



ACADEMIA ENGELBERG

8th Dialogue on Science – October 14 – 16, 2009
in Engelberg, Switzerland

Angelo Gnädinger, Jurist

From Solferino to Gaza: Even Wars have Limits

Part of human nature, violence - as well as organised violence - goes back to the dawn of time. 150 years ago, when Henry Dunant witnessed the carnage of the battle field in Solferino, he decided to first help the wounded, then mobilize public opinion, founded an organisation - the Red Cross - and moved to convince States to adopt international law to limit the destructive impact of war. The nature of armed conflict might have changed since those days but human suffering remained the same. Henry Dunant's legacy – the dual thrust of humanitarian action to alleviate suffering combined with the development of norms and laws limiting war - is still valid and the ICRC works every day towards that dual goal.