



XXVII^e
Conférence Internationale
de la Croix-Rouge
et du Croissant-Rouge
Genève 1999

XXVIIth
International Conference
of the Red Cross
and Red Crescent
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27th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

31 October - 6 November 1999

APPEAL OF 12 AUGUST 1999

(Item 14.2 of the provisional agenda)

Draft resolution

Appeal of 12 August 1999

The 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent,

having taken note of the solemn Appeal of 12 August 1999, on the occasion of 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, by leading figures invited by the International Committee of the Red Cross,

underlining the pertinence of this Appeal,

noting with satisfaction the impact it has already made,

fully endorses the Appeal of 12 August and undertakes to contributing towards the achievement of its aims.

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People on War – Solemn Appeal

The universally recognized Geneva Conventions were adopted in this city 50 years ago today. The States Parties thereby declared their refusal to see the unprecedented horrors of the Second World War repeated.

Since then, these treaties have helped to alleviate much suffering but have not been able to prevent millions of innocent people from falling victim to the conflicts that have ravaged our planet.

Although they are often breached, the Geneva Conventions and the principles on which they are founded remain as valid and relevant as ever.

That is the opinion of thousands of individuals across the world who bear the physical and mental scars of war. Men, women and children have all talked about their experiences, their fears and their expectations. They are the voices of war, and we are convinced that these expectations can be met.

We have come together in Geneva to make a solemn appeal to all peoples, nations and governments. We call on the world:

- to reject the idea that war is inevitable and to work tirelessly to eradicate its underlying causes;
- to demand of all those involved in armed conflicts and all who are in a position to influence the course of such conflicts that they respect the essential humanitarian principles and the rules of international humanitarian law;
- to spare civilians the agony of war;
- to foster relations between individuals, peoples and nations on the basis of the principles that inspired the Geneva Conventions, namely,
 - respect for human dignity in all circumstances;
 - compassion for those who suffer;
 - solidarity.

We are convinced that disregard for these principles sets the stage for war and that respecting them during wartime facilitates the restoration of peace.

On the eve of a new millennium, let us all undertake to defend these principles and thus give hope to future generations.

Geneva, 12 August 1999

SOLEMN APPEAL

12 August 1999

LIST OF SIGNATORIES

- H.H. Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan
- Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Ms Shabana Azmi, India, actress
- H.R.H. Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan
- Ms Geraldine Chaplin, United Kingdom, actress
- Ms Fayrouz, Lebanon, singer and poet
- Mr Serge Klarsfeld, France, historian, President of the Association "Fils et Filles des Juifs de France"
- Mr Chris Moon, United Kingdom, former deminer, supporter of organizations for the disabled
- Mr Jean Pictet, Honorary Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross
- Mr Vladimir Pozner, Russian Federation, journalist
- H.E. Mr Mário Soares, former President of Portugal
- H.E. General Amadou Toumani Touré, former President of Mali
- Ms Marian Wright Edelman, United States, President of the Children's Defense Fund
- Mr Zhang Yuan, China, film director
