

How laws protect in wars? cont...

ICRC Visits to Prisoners of War

The ICRC has been visiting PWs since the Prusso-Danish War of 1864.² It was the First World War however that truly began to shape the role of the Red Cross in the protection of PWs. With the international legal regime in relation to PWs being very sparse the ICRC used its initiative to establish its basic working modalities, most of which look very similar to today's work. This involves the two primary purposes of Red Cross visits to prisons:

1. To register prisoners so that an international, independent organization has an account of their existence and location, and:
2. To examine the conditions of detention and undertake dialogue with the detaining authorities.

Individual prisoner registration is important for a variety of reasons, including communication that the person is alive and not Missing in Action (MIA). In many of today's wars it helps prevent extra-judicial executions or 'disappearances' of detained persons.

One important development in World War One was the establishment of the International Prisoners of War Agency that was to become the Central Tracing Agency. The task of this agency was to ensure the collection and of information on captured combatants and the distribution of relief parcels. Today the Agency is included in the Geneva Conventions and its operations are maintained by the ICRC.

The experience of the First World War shaped the direction of ICRC and the international protection regime for PWs. One only needs to walk through the Red Cross/Red Crescent Museum in Geneva to see the immense number of files maintained by the ICRC for PWs, creating a demand for accuracy and thoroughness still evidenced in ICRC work today.

In 2003 the ICRC visited 470,000 detainees last year in almost 2,000

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LAWASIA Down Under 2005

Set to take place from March 21-24, at the glorious Queensland Gold Coast, *LAWASIA Down Under 2005* will undoubtedly be the leading legal conference for Asia and the Pacific in 2005.

LAWASIA Down Under 2005 will combine the international interest created by LAWASIA's traditional biennial conference, with the national profile of the Law Council of Australia's 34th Australian Legal Convention.

The conference is proudly arranged and hosted by the Queensland Law Society, and its 44th Queensland Law Symposium will be held under the *LAWASIA Down Under 2005* banner, providing unique networking opportunities.

Importantly, the conference will run concurrently with the 12th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific, with the Chief Justices combining their activities with those of *LAWASIA Down Under 2005* at various times throughout the week.

What to expect from the program

The work program will cover nine separate streams:

- * Criminal Law;
- * Dispute Resolution/Litigation;
- * Human Rights and Constitutional Law;
- * Trade and Business Law;
- * Intellectual Property Law;
- * Legal Practice;
- * Family Law;
- * Property and Succession Law; and
- * Legal Education.

A panel of high profile practitioners, academics and others has been appointed as session rapporteurs, and to them goes the honour of arranging some sixty sessions within those streams. The work program will cater to the practical, the esoteric, the commercial, the inspirational and the need to collect CLE points, and each session will include expert speakers at regional, national and state level.

Bringing the profession together from around the region

Traditionally, delegates at a LAWASIA Biennial Conference come from as many as 30 different countries from around the region and beyond, and tend to be drawn from amongst the leading law firms and chambers.

LAWASIA's national member organisations send representatives, so there is the invaluable opportunity for delegates to mix with the leaders of profession from the Asia-Pacific region.

LAWASIA Down Under 2005, as an educational event, will provide a climate that promotes open and informed discussion aimed at fostering regional uniformity and understanding in the increasingly cross-jurisdictional legal world. As a professional event, it will bring together those who have an active interest in the development of the profession and the welfare of those who practice in it. As a networking event, it creates opportunity to develop state, national and international relationships.

The social program will combine formal and informal occasions that will deliver a uniquely Australian social experience to overseas guests, and that will bring Australian colleagues together to celebrate the sense of belonging to an international legal community.

An exciting new venue

The conference venue, the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, is a brand new facility in the heart of this popular destination and one that needs no introduction to Australian delegates. Those coming from overseas will enjoy the chance to explore some of the area's attractions, which include endless white sandy beaches, breathtaking hinterlands, golf at over 30 world class courses, international shopping, casinos, theme parks and zoos.

One of the major benefits of this destination is the comprehensive variety of accommodation on offer. Conrad's Jupiter Hotel, attached to the Convention Centre, will be the 5-star jewel in the accommodation crown, but other possibilities, including apartments for families and 3 and 4 star hotels for the budget-conscious, will be readily available and within easy reach of the conference venue.

In that context, potential delegates might note that the conference dates are set to lead into the Easter vacation, and there

readers forum - conferences

27 July 2004

Criminal Law Conference 2004

Marriot Hotel, Sydney

Chilli Marketing Solutions

Contact: Kathy Rinos

Tel: 02 9543 0499

Fax: 02 9543 0455

Email:

kathy@chillimarketing.com.au

www.chillimarketing.com.au

29 July 2004

Criminal Law Conference 2004

Grand Hyatt, Melbourne

Chilli Marketing Solutions

Contact: Kathy Rinos

Tel: 02 9543 0499

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Email:

kathy@chillimarketing.com.au

www.chillimarketing.com.au

1-5 August 2004

15th World Congress on Medical Law

Darling Harbour Convention Centre,

Sydney, New South Wales

The Australian College of Legal Medicine

Tel: 02 9415 3800

Fax: 02 9413 1353

Email: Roy.Beran@unsw.edu.au

www.legalmedicine.com.au

6 August 2004

The World Masters of Law Firm Management

Law Council of Australia

Sydney, New South Wales

Tel: 02 6246 3722

www.lawcouncil.asn.au/lps/

worldmasters.html

8-15 August 2004

Australasian Legal Conference

Perisher Blue, New South Wales

Continuing Professional Education

Tel: 07 3236 2601

Fax: 07 3210 1555

Email: conference@barweb.com.au

17-19 August 2004

22nd AIJA Annual Conference, "Proportionality-Cost-effective Justice?"

Westin Hotel, Sydney NSW

Australian Institute of Judicial

Administration

Tel: 03 9372 7182

Fax: 03 9372 7184

Email: aija@ammp.com.au

www.aija.org.au

22-24 August 2004

Australian Lawyers & Social Change

Canberra, ACT

Australian National University

Tel: 02 6125 8139

Fax: 02 6125 0103

Email: alsclaw.anu.edu.au

www.law.anu.edu.au/alsc

30 August 2004

The Complete Superannuation Law Conference

Sydney, New South Wales

Kathy Rinos

Chilli Marketing Solutions

Tel: 02 9543 0499

Fax: 02 9543 0455

www.chillimarketing.com.au

12-19 September

17th International Congress of Penal Law

Beijing, China

International Association of Penal

Law and the China Law Society

Tel: 86-10-6651-0410

Fax: 86-10-6618-2128

www.chinalawsociety.com/

17-19 September 2004

22nd AIJA Annual Conference Proportionality cost-effectice justice?

Westin Hotel, Sydney

Australian Institute of Judicial

Administration

Tel: 03 9372 7182

Fax: 03 9372 7184

www.aija.org.au

22-24 September 2004

Australian Lawyers & Social Change

Canberra, ACT

Australian National University

Faculty of Law

Tel: 02 6125 8139

Fax: 02 6125 0103

www.law.anu.edu.au/alsc

26-30 September 2004

11th Biennial National Family Law Conference

Gold Coast Convention Centre

Family Law Section of the Law

Council of Australia

Tel: 07 3858 5592

Fax: 07 3858 5510

Email: fl2004@im.com.au

www.familylawsection.org.au

23-29 October 2004

International Bar Association Conference

Auckland, New Zealand

Tel: 44 020 7629 1206

Fax: 44 020 7409 0456

www.ibanet.org

27-31 October

9th International Criminal Law Congress

Hyatt Hotel, Canberra

Tel: 03 9682 0244

Fax: 03 9682 0288

www.icms.com.au/crimlaw

20-23 March 2005

4th World Congress on Family Law & Children's Rights

Cape Town, South Africa

Tel: 02 9999 6577

Fax: 02 9999 5733

http://www.lawrights.asn.au/

LawAsia Downunder 2005 cont...

is no doubt that the Queensland coast would be a highly desirable spot to spend a few days post-conference.

In all, there will be something for everyone at *LAWASIA downunder2005*.

Those who have attended a LAWASIA Biennial Conference before will attest to the camaraderie that the event produces; others are encouraged to experience it. Those who have enjoyed the stimulation of the Australian Legal Convention will enjoy the added regional and state level emphasis, and regular Queensland Law Symposium attendees will find CLE delivered at a more significant level than ever before.

Queensland Law Society looks forward to welcoming over 1000 judges, lawyers, academics and business partners to this premier event, and encourages delegates to register early to ensure participation at the conference and in its surrounding activities.

Need more information?

Full detail can be found on the conference website at: www.lawasiadownunder.com.