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HEALTH CARE IN DANGER

A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH

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DOCTORS

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Health care in danger

Improve delivery and security of effective and impartial health care in armed conflict and other situations of violence.

At the core…

- Health care must not be attacked, obstructed or abused
- Wounded / sick have a right to health care

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Data collection: (Jan 2012 to July 2014) Main patterns of violence

The ICRC collected 2375 incidents affecting health-care in more than twenty contexts facing an armed conflict or another emergency:

1. 90% of incidents collected affected local health-care providers;

2. 52% of incidents took place against, inside or within the perimeter of health-care facilities;

3. People were killed, wounded, beaten, threatened, robbed, subject to obstruction and other types of violence.

Right to health

- Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity

Health and violence

- "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease

- "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that results in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation" (WHO)

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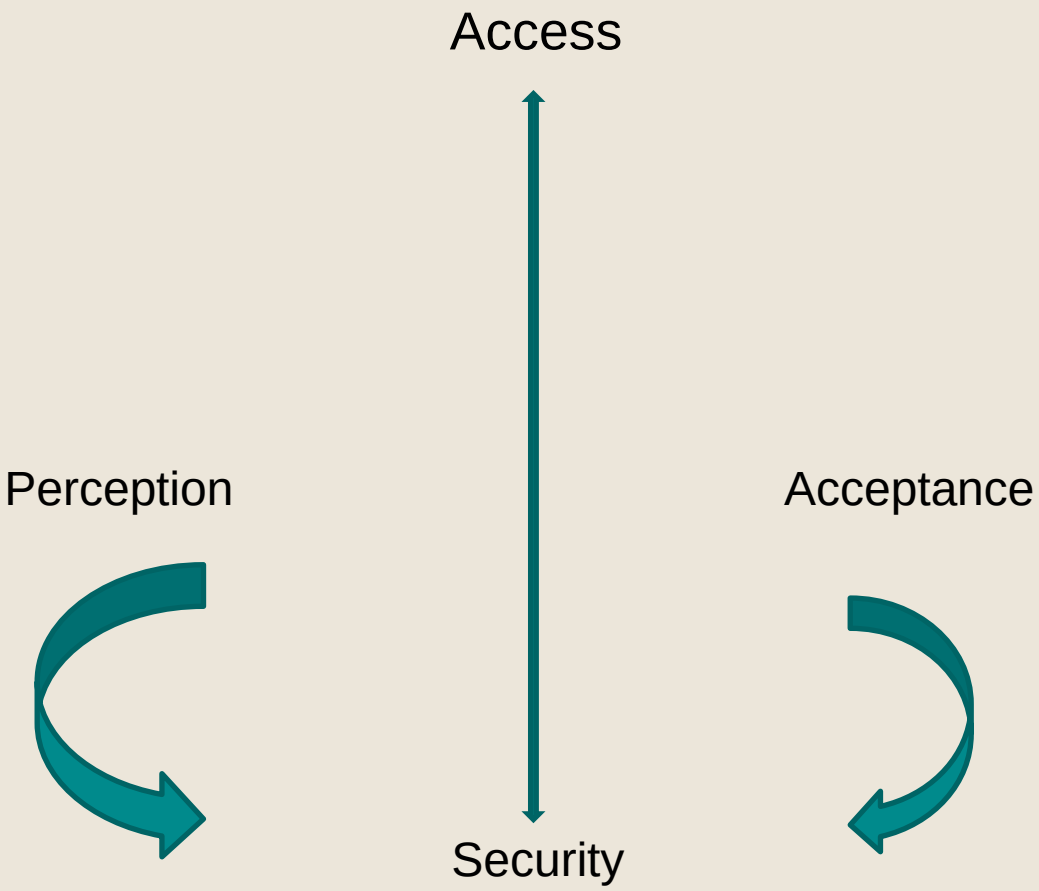

Mobilization at Global Level

Health Associations/ MedNGOs

- **World Medical Association**
- **International Council of Nurses**
- The **International Committee Military Medicine**
- **International Pharmaceutical Federation**
- **International Hospital Federation**
- **MSF**
- **WHO**
- **World Confederation for Physical Therapy**

Academia/ Medical Students:

- **International Federation of Medical Students' Association**
- **World Federation for Medical Education**

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Consultations

Issues	
Military practice: from training to operational orders	
RC/RC Societies response to HCiD	
Ambulances and pre-hospital services	
Responsibilities and rights of health-care personnel	
The physical safety of health facilities	
National legislation and penal repression	
Civil society: mobilizing opinion and religious leaders	
Non-State Armed Groups	
Health Care Ethics	

Values in humanitarian ethics

- **HUMANITY** to promote the dignity, protect the life and integrity of any person acting humanely in every circumstance

- **Impartiality**
- **Neutrality**

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Ethical Principles

How to make legal protection of the wounded and sick, health care personnel, facilities and transports more effective?

How to legally protect medical ethics and confidentiality?

Recommendations

Medical ethics and confidentiality

- Reaffirm the necessity to **protect medical confidentiality as an abiding principle**. **Exceptions** should be **limited** and specifically circumscribed in domestic legislation;
- Ensure **training** for health-care personnel to apply and respect their ethical duties, particularly for **resolving ethical dilemmas**

Ethical Principles

Health-Care ethics do not change in times of conflict

If professionals have conflicting loyalties,

their primary obligation is to the beneficiaries

Technical Briefing at the World Health Assembly
“Health Care under Attack: a call for action “
May 21, 2014

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"Health Care and Violence" New York September 2014

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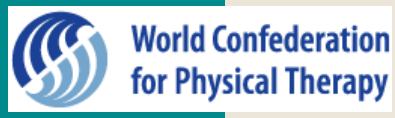
World Confederation
for Physical Therapy

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Many thanks for your attention

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Health Care in Danger