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PRISONERS ARE IN DANGER OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF ALL SORTS

Massimo Barra, Vice-president of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, explains that human rights of prisoners are worldwide totally ignored, be it in developed or developing countries. The International Committee of the Red Cross has plenty to do, especially during armed conflicts, there are thousands of prisoners who are visited daily and to whom one tries to provide assistance. "I believe we can do more. When talking about prisoners outside conflict areas, the greatest problem is infectious diseases of all sorts. Many are drug addicts and spread AIDS, they do not receive adequate medical treatment and this is where the Red Cross can play a very important role. But in such situations a great problem is mistrust, one tries to protect ones' privacy. And although we live today in a global village, if you do not speak up – you do not exist, therefore, with this having in mind, our largest problem is to find a balance between privacy and publicity" said Mr. Barra, who is a member of the Red Cross for 50 years.