



# ICRC

Pretoria, 30 August 2011  
PRE 11/110

Dear Mr Motimele,

**Request to address Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans on the Implementation of the Geneva Conventions Bill [B10 – 2011]**

I am writing to you as the Regional Legal Advisor at the Pretoria Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in connection with the Implementation of the Geneva Conventions Bill. I understand that this Bill has been introduced in Parliament, and has been referred to the Committee on Defence and Military Veterans for debate.

The ICRC would be grateful for the opportunity to address the Portfolio Committee on the Implementation of the Geneva Conventions Bill, either during the public hearings scheduled for the Bill, or during another time suitable for the Committee. The 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols are at the core of International Humanitarian Law, and their domestication constitutes an important step in South Africa's compliance with its obligations under International Humanitarian Law.

The ICRC, as the guardian and promoter of International Humanitarian Law, derives its mandate from the Geneva Conventions and has been involved in the progress of the Bill in South Africa from the outset. The ICRC fully supports this important process.

Therefore, while the ICRC is not making formal written submissions on the substance of the Bill, we would be grateful for the opportunity to sensitise the Committee about the importance of the Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols, and the Implementation of the Geneva Conventions Bill. We would also

be available to answer any questions the Committee may have about the Conventions or the need to implement them through national legislation.

Thank you for your kind consideration of the ICRC's request. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Julie Tenenbaum  
Regional Legal Advisor

Mr Malusi Stanley Motimele  
Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans  
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa  
Parliament Street  
8000  
Cape Town