



Online Ethics Center  
FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

# Fred Cuny (1944-1995) -- Disaster Relief Innovator

## Description

Fred Cuny was a disaster relief specialist who used his training in engineering to do humanitarian work. He worked in countries such as Biafra, Guatemala, Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia, and Bosnia. In March 1995, he disappeared in Chechnya and was never found. The story of his work is told in 8 sections and includes supplementary materials and pictures.

## Body

## Introduction

Fred Cuny was a disaster relief specialist who used his training in engineering to do humanitarian work. He worked in countries such as Biafra, Guatemala, Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia, and Bosnia. In March 1995, he disappeared in Chechnya and was never found. His life was featured on the PBS documentary program *Frontline*.

- I. [Fred Cuny Background Information](#)
- II. [Biafra \(1969\): The Beginning of Full-time Disaster Relief Work](#)
- III. [Guatemala \(1976\): Earthquake Relief](#)
- IV. [Ethiopia \(1985\): Famine](#)
- V. [Iraq \(1991\): The Kurds](#)
- VI. [Somalia \(1992\): The War Zone and Famine](#)
- VII. [Bosnia \(1993\): The Water Filtration System](#)

VIII. [Chechnya \(1995\): The Disappearance](#)

IX. [Frontline: The Lost American](#)

Most of the information contained herein is drawn from the *Frontline* documentary on Fred Cuny, the Cuny section of the PBS web site, and [Professional Responsibility: Focusing on the Exemplary](#) by Michael S. Pritchard of Western Michigan University.

You can find more information on these materials and other Cuny-related sources in section 9.

## **Rights**

Use of Materials on the OEC

## **Resource Type**

Case Study / Scenario

## **Parent Collection**

Engineers and Scientists Behaving Well

## **Topics**

Human Rights

Catastrophes, Hazards, Disasters

Sustainability

## **Discipline(s)**

Engineering