

International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies
P.O. Box 372, CH-1211 Geneva 19
Telephone +41 22 730 4222
Telefax +41 22 733 0395
E-mail: secretariat@ifrc.org
Web site: www.ifrc.org



International Committee
of the Red Cross
19, avenue de la Paix, CH-1202 Geneva
Telephone +41 22 734 6001
Telefax +41 22 733 2057
E-mail: dc_mouv.gva@icrc.org
Web site: www.icrc.org

His Excellency
On. Silvio Berlusconi
President of the Council of Ministers
Rome
Italy

Geneva, 20 April 2009

Excellency,

We have the honour to present to you the compliments of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation). The ICRC and the International Federation appreciate very much the commitment of the Italian Government indicated in your letter of 21 November 2008 to support the necessary structural and legal changes in the Italian Red Cross. As expressed already in our letter of 21st October 2008, the adherence to the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement), in particular those of Independence and Unity, is crucial for the Italian Red Cross as it is for all the components of the Movement.

The International Federation and the ICRC received the visit some weeks ago of the new Extraordinary Commissioner of the Italian Red Cross, Mr. Francesco Rocca. This meeting provided the opportunity to discuss a number of concrete steps to be taken in the coming months in order to implement the necessary structural changes in the National Society and to define the support that our institutions will provide to the Italian Red Cross in this process.

The Italian Red Cross has been able to implement a number of measures agreed and supported by the International Federation and the ICRC such as the reform of rules and structures of the *Corpo Militare* and *Pionieri*. We are very encouraged by those developments.

J..



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the National Societies, form the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The ICRC, which gave rise to the Movement, is an independent humanitarian institution. As a neutral intermediary in the event of armed conflict or unrest, it endeavours, on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions, to bring protection and assistance to the victims of international and non-international armed conflict and internal disturbances and tension.

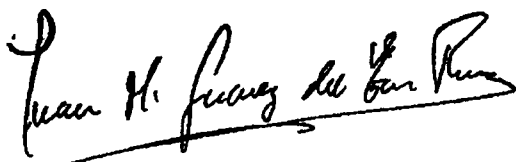


The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies promotes the humanitarian activities of National Societies among vulnerable people. By coordinating international disaster relief and encouraging development support it seeks to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

We remain confident that your government will provide the necessary assistance to the Italian Red Cross in this particularly challenging period in order to transform the institution into a well-functioning National Society operating in full compliance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

Please allow us to use the occasion of this letter and express to you and through you to the Italian people our deepest sympathy for the victims of the Earthquake in Abruzzo. The ICRC and the International Federation are admiring the outstanding response since the very first moment of this catastrophe and we are proud that the Italian Red Cross and its volunteers and staff are among the main players in providing assistance and support to the affected population.

We have the honour, Excellency, to renew to you the assurances of our highest consideration.



Juan M. Suárez del Toro Rivero
President
International Federation of
Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Dr Jakob Kellenberger
President
International Committee of the Red Cross

In his absence



Mrs Christine Beerli
Vice-President
International Committee of the Red Cross