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Analyzing the Role of ICRC in International Contemporary Armed Conflicts

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyses the changing role of the international committee of the International committee Red Cross (ICRC) in modern international armed conflicts. As the protector and advocate of international humanitarian law (IHL), the ICRC holds a distinctive position of neutrality, impartiality, and independence. In a time characterized by hybrid warfare, non-state actors, urban combat and prolonged crises, the challenges confronting the ICRC have become more substantial. The study examines the ICRC's approach to navigating intricate geopolitical landscapes, enabling it to deliver humanitarian aid, facilitate prisoner exchanges, ensure compliance with the Geneva conventions, and advocate for the safety of both civilians and combatants who are not actively engaged in combat. It emphasizes the organization's diplomatic interactions with both government entities and non-governmental organizations, as well as its commitment to upholding humanitarian values in the face of violations and politicization. Drawing from recent conflicts in Syria, Ukraine, Yemen, and Gaza, the research highlights the ICRC's ability to adapt, its limitations, and areas for improvement. The paper also discusses criticisms related to restricted access, accountability issues, and the delicate balance between confidentiality and advocacy. Ultimately, this study emphasizes the crucial role of the ICRC while advocating for enhanced international collaboration, robust legal enforcement mechanisms, and increased support for humanitarian norms in the face of increasingly complex and brutal armed conflicts.

I. INTRODUCTION

The main responsibility of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is to attend civilians and prisoners of war (POW) to confirm treatment and living conditions in detention. The Geneva Convention recognizes this important role to the ICRC, particularly in Article 126 of the 3rd Geneva Convention and Article 143 of the 4th Geneva Convention. These articles ensure that ICRC can access all locations and conduct personal interviews with prisoners. This will help protect your rights and dignity during the war. This responsibility comes back with the ICRC's original mission to maintain human values and alleviate the

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suffering caused by the war. This demonstrates his permanent commitment to promoting human dignity and alleviating the harsh living conditions of those who were deprived of their freedom during conflict. The ICRC serves as a background to hope for these people and defends their fundamental rights as necessary from international humanitarian law. The ICRC will work actively to protect prisoner rights by using his laws to access detention centres and conducting private interviews.

Reducing negative effects of warfare all around depends much on the ICRC. As warfare becomes more complex, the ICRC's mandate will highlight even greater need to protect human rights, guarantee dignity, and uphold international humanitarian law's (IHL) humanitarian law. Urban areas like Mariupol, Gaza, and Khartoum see the ICRC toss around terrible effects of the conflict, causing great migrations and damage to critical infrastructure and vital services. Guaranties civil protection. ICRC actively addresses the developmental nature world of battle creates new challenges with the introduction of new weapon systems like cyber warfare. Through active engagement with several interested parties, the ICRC will closely monitor this development to highlight the great need of maintaining ethical responsibility and human surveillance in battle areas. Finally, ICRC is still committed to lowering the war's costs to people and communities during conflict and crises.

This study examines the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in three major conflicts: Israel and Palestine, Armenia and Azerbaijan, and Russia and Ukraine. Although these conflicts differ in politics and geography, they provide insight into humanitarian efforts, legal roles, and the functioning of the ICRC in the International Humanitarian Law Enforcement Agency (IH). This section focuses on how ICRC faces challenges and adapts its strategy in a variety of political environments. In these conflicts, narrative management from opposing countries and access to prisoners and civilians tested the ICRC'S commitment to neutrality and equity.

Her jobs include providing medical assistance and food through difficult routes, evacuation of injured people and persecution of missing people. They also promote prisoner exchange by maintaining neutrality and create a safe humanitarian corridor. Their efforts range from coordinating Palestinian civilian support and IHL-related roles, focusing on the protection of medical staff and facilities. The ICRC has consistent goals during conflict, but it needs to adapt tactics locally. A comparison of these scenario gives a clear picture of how ICRC neutrality, independence, and actual conflict pressure. Maintaining international norms is also based on the enforcement of IHL and collective efforts of global humanitarian organisation.

This thorough research employs a complex qualitative analysis of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) under the Russia, Azerbaijan, and Israeli-Palestine disputes. Including ICRC reports, different news pieces, and connected scholarly research, this forensic method easily combines a great deal of primary and secondary material. Together, these various sources offer a nuanced and varied picture of the ICRC's vital contribution in the complicated humanitarian emergencies unfolding across these battlefields. Problems in conflict areas. For instance, the ICRC's comprehensive assessment of Russia's Ukraine war underlines the creation of a Central Tracking Agency (CTA-B) addressing the urgent concerns of 23,000 missing people. The project highlighted the ICRC's relentless dedication to family unity, which tore apart the dispute and clearly torn regarding the fate of those they had not been thought of.

Focusing on the Armenian area of Azerbaijan, close study of ICRC operational reports reveals significant efforts to advocate a noteworthy role in promoting medical exposures that inflame the company's Latin corridor. An organization's essential role is its essential role. Between an on-going gap Research strongly supports these major sources for investigative journalism and news so that ICRC activities may be evaluated more thoroughly and contextually. For instance, the clear piece in the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) has been charged with weighing Azerbaijan's efforts to undermine the Red Cross's initiatives during the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis, therefore providing a significant opinion on the surgical difficulties of human entities in a politically sensitive environment. Likewise, studies on the Palestinian Israel situation have greatly helped to clarify ICRC supporters for the rights of Palestinian prisoners in Israel's flexion. Analysis that offers a more general context for understanding ICRC operational strategies. By conferring knowledge from scientific research focusing on international humanitarian law and humanitarian interventions, the research illuminates the legal mandate leading the diverse operations of the ICRC, while also having a different perspective on ethical and practical considerations related to neutrality and equity of the conflict zone. Various functions of ICRC in various wars. This approach yields an extensive knowledge of trends, obstacles, and best practices in humanitarian intervention as well as of organizational performance and constraints in different geopolitical contexts. Following systematic cataloguing of pertinent papers, reports, and articles, the next data collecting process entails thorough thematic analysis to identify significant insights and common themes. This strict procedure guarantees a thorough evaluation of ICRC activities, so aligning internal and outside evaluation of the agency.

At last we combine the different approaches and key analytical tools proposed methodology.

This is a comprehensive, holistic and absent evaluation of the ICRC role in the modern conflict viewpoint. This study hopes in the end to significantly support humanitarian initiatives and more general discussions on international law.

II. ICRC IN THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

A. Humanitarian Assistance:

Establishment of the Central Tracing Agency Bureau (CTA-B)

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine worsened in 2022, with many people missing. To combat this escalating topic, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has launched a Central Tracking Agency (CTA-B). The agency was established to address the rapid rise in the number of cases of missing persons in conflict. Previously, only about 23,000 reported cases were reported. Missing today are military personnel who highlighted the major consequences of conflict on the military and their families. Both Russia and Ukraine use their National Secret Service (NIBS) to receive and exchange information about these people. This centralization of information helps CTA-B to assure families that their families are updated by location and the well-being of their missing relatives. This effort is extremely important as it promotes emotional stress and uncertainty experiencing relatives awaiting news about relatives. The structure of trust with all parties involved in the conflict depends on the remaining neutrality and confidentiality of the ICRC. This also ensures that communication continues. Operations in Kyiv and Moscow to manage inquiries from families and coordinate information sharing.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is responding to the humanitarian crisis in Russia and Ukraine. They are operating in Kiev and Moscow where they assist in tracing information for families of missing relatives. This is essential for uniting families torn apart by the conflict. Between 2025, approximately 50,000 individuals will have been reported as missing as a result of the conflict, 90% of which will be soldiers. This is a significant blow for military families.

The ICRC aids families in coping with the suffering and uncertainty of not knowing the fate of their loved ones. They emphasize equity and confidentiality so families can exchange information. What they do is according to the principles of the Geneva Congress that affirms that families have a right to know the fate of their missing relatives in times of war.

One of the main obstacles for the ICRC is restricted access to the occupied territories that makes it difficult to gather and confirm information. And political pressures and claims by the

opposing parties make it more complicated. This is why the ICRC must remain impartial to retain the confidence of all parties. It is risky working in conflict areas, ICRC personnel are usually in danger while they attempt to reduce suffering to humans and maintain humanitarian principles.

B. Challenges

Political obstacles in accessing occupied territories and ensuring cooperation from both parties

Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Limiting access to regions controlled by Russia presented a major challenge for the ICRC's humanitarian operations. She found great hardship getting into a place where humanitarian needs are most critical despite the organization's relentless neutrality. Key institutions, such the Olenek Penalty Colony in the Donetsk area, however, remain for ICRC personnel. Essential supervision, in other words, prevents inmates from being treated in line with the Geneva Convention. This inaccessibility not only impedes the ICRC's efforts to defend the rights of those confined in such facilities, but also limits initiatives to address problems concerning the treatment of inmates and the overall humanitarian condition in these occupied territories. Several ways presented challenges to the Central Tracking Station (CTA-B) underpinnings aimed at resolving the number of missing parts escalations. Limited access primarily makes agents' information collecting and verification boring tasks. Though the Russian and Ukraine National Intelligence Bureau (NIB) exists to encourage data sharing among missing persons, mutual scepticism and a lack of overall cooperation make the process often difficult. These elements work together to increase conflict-torn families and close down those urgently seeking information about their missing loved ones. Ukrainian officials have condemned groups who seem to offer inadequate pressure on Russian businesses to allow access to occupied areas or grant relatives imprisoned access. Russian authorities, on the other hand, have levelled allegations against the ICRC, casting doubt on the organization's impartiality in commerce. These politicized claims further complicate the ICRC's role in the conflict and the effort to keep fairness to guarantee access and trust for everyone engaged. The ICRC recorded instances where staff members had combined security threats and so applied business skills in the successful execution of humanitarian missions. Targeted attacks on auxiliary convoys and impediments to supplementary measures are examples of incidents that have endangered the lives of humanitarian personnel as well as vital support for population groups in need of protection in the case of urgent need. These security concerns exacerbate the difficulties in delivering necessary humanitarian assistance in a unstable, conflict-driven milieu and increase the

dangers confronted by AIDS personnel.

Maintaining neutrality amidst accusations from both sides

The ICRC was broadly acclaimed for being a steadfast custodian of long-term principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence in volatile zones of conflict internationally. But these long-term principles have been made extremely challenging with the long-term Ukrainian Secretary of Russia. Contradictory factions had complaints filed against the ICRC. The humanitarian work by local organizations has thus become fairly challenging. Specifically, Ukraine condemned the ICRC plan to set up operational bases in Russia's Rostov-on-Don and interpret it as a tacit approval of Russian invasion. In addition, sharing photos among Ukrainians with ICRC President Peter Maurer meetings with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was a stern enmity and facilitated an awareness of ill-gotten riches in Russia. ICRC has also been criticized because it was not enough to encourage evacuation and the failure to encourage support to besieged regions like Mariupol has not been encouraged. Reluctant to provide full access to some places and prisoners. The suspected involvement of the Russian Red Cross in assisting the Kremlin's military campaign has caused the ICRC to continue to destroy and raise questions about its perceived fairness. The confidentiality principles organizations enabled by positive commitment to all stakeholders were illusions as transparencies or root distortion. This illusion thus has brought increasingly more obstacles in the provision of conclusive humanitarian aid to the ICRC. Nevertheless, within the complicated mechanics of polarized conflicts like the Russia-Ukraine Kain Leg, maintaining this attitude is an amplified puzzle. Distribution that invests both opposing sides not only jeopardizes the reputation of an organization, but also acts as a hindering obstacle that impedes its capacity to render necessary assistance in the midst of the turmoil. Thus, it is of the utmost importance for all concerned to acknowledge and uphold the impartial role of the ICRC in an effort to safeguard the imperative stream of humanitarian aid for the desperate.

III. ICRC IN THE ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN CONFLICT

A. Humanitarian Assistance

Despite tireless efforts by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to meet the humanitarian needs of the Azerbaijan conflict in Armenia, particularly in the Nagorno-Karabach region, important challenges have arisen. In the middle of hostility and lockdown, the IKRC continues to play a critical role in providing essential care and promoting medical evacuation to ensure that the poorest people are most in need. ICRC's commitment was evident throughout the period from December 2022 to August 2023. This is because they

carefully distributed 77 trucks in the important Lachin corridor. These key supplies included 900 tons of medical resources for healthcare facilities, including the provision of three comprehensive medical kits for hospitals. These kits are designed for 1,000 medical needs over three months, protecting the health infrastructure of the region. With an unwavering support demonstration, approximately 10,000 food and hygiene packages have been distributed to endangered communities, including residents of physical rehabilitation centres and facilities who meet pregnant women and seniors.

Furthermore, on September 23, 2023, ICRC organized a successful transport of nearly 70 tons of humanitarian delivery via convoys via Latin Road. The programme included essential objects such as 66 tons of flour, 2,700 kilograms of salt, 450 kilograms of dry yeast and 375 liters of sunflower oil, highlighting the organization's commitment to meeting the basic needs of affected populations. In a closely intertwined effort, the IKRC played a central role in promoting safe evacuation for injured and those in urgent need for medical assistance. Over 700 people in need of medical assistance were safely evacuated by the Latin Corridors, under the supervision of a dedicated ICRC team, between December 2022 and July 2023. The ICRC team provides essential medical care and respectful treatment of the deceased and dignity and care for all affected individuals, so it is worth noting that there was an example of 17 injured people evacuated during an intensive battle. Your compassionate approach extends to the visits of isolated people, providing important food and water resources for the poor. To alleviate the uncertainty of the most endangered situation, the ICRC has made it easy to assist in evacuating those who need an increase in care at certain Armenia centres. Despite these admirable efforts, the ICRC continues to encounter considerable obstacles, primarily due to blockage and limited access. Organizations are aware of these challenges, are enthusiastic about dealing with decision makers and seeking practical solutions that will allow them to resume their lives. The Lachin Corridor lockdown has seen movements from people looking for emergency medical care. In particular, it interferes with and interferes with the flow of products with disabilities.

B. Protection Activities

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) plays a crucial role in helping people affected by the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Their main focus is to protect civilians and address the issue of missing persons. They work to ensure the safety of citizens and important structures by following International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The ICRC continually urges all parties in the conflict to respect IHL, which helps maintain security during the war, especially in areas like Nagorno-Karabakh.

The ICRC is also committed to ensuring that aid reaches affected areas safely, addressing the basic needs of people caught in the conflict. With many individuals missing due to the war, the ICRC collaborates with local governments and families to assist in identification and provide support. They work alongside agencies like the Azerbaijan State Commission for Prisoners, Hostages, and Missing Persons to maintain records, identify people, and respect human remains.

In Armenia, they aim to help families who are uncertain about their missing relatives. Providing emotional support and practical help is a key part of their mission, making sure families receive necessary care and guidance. The ICRC runs programs that ease emotional distress and offer housing support for affected families, not only providing relief but also helping communities stay strong.

The ICRC acts as a neutral party, focusing on protecting civilians, finding missing people, and offering essential assistance. Their on-going dedication is evident in their efforts to lessen suffering and uphold the rights and dignity of everyone involved.

C. Challenges

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had a vital humanitarian role to play in the Armenia AZERBAIJANES conflict, especially in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh area. His work has, however, become a vital concern because of access limitations, security issues and political tensions.

One of the greatest challenges was the barriers to humanitarian access. The Latin corrode, the sole overland connecting Nagorno's carabinability with Armenia, was a focal point of the conflict. Since December 2022, Azerbaijan has instituted blockades along this corridor and establishes control points, in the name of security. These actions greatly restrict the ICRC to transport critical care and medical patient evacuations. For instance, in June 2023, the ICRC could not transport 102 medical patients as a result of the Azerbaijani ban on bidirectional movement.

The ICRC efforts were also impeded by political pressure. The neutrality of the ICRC was questioned by Azerbaijan, with an implication that Azerbaijan's red crescent moon can assume responsibility for its role in the region. This approach hinders the ICRC mission and makes it challenging to operate. Furthermore, Azerbaijan requested the ICRC to close offices within the country in March 2025. It is something that has significantly affected the organization in terms of providing humanitarian aid. It appealed to all parties to abide by international humanitarian law and permit the immediate and unimpeded uptake of humanitarian relief to

all the poor within the perception of civilians. The organization insists that humanitarian aid must not be politicized, and the civilian needs must be the primary concern. Access restrictions, security issues and political tensions have seriously hampered his activities. However, the ICRC is determined to deliver equal humanitarian assistance for mandate and continues to pursue the cooperation of all parties to ease the suffering of affected population groups.

IV. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The ICRC plays a central role in responding to most international armed conflicts' humanitarian needs. His activities are rooted in the principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence. Organizational strategy, effectiveness and setbacks vary depending on varying conflict environments, however. In urban conflict settings like Brazil, ICRC is working together with host governments in the implementation of safer access frameworks for important services. The tactic reduces service unit closures to a great extent and improves access to healthcare and the generation of millions. The Latin coride lockdown strictly limits the organization from providing humanitarian assistance and evacuating medical patients. Similarly, the Democratic Republic of the Congo's ICRC coordinated smoother transfer of mutinous soldiers and their relatives from the rebels to the capital city Kinshasa. The initiative involved collaboration with various stakeholders from the Congolese government, rebels to the United Nations. Coordination between organizations and local governments in Brazil has also led to quantifiable achievements in services provisions.

However, in Nagorno-Karabakh, the effectiveness of ICRCs was foiled by repeated blockages and access refusals. In spite of these failures, the organization was able to conduct limited humanitarian delivery and evacuate some patients.

In other conflict environments, ICRCs are faced with challenges that hinder their work on a daily basis. Limitations in access pose major challenges, such as in the Nagorno carability conflict where organizations have closed implementation by critical corridors.

Security issues are a recurrent recurring problem. In disintegrated conflict areas like Syria with disunified armed forces, humanitarian staff is under tremendous risk, e.g., attacks on auxiliary convoys and looting. Generally speaking, the ICRC contribution in international armed conflict is characterized by changing operational practice, many explanations of effectiveness, and long-standing challenges. The organization's capacity to handle the highly complex political and security environment is paramount to their task of providing conflict-torn humanitarian relief.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is responsible for delivering humanitarian aid in international armed conflicts. A number of political recommendations and research projects may be taken into account to enhance its effectiveness.

1. Mechanisms for Facilitating Access

ICRCs may experience difficulties reaching conflict areas due to security risks and political limits. To combat this, the ICRC will need to carry on negotiations with all parties within the conflict, both state and non-state, to secure unhindered and safe access to impacted population groups. For instance, the ICRC in Myanmar negotiated with different parties to create humanitarian corridors across borders to assist poor people.

2. Building closer collaboration with local groups

Collaboration with local partners enhances the ICRC's knowledge of the local situation and enhances humanitarian assistance delivery. The local partners can share information on cultural sensitivity, logistics complications and community requirements. For instance, the IKRC in South Sudan had continuous interactions with the community elders and local leaders to ensure that the interventions were culturally sensitive and effectively addressed the needs of the community. Long-term effects of ICRC interventions

ICRC direct humanitarian interventions are well researched, but additional research on long-term impact is required. Knowing the sustainability and long-term effect of these interventions can affect future strategies and enhance program effectiveness. For instance, the study indicates the difficulty in applying the long-term effect of the humanitarian environment because of the absence of data and the nature of the conflict environment.

3. Effectiveness of Strategies for Commitment to Municipalities

Testing the effectiveness of strategies for ICRC commitment involves additional research. Testing the impact these strategies have on the acceptance and success of humanitarian interventions can lead to understanding the best practices and areas for improvement. Such research can also look at the trust-building dynamics between the ICRC and the community. This is highly crucial to the success of humanitarian missions.

VI. CONCLUSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) always upholds humanitarian principles in different international armed conflicts. In the Armenian Azerbaijan conflict, the ICRC was greatly challenged by access restrictions and political tensions, but continued in

offering assistance and assistance to the rights of the affected population. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ICRC makes it easier to transport the families of stranded soldiers and rebel families to capital, showing its capacity to work effectively in the middle of such complex political forces. In Brazil, collaboration between the ICRC and local administrations has enhanced access to vital services in urban conflict areas, illustrating the dividends of collaboration with native stakeholders.

Even with these successes, the ICRC still encounters usual challenges in many conflict areas. Restricted access, political interference, and security risks frequently hinder your business and restrict your capacity to deliver timely and effective humanitarian assistance. These obstacles underscore the necessity of adherence to ICRC compliance with the principles of neutrality, equity and independence. This is pivotal to all the trust of the parties and ensures submission of aid for the poor. In an armed conflict. Its neutrality and equity not only allows access to affected population groups, but also the integrity of humanitarian principles. Ongoing support for the ICRC is essential to continue its work and evolve it to the changing nature of contemporary conflict, safeguarding the dignity of the war-affected and the wells.
