1989 the end of the Cold War brought a dramatic increase in the number of UN peacekeeping operations and a world where the idea of establishing an International Criminal Court became more viable. The United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court took place from 15 June–17 July 1998 in Rome, Italy.

*Aims and Activities.* The International Criminal Court is a permanent court for trying individuals who have been accused of committing genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, and is thus a successor to the *ad hoc* tribunals set up by the UN Security Council to try those responsible for atrocities in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Ratification by 60 countries was required to bring the statute into effect. The court began operations on 1 July 2002 with 139 signatories and after ratification by 76 countries. By Feb. 2008 the number of ratifications had increased to 105.

*Judges.* The International Criminal Court's first 18 judges were elected in Feb. 2003, with six serving for three years, six for six years and six for nine years. Every three years six new judges will be elected. At present the 18 judges, with the year in which their term of office is scheduled to end, are: René Blattmann (Bolivia, 2009); Bruno Cotte (France, 2012); Fatoumata Dembele Diarra (Mali, 2012); Sir Adrian Fulford (United Kingdom, 2012); Hans-Peter Kaul (Germany, 2015); Philippe Kirsch (Canada,

2009); Erkki Kourula (Finland, 2015); Akua Kuenyehia (Ghana, 2015); Daniel David Ntanda Nsereko (Uganda, 2012); Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica, 2012); Georghios Piki (Cyprus, 2009); Navanethem Pillay (South Africa, 2009); Mauro Politi (Italy, 2009); Fumiko Saiga (Japan, 2009); Song Sang-hyun (South Korea, 2015); Sylvia Helena de Figueiredo Steiner (Brazil, 2012); Ekaterina Trendafilova (Bulgaria, 2015); Anita Ušacka (Latvia, 2015).

*Prosecutor.* Luis Moreno-Ocampo (Argentina) was elected the first prosecutor of the Court on 21 April 2003.

*Headquarters:* Maanweg 174, 2516 AB The Hague, Netherlands.

*Website:* <http://www.icc-cpi.int>

*President:* Philippe Kirsch (Canada).

#### Further Reading

Macedo, Stephen, (ed.) *Universal Jurisdiction: National Courts and the Prosecution of Serious Crimes Under International Law*. Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2003

Reydams, Luc, *Universal Jurisdiction: International and Municipal Perspectives*. OUP, 2003

## International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

Created in 1995, International IDEA is an intergovernmental organization that promotes sustainable democracy worldwide. Global in membership and independent of specific national interests, IDEA works with both new and long-established democracies. IDEA brings together those who analyse and monitor trends in democracy and those who engage in political reform. Its partners include international, regional and national bodies devoted to democratic principles.

*Aims and Activities.* IDEA aims to: assist countries in developing and strengthening democratic institutions; offer researchers, policymakers, activists and professionals a forum to discuss democratic principles; blend research and field experience, and develop practical tools to improve democratic processes; promote transparency, accountability and efficiency in managing elections; help local citizens evaluate, monitor and promote democracy. The principal areas of activity include: democracy building and conflict management; electoral processes; political parties, including political equality and participation.

*Membership.* The International IDEA had 24 full member states and one observer state in Feb. 2008.

*Organization.* IDEA has regional offices in Armenia, Costa Rica, Ghana, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru and South Africa. In 2005 there were 51 international employees.

*Headquarters:* Strömsborg, 103 34 Stockholm, Sweden.

*Website:* <http://www.idea.int>

*Secretary-General:* Vidar Helgesen (Norway).

## International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)

Founded in 1979 as the International Maritime Satellite Organization (Inmarsat) to establish a satellite system to improve maritime communications for distress and safety and commercial applications. Its competence was subsequently expanded