

humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of war and other situations of violence.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is a founding member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and of international humanitarian law, notably the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC is mandated by the international community to be the guardian and promoter of international humanitarian law. It has a permanent mandate under international law to take impartial action for prisoners, the wounded and sick, and civilians affected by conflict.

The ICRC aims to ensure that civilians not taking part in hostilities are spared and protected; to visit prisoners of war and security detainees and ensure that they are treated humanely and according to recognized international standards that forbid torture and other forms of abuse; to transmit messages to and reunite family members separated by armed conflict; to help find missing persons; to offer or facilitate access to basic health care facilities; to provide food, safe drinking water, sanitation and shelter in emergencies; to promote respect for, monitor compliance with and contribute to the development of international humanitarian law; to help reduce the impact of mines and explosive remnants of war on people; and to support national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to prepare for and respond to armed conflict and situations of violence.

The ICRC is a global presence with offices in over 80 countries and some 14,500 staff worldwide. Its HQ is in Geneva, Switzerland.

Headquarters: 19 avenue de la Paix, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

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

President: Peter Maurer (Switzerland).

Further Reading

Forsythe, David P., *The Humanitarians: The International Committee of the Red Cross*. 2005

Forsythe, David P. and Rieffer-Flanagan, Barbara Ann J., *The International Committee of the Red Cross: A Neutral Humanitarian Actor*. 2007

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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 early 2017 there had been 124 ratifications. However, in Oct. 2017 Burundi became the first country to leave the ICC, citing bias against African countries.

Earlier in the year, the governments of The Gambia and South Africa had reversed earlier declarations that they too would withdraw. The Court's first trial, with Thomas Lubanga facing war crimes charges for his role in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's civil war, opened on 26 Jan. 2009 and was not concluded until 14 March 2012. Lubanga was found guilty of conscripting and enlisting children under the age of 15 and using them to participate in hostilities.

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 are elected. At present the 18 judges, with the year in which their term of office is scheduled to end, are: Rosario Salvatore Aitala (Italy, 2027); Tomoko Akane (Japan, 2027); Reine Alapini-Gansou (Benin, 2027); Solomy Balungi Bossa (Uganda, 2027); Chung Chang-ho (South Korea, 2024); Chile Eboe-Osuji (Nigeria, 2021); Robert Fremr (Czech Republic, 2021); Geoffrey A. Henderson (Trinidad and Tobago, 2021); Olga Venecia Herrera Carbuca (Dominican Republic, 2021); Piotr Hofmański (Poland, 2024); Luz del Carmen Ibáñez Carranza (Peru, 2027); Péter Kovács (Hungary, 2024); Antoine Kesia-Mbe Mindua (Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2024); Howard Morrison (United Kingdom, 2021); Raul Pangalangan (Philippines, 2021); Marc Pierre Perrin de Brichambaut (France, 2024); Kimberly Prost (Canada, 2027); Bertram Schmitt (Germany, 2024).

Prosecutor. Fatou Bensouda (The Gambia) was unanimously elected the second prosecutor of the Court on 12 Dec. 2011 and succeeded Luis Moreno-Ocampo (Argentina) on 16 June 2012.

Headquarters: Oude Waalsdorperweg 10, 2597 AK The Hague, Netherlands.

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

President: Chile Eboe-Osuji (Nigeria).

Further Reading

Baker, Michael N. (ed.) *International Criminal Court: Developments and U.S. Policy*. 2012

Mendes, Errol, *Peace and Justice at the International Criminal Court: A Court of Last Resort*. 2010

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

Schabas, William A., *An Introduction to the International Criminal Court*. 4th ed. 2011

Struett, Michael J., *The Politics of Constructing the International Criminal Court: NGOs, Discourse, and Agency*. 2008

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

Created in 1995, International IDEA is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democratic change through providing comparative knowledge, assisting in democratic reform, and influencing policies and politics. International IDEA focuses on the ability of democratic institutions to deliver a political system marked by public participation and inclusion, representative and accountable government, responsiveness to citizens' needs and aspirations, and the rule of law and equal rights for all citizens.

Aims and Activities. International IDEA undertakes work through three activity areas: providing comparative knowledge derived from practical experience on democracy-building processes—elections and referendums, constitutions, political parties, women's political empowerment and democracy self-assessments—from diverse contexts around the world; assisting political actors in reforming democratic institutions and processes, and engaging in