

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ARGENTINA: SOCIAL UNREST

21 December 2001

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This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors at this time, but is advising them to be on alert.

The Situation

Violent clashes between the demonstrators and the army and police forces have caused 23 deaths, 287 injuries and resulted in 879 arrests. The Government declared a state of emergency for one month on 19 December. The country was yesterday in the midst of a political crisis. The worst clashes came when police and troops tried to stop looting. Demonstrations began three weeks ago in response to severe economic difficulties

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Supported by the International Federation's Delegation for South America, based in Buenos Aires, and the ICRC's Delegation, also in the capital, the Argentinian Red Cross (ARC) has been monitoring the situation and providing first aid to the people affected by the clashes. The main points of this assistance are in Buenos Aires near the "Plaza de Mayo" (May Square) and the National Parliament area, in which the largest and strongest demonstrations have taken place.

The Argentinian Red Cross is assessing the situation. For the time being it has been providing first aid, as the Government, through the army and the police, is providing food and other basic relief goods to the most vulnerable of the affected by the crisis.

Moreover, the ARC has taken the following measures, among others:

- call on all its volunteers all over the country to be ready for any further intervention to assist the population;
- participation in the emergency committees in all towns and villages;
- alert on the risks facing the country and dissemination of the Red Cross fundamental principles;
- preparation of stocks (limited) for any further intervention;
- close monitoring of the situation.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact :

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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