



Free at last! A convoy of buses carrying detainees released under ICRC supervision leaves the Manjaca camp. One detainee expressed ambivalence about his departure: "When I was freed I felt happy and sad at the same time. Happy because I was leaving the camp. And sad because I was also leaving my birthplace and my country." Most of those freed are immediately transferred by the ICRC to another country for safety.

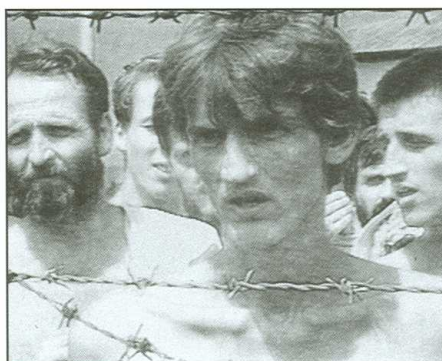
Of the 12,500 detainees visited,

about 5,500 were released under ICRC auspices by the end of 1992. Around 3,000 were released without ICRC supervision. The ICRC estimates that thousands of detainees are still being held by the different sides. Delegates continue to work hard to gain access to them.

In 1992: • 12,500 detainees registered • 610,000 Red Cross messages handled • 10,000 tonnes of relief supplies distributed to about 500,000 beneficiaries



Chip Hires/GAMMA



Penny Marshall/ITN

Hell on earth. Cries of outrage and disbelief rang out in July 1992 when images of the detention camps in Bosnia first appeared in the media. Already in the second quarter of 1992 the ICRC had publicly deplored the arrest of civilians and appealed to the parties to respect the civilian population. The ICRC has repeatedly denounced such policies as "ethnic cleansing", hostage-taking, summary executions, torture and rape.



Robert Rajtic/KEYSTONE

A happy reunion. More than two million people have been separated from their loved ones in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Telephone lines have been cut. Postal services do not function. For both civilians and detainees, Red Cross messages are the only link with their families. In 1992 some 800 families were reunited through the ICRC's tracing agency.

"I write to you from Sarajevo. We're trying our best to cope with the situation. So far no one in our family

has been injured. Food is scarce, but there is enough. I know that for you in Banja Luka life is also difficult. I love you. L." About 6,000 messages like this one are handled each week by the ICRC in Sarajevo alone. L.'s family now know that he is alive and thinking of them.