

LEGAL INTERPRETING

BETWEEN THE BOOTH AND THE PRISON CELL
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS: PERSPECTIVE

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CHALLENGES FACED BY THE SERVICE PROVIDER: ICRC

- HOW TO ATTRACT PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETERS? WHICH INCENTIVES: WAGES, INTEREST IN HUMANITARIAN WORK, HAZARDOUS MISSIONS, ETC?
- CAUCASIANS ONLY
- MOSLEMS ONLY
- NO LOCALS
- NATIONALITIES (UK, US, IL, D, etc.)
- NO DIASPORA (Palestinians, Erytreans, etc.)
- «EXOTIC LANGUAGES»:

Amharic, Arabic, Azeri, Bengali, Burmese, Farsi, Hausa, Khmer, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Pashto, Rohingya, Sinhalese, Somali, Swahili, Tamasheq, Tamil, Thai, Tingrinya, Turkish, etc.

CHALLENGES FACED BY INTERPRETERS

SKILLS AND TALENTS

STM; LTM; NOTE TAKING

CHAMELEON, STAMINA, PATIENCE, ETC.

LANGUAGES

- GOOD COMMAND OF SOURCE AND/OR TARGET LANGUAGES
- VS
- BAD COMMAND OF SOURCE AND/OR TARGET LANGUAGES
- How many?
- Ex: Arabic: target; English source. How about French?
- Why French? Due to borrowings, such as the principle of *non-refoulement* (refugee law), *rapprochement*, *levée en masse*, *à la carte*, *detente*, *vis-a-vis*;
- Other languages: legal advisers love Latin expressions, such as *pacta sunt servanda*, *persona non grata*, *jus ad bellum*, *jus in bello*, *jus soli*, *jus sanguini*, *habeas corpus*, *aut dedere aut judicare*, etc.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- THE ORGANISATION THE INTERPRETER WORKS FOR.
- THE TOPICS DISCUSSED, PARTICULARLY IHL, INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, REFUGEE LAW, ETC.
- CULTURAL AWARENESS, LOCAL TRADITIONS, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, ETC.

CONSEQUENCES

- MESSAGE TO BE CONVEYED IS BLURRED
- THE SERVICE PROVIDER NOT TRUSTED: BOTH ORGANISATION AND INTERPRETER
- THE INTERPRETER NOT TRUSTED BY THE SPEAKER (e.g., THE LEGAL ADVISER, THE DOCTOR, ETC.)

REMEDIES

- TRAINING
- INCENTIVES
- HIRE PROFESSIONALS

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN DIFFERENT WAR SETTINGS

- HEAT vs AIR CON
- NOISE, DUST, MILITARY PLANES, EAVESDROPPING
- AGGRESSIVE CONDUCT ON THE PART OF THE LISTENER

OUTCOME

DATA COLLECTED BY THE SPEAKER (LEGAL ADVISER) NOT SUFFICIENT TO
WRITE THE REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE AUTHORITIES
BENEFICIARIES RELUCTANT TO MEET AGAIN WITH THE SAME
INTEPRETER

THANK YOU