



**Stampede.** Violence escalated in the townships and homelands of South Africa in 1992, causing thousands of deaths and leaving thousands more homeless and destitute. The hatred which has built up mainly between supporters of the rival ANC and Inkatha in their quest for multiracial rule has made the townships frightening places to live. Homes are torched, family members or suspected sympathizers are harassed or even killed. On 7 September 1992 the Bisho massacre

made the headlines in the international press. The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) and the ICRC were there to help the victims, as they are in numerous other cases of violence that go unreported worldwide.

Yet, the bulk of the ICRC's activities in South Africa takes place behind closed doors. Indeed, the main work of the ICRC consists in visiting all categories of prisoners and detainees, both in prisons and in police stations throughout the country, including the homelands.

ICRC delegates talk to prisoners in private and then write up informed reports on their treatment and conditions of detention. These confidential reports serve as a basis for recommending improvements to the authorities.

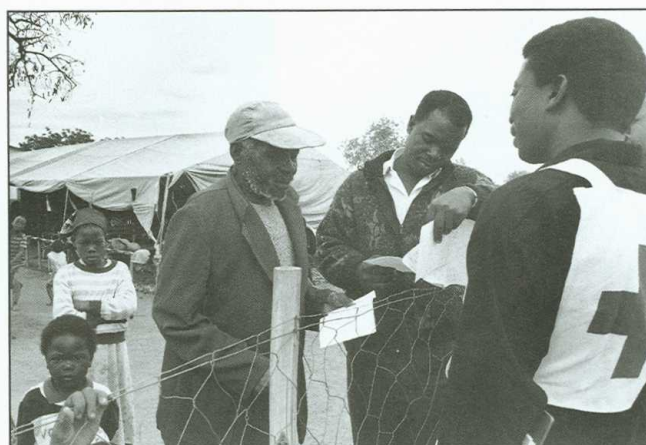
## STILL APART



In 1992: • 143 prisons and police stations visited by ICRC delegates • 48,800 people assisted through ICRC relief programmes • 1,300 Red Cross messages handled between Mozambican refugees and their families



Philip Littleton/AFP/KEystone



Roland Sidler/ICRC



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**Out of Mozambique.** More than 100,000 of the Mozambican refugees in South Africa live dispersed in villages along the border. Apart from providing them with basic necessities on arrival, the ICRC helps these people stay in touch with their families back home, as they normally have no other form of communication.

**Homeless in the homelands.** Thousands of families have found themselves without a roof over their heads or utterly destitute as a result of the violence. The SARCS and the ICRC go to the scene of politically motivated attacks to assess the needs and hand out basic necessities like blankets, cooking utensils and soap. Around 35,000 people were helped in this way in 1992.