



Cornelio Sommaruga | Class of 1961

Cornelio Sommaruga was President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from 1987 to 1999. He was the first president of the ICRC to publicly acknowledge the organisation's failure to provide meaningful assistance and protection to Jews during World War II in 1995. It is this constant and rigorous defence of international humanitarian law which also led him to take an openly strong stance against anti-personnel mines and blinding weapons. His efforts ultimately impacted the adoption of the Ottawa Treaty in 1997.



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Visit of Sommaruga to Site Two Refugee Camp, the largest refugee camp on the Thai-Cambodian border and, for several years, the largest refugee camp in Southeast Asia. The camp was established in January 1985 during the 1984-1985 Vietnamese dry-season offensive against guerrilla forces opposing Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.



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Speech by Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross at the conference for the signing of the convention banning anti-personnel landmines in Ottawa in 1997.



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Cornelio Sommaruga gives his blood at the ICRC surgical hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan. He often did blood donations while visiting field offices as president.

