

Press release: International Charter space data to support Red Cross and Red Crescent disaster relief efforts

The world's largest humanitarian network of 190 national societies will now have access to disaster mapping services based on satellite data supplied by the International Charter members.

Sune Bülow, Team Leader, Emergency Operations and Information Management at IFRC said:

Having immediate access to data and derived analysis for disaster prevention, response and recovery, is of vital importance to the IFRC. Both in the first hours of a sudden-onset event and throughout response to protracted crises, the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies are often among the first disaster responders, and access to the International Charter will only improve the already formidable partnership with UNOSAT and ensure that we are also among the first to receive and analyse information.

Since 2000 the International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters' has been using space data to provide help to those affected by disasters.

The Charter, a group of space agencies, works to mitigate the effects on human life and property by providing rapid access to satellite data to assist rescue authorities in the event of a natural or manmade disaster.

Einar Bjorgo, Manager of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research stated:

We need to ensure maximum impact from Earth Observation data during disasters. Being able to support the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and their national members, with satellite image analysis derived from Charter data will greatly contribute to this goal.

Chris Lee, Head of International Policy at the UK Space Agency and outgoing Chair of the Disasters Charter noted:

We are proud to have agreed this new relationship with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. This is a fantastic opportunity for the Charter to make a real difference to communities and disaster management efforts on the

ground, made possible through our work with the United Nations.

Recent activations

Requests for Charter support for emergencies have included Hurricane Irma, which hit the United States and parts of the Caribbean in early September and Hurricane Maria, a devastating storm that affected the Caribbean just a couple of weeks later.

Hurricane Irma, a Category 5 storm, ploughed through the Caribbean on 6 and 7 September 2017. In the Caribbean the storm left at least 44 dead and thousands of people were made homeless. In the United States at least 80 people were killed and the storm left flooding and damage to infrastructure in its wake.

The Charter was involved in the planning and coordination of the emergency response operation by providing satellite-derived analysis of building damage, flooding and mapping.

Hurricane Maria followed in the wake of Hurricane Irma and affected some of the same countries, with devastating results to some of the islands. Maria made landfall in Dominica on 19 September with the giant storm totally engulfing the island. It left 15 dead and devastated the island.

It then caused flooding and landslides in the Dominican Republic where at least two people were killed and 10,000 people were forced to evacuate their homes. In Puerto Rico 15 people were killed and the entire island was left without power. In the U.S. Virgin Islands one person was killed, while two people were killed in Guadeloupe. Again, the Charter helped by providing damage assessment and information on flooding and damage assessment.

[News story: London Seminar: Achieving better outcomes for young people affected by sexual exploitation \(1 Nov 2017\)](#)

Wednesday, 1 November, 2017

featuring

Dr Lucie Shuker

Senior Research Fellow, The International Centre: Researching child sexual

exploitation, violence and trafficking, The University of Bedfordshire

Please see the attached flyer for details and how to book

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[News story: Manchester seminar: 'Cooperating Out of Crime?' What can cooperatives bring to prisoner rehabilitation? \(21 Nov\)](#)

Tuesday, 21 November

featuring

Dave Nicholson

Director, Cooperative and Mutual Solutions

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Press release: Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Finland

2016 – present FCO, Head, Counter Terrorism Department 2013 – 2015 FCO, Head, South East Asia Department 2011 – 2012 Cabinet Office, Deputy Chief Assessments Staff, Joint Intelligence Organisation 2009 – 2010 Kabul, Deputy Ambassador 2007 – 2008 Home Office, Head of Border & Visa Policy, UK Border Agency 2006 – 2007 Home Office, International Delivery Director & Europe Director, Immigration and Nationality Directorate 2005 Home Office, Deputy Director, European Policy, Immigration and Nationality Directorate 2005 Cabinet Office, Desk Officer, Civil Contingencies Secretariat 2004 Basra, Deputy Consul General 2001 – 2003 Cabinet Office, Desk Officer (Asia & Middle East), Overseas and Defence Secretariat 1998 – 2001 Cabinet Office, Desk Officer (Asia), Joint Intelligence Organisation 1991 – 1998 House of Commons Research Service, Assistant and later Senior Clerk, International Affairs and Defence Section

Press release: Increased sentences for 2 Nottingham child sex offenders

Two men, convicted of serious sexual offences against children, have had their jail terms increased by the Court of Appeal.

Derrick Dobson, 80 and John Smith, 71 were sentenced in August at Nottingham Crown Court. Dobson was convicted on 5 counts of indecent assault and was originally given a 6 month jail sentence. Smith, pleaded guilty to committing sexual assaults including rape, and was given a 5 ½ year prison sentence.

The 2 offenders were also made the subject of a Sexual Harm Prevention Order for 10 years and will be prevented from working with vulnerable groups, including children.

The Solicitor General Robert Buckland QC MP welcomed the extension of these sentences from 6 months to 4 years 6 months for Dobson and 12 years instead of the original sentence of 5 ½ years for Smith.

Speaking after the hearing the Solicitor General said:

“I am pleased the Court of Appeal has recognised that the original sentences

handed down were unduly lenient. The 2 offenders attacked their victims over a number of years and this abuse led to long-lasting devastating impacts. The increased jail terms now really reflect the severity of the offences.”