

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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PRESS RELEASE

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KARABAKH: ICRC AGAIN CROSSES FRONT LINE

Geneva (ICRC) - Two delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) once again crossed the front line between Agdam and Stepanakert today, 27 March.

This new humanitarian mission, organized with the agreement of the parties concerned, has the following objectives:

- to take in material assistance for Azeri detainees previously visited by the ICRC in Stepanakert;
- to take in and distribute emergency medical supplies to hospitals recently visited in Stepanakert;
- to deliver Red Cross messages collected in Baku to detainees' families in Stepanakert and bring out similar messages from detainees there;
- to relieve ICRC staff in Nagorno Karabakh and enable a medical coordinator to go to Stepanakert.

The ICRC is also conducting a relief operation in Azerbaijan. A convoy of six trucks is bringing in 15 tonnes of blankets and kitchen sets for distribution to thousands of displaced people. The ICRC has 19 delegates in Azerbaijan (two in Stepanakert, four in Agdam and 13 in Baku). It has also sent additional staff to Armenia.

iiii

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of the Red Cross Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross.

An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.