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To the

International Red Cross  
c /o the chief secretary

GENEVA / Switzerland.

6.1.1948.

ref.: the punishment of norwegian  
nurses, performing in the  
German Red Cross.

Dear Sirs,

The result. I had the pleasure of a conference with the  
general secretary Norholt of the Norwegian Red Cross and  
with g.sec. Weinich, about the above mentioned question.

I'm representing the opinion and work of a very big lot of  
people, not concerned with this question in other ways than  
we are considering the punishment of Red Cross -nurses as a  
black spot on our liberation and our culture of law.  
Personally I am political prisoner from 1941 under the Gestapo,  
and I'm only mentioning this fact to show that the opinion  
represented by me is not originated by people punished under  
the law of treason.

The leading persons in our Norwegian Red Cross were of an other  
opinion than I am, and were trying to convince me of the opinion  
represented by them and -- our supreme court. But most of our  
people, most of our lawyers, are scarcely to be convinced that  
the wrongs done against these nurses can be explained, they are  
contrary to law.

Giving sentences from 1/2 years forced labour downwards for  
helping sick and wounded and suffering people under the sign  
of the Red Cross is contrary to peoples sense of justice, and  
the behaviour of the Norwegian Red Cross has given astonishment  
to us all. And we are asking too: **THE DID'NT THE INTERNATIONAL  
-AL RED CROSS TRY TO INTERVIEW AND TRY TO HELP THE NURSES THAT  
HAD WORKED UNDER THE SIGN OF THE RED CROSS?**

Germany too was a member of the International Red Cross, and  
the nurses listing under the German Red Cross were thought that  
they were standing under the protection of Geneva.

We are expecting that the International Red Cross will do some-  
thing to live up to the expectations set in them by a world  
considering the I.R.C. worthy of the Nobel-prize of Peace. We  
are expect-ting you to use whole your influence, whole your good  
will to do something for the unhappy Red Cross-nurses, punished  
for following your ideals.

Most of them enlisted in the German Red Cross only out of their  
wish to help, following the ideals of humanity, knowing that  
they were going to horrors and sufferings. But not expecting  
and knowing that they afterwards would be let down and would  
be treated as out-casts.

enclosed I hand you a copy and translation of an illustrate circular I got the 1.1.47., just to show you the general opinion.

And to give you just an exact example, I quote the details of a Red Cross-nurse case and its development:

Anna Pedersen, born 11.8.18, Oslo / Norway, serving in the German Red Cross out of idealistic belief in humanity, was taken prisoner after the occupation and transferred from Copenhagen to Oslo. When the police called for the conversion Red Cross, compelled to sign by A. Pedersen, and a refusal to the protection of the Red Cross and general secretary (and the order: put me in jail, so have nothing to do with her.

After the month at Vestvold jail, she was released until judgement. Now after last she was sentenced to 1. month forced labour. She was giving a petition for mercy, which was not granted and she was to however afterwards known that her petition was denied, and that she should be put in jail immediately. She had been in medical treatment the last two years for her shattered nerves, caused by the horrors in the last months of war.

She gave a certificate from her doctor and from the best reputed Norwegian psychiatric specialist, Professor Dr. Gabriel Langfeldt in Oslo, that she was not fitted to be put in prison at the time being. Giving these certificates to the police, the time passed until 10th of December 1947. She was then arrested on demand of the Crown prosecutor, the certificates were neglected, and she was put in prison under a nervous break down. As late as 19.12.47. I had the opportunity to control the case by a personal talk with Mrs. Pedersen, who has a complete mental break down. But nevertheless, she hasn't been released or transferred to a hospital.

That's the punishment for not even one year service in the German Red Cross, nursing mostly Russians at the hospital near Hamburg, and afterwards children at the epidemic department of the hospital at Flensburg. Being put in prison to destroy the mental condition and sanity, suffering damages not cured in years.

WHAT ARE YOU TO DO ABOUT SUFFERING NURSES?

It should perhaps be advisable to gather my material about these problems and to take a personal conference with your organization by going to Geneva. What is your opinion?

Expecting to hear from you

I remain, dear Mrs,  
Yours respectfully

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To the  
International Red Cross Committee  
Juridical section

7, Avenue de la Paix  
Geneva.

January 9th 1946

Ref.: Service of medical personell  
with an enemy power.

Referring to the letter of 8th from the Norwegian Red Cross  
by its Secretary General to you on this question, I beg to  
inform you, that I have written a letter to your institution  
the 6. inst. adressed as registered letter to  
The International Red Cross c/o the chief secretary GENAV  
by air mail.

Please have researches done to get this letter before answer  
the letter of 8th from the Norwegian Red Cross.

Yours very respectfully



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To the

International Red Cross Committee,  
Juridical Section

7, Avenue de la Paix  
Geneva.

January 14th 1944

Ref.: Service of medical personnel  
with an enemy power.

Dear Sirs,

Mr. General Secretary Berholt of the Norwegian Red Cross was so kind to send me a copy of his letter AR/he of 13th inst. to you on abovementioned question.

Enclosed I have the honour of giving you a copy and translation of my letter of to-day to the Norwegian Red Cross in reply to the letter of 13.th inst.

Yours very r espectfully

TV

To the  
International Red Cross Committee,  
Juridical Section,

7, Avenue de la Paix  
Geneva.

February 26th 1948

Ad Service of medical personnel  
with an enemy power.

Dear Sirs,

The Norwegian Red Cross, by its letter of February 23rd, has given me the honour of considering my "private Gallup" of such importance, that they are expressing the wish to lay down a veto in relation to my wish of having a conference with you at Geneva.

I scarcely need to draw your attention to the fact that the Norwegian Red Cross has a far too clever management to go shooting sparrows with cannons. The wish to suppress the possibility of a conference is therefore founded in the fact, that they know that the opinion of most people is contrary to their own, in this question.

Under my visit to the Norwegian Red Cross (just to state facts correctly, I only visited the offices of the Norwegian Red Cross once, not twice, as stated in the letter of N.R.C. to you of february 23rd) I provoked the Secretary General to start a public Gallup on the question, but it was declined by him, in order not to disturb the work of the Norwegian Red Cross. I therefore took this private form of Gallup on the question, by sending questionnaires to a large number of people chosen at random from the telephone-book and the address-directory with exception of a lot of people known to the public as leading physicians, priests a.s.o. All addresses were such of people not in conflict with the law of treason. The answers are coming rapidly and are nearly all positively against the punishment of the nurses. All these answers will be presented you in original in due time. Enclosed I hand you in the meantime a copy and translation of the circular letter and the questionnaire, referred to by the letter of february 23rd of the Norwegian Red Cross.

I only still want to state a last fact: that this action with the questionnaires is supported only out of my private means,- it is not financed by others. I have declined every offer of financial help given to me. It is a question of conscience to me to give help to remove the wrongs done against women ~~that~~ wanting to act in the spirit of the International Red Cross.

I remain,

Yours very respectfully

Enclosures.

Copy sent to Norw.R.C.

Ad: enclosed questionnaire.

Enclosed I hand you a questionnaire and kindly beg you to answer it. The questionnaire will only be used confidentially in relation to a coming conference with the International Red Cross in Geneva.

From numberless persons I was urged to take up this matter, evtl. by going to Geneva, and I'm therefore gathering a materiell as complete as possible about these things.

I'm working<sup>on</sup> the problem out of my personal opinion, as I'm of the opinion that there has been done a wrong, - for regularitys sake I state that no one of my relations is under these sentences again. Red Cros personnel. For my own sake I'm on the contrary political prisoner from 1941.

xx

I enclose at the same time a copy of an article which was sent me and which give the opinion ~~that~~<sup>of</sup> the oponents of these sentences

Futhermore the facts that give ~~me~~ illustrations to this opinion are that the German Red Cross was member of the Internat Red Cross and its conventions. The nurses enlisting in the German R.C. were told they were standing under the protection of Geneve. Most of them had not been members of the Norwegian Red Cross. The nurses nurses german a n d allied wounded.

Thankfull for your answer, I am,

Yours respectfully

xx a copy and translation of this article was given you with my letter of january 6th.

Hr.

Oslo, den        januar 1948.

Vedr.: Vedlagte spørreskjema.

Jeg tillater mig vedlagt å oversende Dem et spørreskjema som jeg vennligst ber Dem besvare. Skjemaet vil bli brukt helt konfidentielt under en forestående konferanse med det Internasjonale Røde Kors i Geneve.

Fra utallige hold er jeg blitt anmodet om å ta mig av denne sak, evtl. ved å reise til Geneve, og samler derfor et mest mulig fyldestgjørende materiell om saken.

Jeg tar mig av saken på grunn av min personlige oppfatning av denne, idet jeg mener der er skjedd en urett, men vil jeg for ordens skyld få påpeke at ingen av mine pårørende er truffet av disse straffer mot Røde Kors-personell. For mitt eget vedkommende er jeg tvert imot politisk fange fra 1941.

Jeg vedlegger samtidig en kopi av en artikkel som er blitt tilsendt mig, og som belyser litt av standpunktet som motstandere av disse straffer hevder.

Til ytterligere å belyse dette standpunkt tjener de fakta at det Tyske Røde Kors var tilsluttet det Internasjonale Røde Kors og dets konvensjoner. De søstre som tok tjeneste i det Tyske Røde Kors blev da også gjort oppmerksom på at de sto under Geneves beskyttelse. De fleste hadde ikke tidligere tilhørt det Norske Røde Kors. Søstrene har pleiet både tyske og allierte sårede.

Takknemlig for Deres hurtige svar, tegner jeg

æ r b ø d i g s t

2 bilag.



**COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL**  
DE LA  
**CROIX - ROUGE**

Genève, le 12 mars 1948.

Monsieur Arvid HOLT-SEELAND  
Avocat  
Tollbugt, 11  
O S L O

Monsieur,

Nous nous référons à votre lettre du 26 février 1948, ainsi qu'aux lettres précédentes que vous nous avez adressées.

Le Président et le Secrétaire général de la Croix-Rouge de Norvège vont arriver ces tout prochains jours à Genève pour participer à des réunions de Croix-Rouge et nous saisisons cette occasion pour nous entretenir avec eux de la question qui vous intéresse. Nous prions ces Messieurs de bien vouloir vous faire part, à leur retour en Norvège, du sens de nos discussions.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de notre considération très distinguée.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Claude Pilloud".

Claude PILLOUD,

Chef de la Division juridique.

111

To the  
International Red Cross,  
Juridical Section,  
Geneva.

17.3.48.

Dear Sirs,

In receipt of your favoured letter of 12th inst., I have the honour of sending you just a little selection of the average answers on my little private Gallup.

- 1/ Professor Arne Næss, Oslo
- 2/ Ida Mathiesen, typograf and preacher
- 3/ Eystein Paulsen, Modum, a dean of high reputation
- 4/ E.H. Johansen, member of the "Intelligence service" of the norwegian forces during the war
- 5/ Per Andersen, Grini Concentration-camp prisoner during the war
- 6/ Helling Ueland, Stavanger, lawyer
- 7/ Gerh. Holm lawyer at the Supreme Court
- 8/ JOHAN SCHARFFENBERG, one of our most reputed psychiatric specialist, a man of international renown.
- 9/ J. Leikvam, the chief of our medical service of prisons.

These answers are only a very little part of the bunch, but they are just showing you the general opinion and are taken from several occupations.

Furthermore, I hand you in original certificate about the famous "remarks on page 2, section II" of my letter of January 6th, and a translation of it. Cfr. letter of the Norw.R.C. to you January 13th.

Furthermore: original letter from Dean Paulsen to my father director Karl Seeland, and its translation.

I beg you to use these things under your conferance with my antagonists, the Norwegian Red Cross, which is working against the spirit of the International Red Cross in these questions. Having used the papers, I would appreciate to have them back, until I meet you in Geneva.

Yours very respectfully

Dear mr. Karl Seeland,

Thanking heartly for your letter and the questionnaire that I return filled.

I cant tell how glad I was, that your son has taken up this question to give the Red Cross-nurses problem to Geneva. It seems to me to be something of the most gratifying since the liberation.

Since peace I have been of the same opinion that it was unjust to treat these nurses like that, who driven by the wish to help dying and wounded went to Finnland or Germany.

I have written about this in a book "Justice without mercy" and in an article in Verdens Gang a time ago, where I specially pointed to the fact that the management of Red Cross sent the nurses which asked for coming out to frontlines to the German Red Cross, without giving warnings, far from telling it to be treason, and now after the liberation they do nothing to help them.

But ~~wirk~~ writing in newspapers do'nt help. The way your son will seems to me to have good chansen to lead to theend.  
I wish Gods blessing and help to this great and good work.

.....

sign. Eystein Paulsen

# COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

## AGENCE CENTRALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

Rappeler dans la réponse :

CR. 189  
 LO/SMS/MRT

GENÈVE, April 5, 1948.  
 Palais du Conseil-Général

Mr. Arvid Holt-Seeeland,  
 Tollbugt 11,  
O s l o

Concerns: Medical personnel prosecuted for collaboration  
 with the enemy.

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your letter of March 17,  
 1948. We have given the matter our most careful atten-  
 tion and return herewith the documents you forwarded.

We had a long talk last week with Mr. Steen,  
 President, and Mr. Rørholt, Secretary-General of the  
 Norwegian Red Cross. It was agreed that these gentlemen  
 would inform you of the substance of our talks. In our  
 opinion, therefore, it is not necessary that you should  
 take the trouble of making the journey to Geneva.

The situation of medical personnel prose-  
 cuted for collaboration with the enemy in various  
 countries occupied during the war has been a matter of  
 concern to our Committee for some months, and we intend  
 to submit a report on the matter to the Stockholm Confe-  
 rence.

May we, however, draw attention to the  
 fact that the International Committee are studying this  
 question purely from the point of view of the general  
 Red Cross principles involved, and that it is entirely  
 outside their competence to give any considered opinion  
 on individual cases.

Yours faithfully,



L. ODIER  
 Nursing Department.

To

The International Red Cross Committee  
Nursing Department

G e n e v a

21.4.48.

Ref.: CR 122/ 10/ 522/ HRT.

Concerning medical personnel in foreign service.

Dear Sirs,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your favoured letter of April 5th in abovementioned question.

I thank you for your kind work on this problem and your intention to submit a report on the matter on the Stockholm Conference.

Referring to the fact that your interest in the question is purely from the general point, I wish to emphasize that so mine too. It's not raising the problem from a point of view of any individual case, but as an endorsement against the general spirit of the Red Cross.

Furthermore I want to state the fact that I'm still without any communication from the Norwegian Red Cross after their conference with you in Geneva.

Yours very respectfully