

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS 1389-2005

The main purpose of this chronology is to help the reader by reconstructing MSF's actions and public statements in regional and international news reports of the period. It is intended as a tool for this specific document, and not as an academic reference.

	International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
1389		<u>Kosovo Polje Battle</u> fought at Field of Blackbirds, Kosovo, leading to <u>Ottoman domination</u> .	
1913		<u>Kosovo</u> incorporated into <u>Serbia</u> .	
1944		Birth of <u>Yugoslav Federation</u> of six republics: Slovenia, Montenegro, Serbia (including Kosovo), Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Croatia.	
1974		<u>Marshal Tito's</u> presidency: Kosovo enjoys considerable autonomy.	
1980		<u>Marshal Tito's</u> death.	
1981		Start of cycle of <u>Albanian demonstrations/repression</u> by <u>Serb police</u> .	
1987	Perestroika in <u>USSR</u> : birth of independent and nationalist movements.		
1989 FEB. 1989		27 February 1989 Strikes and demonstrations of Albanian Kosovars. <u>Serbia</u> declares ' <u>State of Emergency</u> ' and troops intervene.	
MARCH 1989		23 March 1989 <u>Slobodan Milosevic</u> , new President of <u>Yugoslav Federation</u> , ends Kosovo's autonomous status and places the province under the direct trusteeship of Serbia.	
JUNE 1989		28 June 1989 <u>Slobodan Milosevic's</u> nationalist speech before thousands of Serbians at the Field of Blackbirds.	

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1990 MARCH 1990		March 1990 <u>Constitution of Serbia</u> reformed; <u>Albanian</u> political institutions in <u>Kosovo</u> are <u>suppressed</u> .	March 1990 An <u>MSF Belgium</u> team conducts an investigation into the possible criminal poisoning of 2,000 Albanian adolescents.
JULY 1990		July 1990 <u>Serbia</u> dissolves the <u>Kosovo</u> provincial assembly.	
1991 SEPT. 1991		<u>Instruction in Albanian language</u> in Kosovo schools is <u>abolished</u> . September 1991 Clandestine Kosovar <u>referendum</u> endorsing the proclamation of the " <u>Republic of Kosovo</u> ".	
1992 MAY 1992		24 May 1992 <u>Ibrahim Rugova</u> , head of the <u>Democratic League of Kosovo (DLK)</u> , is elected <u>president of the self-proclaimed Republic of Kosovo</u> . A parliament is also elected. <u>Serbia</u> declares these elections illegal.	
1993 FEB. 1993 APRIL 1993			6-18 February 1993 <u>MSF France</u> evaluation mission in Kosovo. April 1993 A joint <u>MSF Belgium/MSF France</u> team starts working in Kosovo.
1995 DEC. 1995	14 December 1995 The <u>Bosnian Peace Accord</u> , signed in Dayton. It ignores the fate of Kosovo's population.		

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1996 SEPT. 1996		February 1996 The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA-UÇK) emerges and claims several bombing attacks.	
1997 MARCH 1997 SEPT. 1997		March 1997 Demonstrations by Albanian minority in Macedonia. September 1997 DLK becomes more radical. Demonstrations of Albanian students in Kosovo are repressed.	
1998 MARCH 1998 APRIL 1998	31st March 1998 <u>UN embargo</u> on weapons deliveries to Belgrade.	28 February-1 March 1998 Serb police and the Yugoslav army attack, loot, and set fire to villages in Drenica Valley: death of 2,000 Kosovars and subsequent flight of 250,000 to Albania. 22 March 1998 Election of Ibrahim Rugova: not recognised by Belgrade nor by the international community. 10 April 1998 Kosovars start daily <u>demonstrations</u> in Pristina. 23 April 1998 <u>94%</u> of Serbs vote in favour of Slobodan Milosevic's proposal to <u>reject</u> international mediation on Kosovo.	March 1998 MSF forms a mobile emergency team to care for displaced people in Drenica Valley.

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1998			
MAY 1998	9 May 1998 The <u>European Union</u> and the <u>USA</u> prohibit investments in Serbia.	29 May 1998 A Serb offensive starts in west Kosovo.	
JUNE 1998	June 1998 First mention of a possible <u>NATO</u> intervention.	June-July-August 1998 <u>KLA [UÇK]</u> and <u>Serb forces</u> fight in west Kosovo. Kosovars flee en masse to the interior of the province and to neighbouring countries.	June 1998 <u>MSF emergency team (ET)</u> exploratory mission in Macedonia and Albania. An <u>MSF</u> base is set up in Pec, west Kosovo.
AUGUST 1998	11 August 1998 <u>UN Security Council</u> calls for a ceasefire in Kosovo.	22 August 1998 New offensive of the <u>Serb forces</u> in central and northern Kosovo.	5 August 1998 <u>MSF Belgium</u> press release: 'MSF Mobile Teams Report Alarming Medical Situation in Kosovo', <u>MSF</u> teams are asked to collect witness statements from refugees.
	23 August 1998 The <u>UN</u> demands that Serbia agree to a ceasefire, withdraw its forces, dialogue with the Kosovars, and facilitate the refugees' return.		28 August 1998 <u>MSF Belgium</u> press conference and public awareness campaign in Brussels: 'Kosovo Burns at Europe's Door.

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1998 SEPT. 1998			15 September 1998 <u>MSF Belgium press release</u> : 'New Abuses in Kosovo – Populations in a Deadlock'. <u>MSF France press release</u> : 'Mobile Teams Based in Pec Report Serious Deterioration in the Situation in Western Regions Over the Last Few Weeks.'
	23 September 1998 UN Security Council Resolution 1199 demanding that Serb forces retreat and that negotiations begin under threat of 'new measures'. 24 September 1998 <u>NATO</u> begins to prepare an aerial force. 29 September 1998 Human Rights Watch press release: 'Eighteen Civilians Massacred in Kosovo Forest – Thirteen Others Believed Executed', (information on the Vatchac and Golubovac region provided by MSF teams there).	22-24 September 1998 <u>Serb forces</u> launch a new offensive in central and northern Kosovo. 28 September 1998 <u>Serbia</u> announces the end of military operations. Military operations resume in southern Kosovo.	23 September-5 October 1998 The MSF mobile team provides aid to people in the Pristina-Pec-Prizren triangle and gathers testimonies of abuses committed by the <u>Serb army and police</u> .
OCT. 1998			1 October 1998 MSF Belgium/MSF France programme managers and information officers draft an information strategy.

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1998 OCT. 1998	6 October 1998 Russia threatens to use its <u>veto</u> against any <u>NATO</u> intervention.		7-15 October 1998 Following rumours of possible danger, the <u>MSF</u> team in Kosovo evacuates to Macedonia for several days.
	12 October 1998 <u>NATO</u> prepares to issue an activation order to its troops, without having obtained UN agreement.		9 October 1998 <u>MSF Belgium</u> press conference in Brussels: - Condemnation of the assassination of Dr Lec. - Warning on the humanitarian situation in Kosovo. <u>AFP</u> (France): 'MSF Asks for a "Strong International Physical Presence in Kosovo"'.
	13 October 1998 Milosevic/Holbrooke draft agreement on the deployment of an <u>OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM)</u> , with aerial support after the withdrawal of Serb forces.		13 October 1998 <u>MSF Holland</u> suggests giving operational responsibility back to the ET (the international emergency team). <u>MSF Belgium</u> programme manager decides to further internationalise the Kosovo mission.
	19 October 1998 First <u>OSCE</u> mission starts in western Kosovo.	19 October 1998 <u>AFP</u> (France): 'Military Accused of Conducting an Operation, Belgrade Denies Any Offensive.'	
	23 October 1998 <u>UNHCR</u> : the refugees can't return because villages have been destroyed and Serb forces are still present.		23 October to mid-November 1998 Job description for an <u>international MSF information officer for Kosovo</u> under discussion. <u>MSF press line</u> on Kosovo: situation and needs of displaced and returnees.

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1998 OCT. 1998	25 October 1998 UN Security Council Resolution 1203 requiring immediate application of the agreements signed by the government of the Yugoslav Federation with <u>NATO</u> and the <u>OSCE</u> . USA mediator discusses with Yugoslav Government a possible agreement on the future of Kosovo.		
	27 October 1998 After a substantial pullout of Serb forces, <u>NATO</u> abandons the immediate use of force but maintains its military forces ready to intervene.	27 October 1998 Thousands of Kosovars return home. The first <u>OSCE</u> 'verifiers' arrive in Kosovo.	
NOV. 1998			28 October 1998 <u>Le Monde</u> (France): 'Kosovo: New Accounts of the Barbarity of the Serb Forces', eyewitness accounts collected by <u>MSF</u> team on atrocities committed by the Serb army and police in the Pristina-Pec-Prizren triangle between 23 September and 5 October 1998.
	13 November 1998 <u>NATO's</u> plan for an 'Extraction Force' based in Macedonia to help <u>OSCE</u> if needed. <u>UNHCR</u> : over 100,000 displaced in Kosovo.	21 November 1998 Serbia proposes its own text for a strengthening of ties between Kosovo and Serbia.	November 1998 <u>MSF</u> teams note that <u>Serb police harassment</u> and intimidation of Albanians, notably members of the medical corps, continue.

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1998 DEC. 1998	<p>1 December 1998 Positioning of 500 <u>OSCE</u> verifiers (out of an agreed 2,000).</p> <p>23 December 1998 <u>Physicians for Human Rights</u> publishes extracts from a report planned for release in February 1999, denouncing the arrest, torture, and murder of Kosovar medical personnel and the destruction of medical infrastructure by Serb police (information gathered with the support of the MSF information officer in Kosovo).</p> <p>29 December 1998 <u>NATO</u> reiterates that it is prepared to intervene in Kosovo.</p>	<p>December 1998 <u>KLA</u> leaders meet regularly with <u>William Walker</u>, the <u>American Representative</u> on the KVM.</p> <p>13 December 1998 <u>Slobodan Milosevic</u>: an intervention of the <u>NATO</u> extraction force in Yugoslavia would be considered an aggression.</p> <p>14 December 1998 36 <u>KLA</u> fighters killed by Yugoslav border guards. Anti-Serb bombing in Pec kills six.</p> <p>24 December 1998 Serb forces launch a substantial offensive against a <u>KLA</u> stronghold in northern Kosovo.</p>	<p>December 1998 <u>MSF France</u> decides to send an <u>exploratory mission</u> to <u>Montenegro</u>. Discussions inside <u>MSF</u> about whether or not to make a public comment on the <u>Physicians for Human Rights</u> report.</p> <p>1 January 1999 First <u>MSF France exploratory mission</u> in <u>Montenegro</u>.</p>
1999 JAN. 1999			

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1999 JAN. 1999	<p>18 January 1999 Access to Kosovo denied to <u>Louise Arbour</u>, International Court for Yugoslavia Prosecutor, who came to investigate the Racak massacre.</p> <p>20 January 1999 <u>The New York Times</u> (USA): 'US to Push NATO to Issue Ultimatum to Serb Leader'.</p>	<p>15 January 1999 45 people killed in the Albanian-speaking village of Racak, in the south of Kosovo, on the road between Pristina and Prizren.</p>	<p>January 1999 'The Hidden War in Kosovo', by journalist Myriam Gaume and MSF is published.</p> <p>4 January 1999 The Serb official responsible for health matters in Kosovo states to the Serb and international press that the <u>MSF</u> teams in Kosovo are taking advantage of the hospitality afforded by Serbia and engaging in arms traffic to support the '<u>Albanian terrorists</u>'.</p> <p>16 January 1999 An <u>MSF</u> team goes to <u>Racak</u> and discovers a decapitated corpse.</p> <p>17 January 1999 A convoy of two trucks and two <u>MSF</u> cars bringing assistance to <u>Racak</u> and the surrounding villages is stopped by the <u>UNHCR</u> representative.</p> <p>18 January 1999 <u>MSF</u> assessment in Racak area.</p>

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JAN. 1999	<p>21 January 1999 Investigations and analyses by different international press outlets regarding the Racak massacre: question raised of possible manipulation of the facts.</p>		<p>29 January 1999 <u>MSF France</u> programme manager announces to the Board of Directors they plan to set up an autonomous programme in Kosovo.</p>
FEB. 1999	<p>6 to 23 February 1999 <u>Negotiations</u> between representatives of the <u>Serb Republic</u> and the <u>Kosovar Albanians</u> to begin at <u>Rambouillet</u> (France), under the auspices of the Contact Group.</p> <p>19 February 1999 <u>NATO</u> statement: <u>Ready to launch air strikes</u> against Serbian targets <u>if the Rambouillet talks fail</u>. If agreement, willingness to deploy a peacekeeping force.</p> <p>23 February 1999 End of the Rambouillet negotiations in a framework proposal for the establishment of an <u>autonomous province of Kosovo</u>.</p>	<p>2 February 1999 <u>UNHCR</u>: in the last month 45,000 people have fled their homes because of the fighting.</p> <p>23 February 1999 <u>UNHCR</u>: 9,000 displaced in Kosovo since the fighting resumed.</p>	<p>3 February 1999 <u>MSF France</u> programme manager expresses reservations over the line of communication maintained by the coordination team in Kosovo.</p>

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1999 FEB. 1999		<p>25 February 1999 The Serbian government continues to amass troops on the border with Kosovo. Fighting between <u>Serbian forces</u> and <u>Albanian rebels</u> intensifies.</p>	<p>25 February 1999 MSF Belgium/MSF France director of operations programme managers meeting: <u>MSF France</u> announces its decision to leave the joint mission in Kosovo and set up an autonomous mission. <u>MSF Belgium</u> disagrees.</p>
MARCH 1999		<p>3 March 1999 <u>Serb</u> bombing of southern Kosovo Fighting between <u>Serb police</u> and armed Albanians kills 20.</p> <p>10 March 1999 <u>Milo Djukanovic</u>, President of Montenegro, claims that <u>NATO</u> air strikes would strengthen <u>Slobodan Milosevic</u>, whom he accuses of concentrating troops on the border between Kosovo and Montenegro.</p> <p>11 March 1999 <u>UNHCR</u>: over a period of 2 years 400,000 Kosovars have fled their homes. 230,000 are displaced inside Kosovo.</p>	<p>12 March 1999 <u>Libération</u> (France): 'Save Kosovo', appeal advocating a firm stand against Milosevic's policies in Kosovo and for self-determination for the Albanian people, signed by <u>Rony Brauman</u>, former President of MSF France.</p>
	<p>11 March 1999 <u>Richard Holbrooke</u>, the US Envoy in Serbia, announces that <u>Slobodan Milosevic</u> has rejected the peace plan resulting from the Rambouillet negotiations.</p>		
	<p>19 March 1999 Negotiations between representatives of the <u>Serb Republic</u> and the Kosovar Albanians (resumed on 15 March in Rambouillet) adjourned due to the Serbs' failure to come to an agreement.</p>	<p>19 March 1999 Start of the process of evacuating the <u>OSCE's Kosovo Verification Mission</u> and western embassy personnel in Belgrade.</p>	

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1999 MARCH 1999	21 March 1999 Albania asks for <u>NATO's</u> help.	21 March 1999 <u>Military pressure</u> on Kosovar civilians is increasing. <u>5,000-6,000 people</u> fleeing from the <u>Pec</u> region arrive in <u>Rozaje</u> , Montenegro. <u>NGOs</u> reduce their staff and consider evacuating from Kosovo.	
	22 March 1999 <u>Yugoslav government</u> requests a meeting of the <u>UN Security Council</u> on Kosovo and the threat of <u>NATO</u> air strikes.		
	24 March 1999 NATO announces the decision to launch air strikes against Serb targets. The <u>Russian foreign minister</u> states his opposition to the strikes. Greece strengthens surveillance of its borders with Macedonia. <u>ICRC</u> asks for full respect of civilians. <u>UNHCR</u> announces the evacuation of all personnel from <u>United Nations humanitarian</u> agencies.	23 March 1999 <u>UNHCR</u> : 201,500 Kosovars are refugees, including 25,000 in Montenegro, 18,500 in Albania, 18,000 in Macedonia.	23 March 1999 <u>MSF</u> teams in Pec and Prizren withdraw to Pristina.
	Night of 24 March 1999 First <u>NATO</u> strikes on Yugoslav territory.	24 March 1999 The government of Montenegro refuses to acknowledge the state of emergency decreed by Serbia in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to be a base for <u>NATO</u> bombings. Serb forces begin organised deportation of Albanians. Kosovars have difficulties entering Albania because of landmines and Macedonia because of administrative constraints.	24 March 1999 <u>MSF</u> teams from Prizren and Pec evacuate to Macedonia: in addition to the <u>ICRC</u> staff, three <u>MSF</u> staff remain the only humanitarian presence in Kosovo.
	25 March 1999 Breakdown of diplomatic relations between <u>Serbia</u> , <u>USA</u> , <u>UK</u> , Germany, and France.	25 March 1999 In Skopje (Macedonia) 10,000 people demonstrate against <u>NATO</u> strikes.	

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1999 MARCH 1999	<p>26 March 1999 NATO bombing of military targets in Kosovo.</p>		<p>26 March 1999 Launch of <u>MSF exploratory missions</u>: <u>MSF Holland</u> to Macedonia. <u>MSF France</u> to Montenegro (through Croatia without visas). <u>MSF Greece</u> requests that MSF be prepared for refugee arrivals in Greece.</p>
	<p>27 March 1999 <u>NATO</u> speaks of 'ethnic cleansing' in Kosovo.</p>		
	<p>29 March 1999 Start of phase 2 of NATO strikes campaign. Ground intervention is excluded. <u>Russia</u> negotiates with <u>Serbia</u> and announces that <u>NATO</u> bombing killed 1,000.</p>	<p>29 March 1999 <u>NATO</u>, <u>OSCE</u>, <u>Albania</u>, <u>Macedonia</u> and <u>Montenegro</u> announce the arrival of tens of thousands of Kosovar refugees in countries bordering Kosovo.</p>	<p>29 March 1999 The last <u>MSF</u> international staff leave Pristina for Belgrade. <u>MSF Belgium</u> team move from Fier (southern Albania) to Kukes (northern Albania) The operations director of the <u>MSF Switzerland/MSF Greece</u> joint operational centre requests that <u>MSF Greece</u> be involved in MSF operations in the Balkans.</p>
		<p>30 March 1999 <u>UNHCR</u>: more than 90,000 Albanians have left Kosovo since the beginning of the air strikes, driven out by a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing. The refugees arriving in Albania and Montenegro confirm that they have been subjected to violent attacks.</p>	<p>30 March 1999 <u>MSF Belgium</u> press release: 'MSF Leaves Kosovo.' <u>MSF France</u> press briefing: 'Médecins Sans Frontières Evacuated Its Personnel from Kosovo Yesterday Evening and is Focusing Its Efforts on the Province's Border Regions'. <u>MSF Greece</u> staff do an exploratory mission in northern Greece in case of refugee arrivals.</p>
			<p>31 March 1999 Arrival of a new <u>MSF Belgium</u> team in Albania (7 people) plus <u>MSF France</u> supporting team (2 people). <u>MSF Greece</u> insists that Greek staff be integrated into MSF teams. During a teleconference, <u>MSF</u> directors of operations decide to launch a collection of refugee accounts.</p>

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1999 APRIL 1999	<p>2 April 1999 <u>Sadako Ogata (UNHCR)</u> press release: 'UNHCR's Ogata Demands an End to Expulsions as Humanitarian Crisis Mounts'.</p> <p>Night of 2 April 1999 <u>NATO's</u> first bombing in the heart of Belgrade.</p> <p>6 April 1999 <u>Milosevic</u> announces a unilateral ceasefire. <u>Russia and China</u> accuse NATO of targeting civilians. <u>International Conference of States/UN/NGOs</u>: refugees welcomed in other states, humanitarian aid coordinated by <u>UNHCR</u>, <u>NATO</u> in charge of transportation of relief and refugees. The <u>Clinton Administration</u> sets up a media campaign to raise and manage contributions to the NGOs helping the <u>Kosovar refugees</u>.</p>	<p>2 April 1999 At the Macedonian border, tens of thousands of Kosovars fleeing their country are blocked by Macedonian authorities in the no-man's-land of Blace.</p> <p>6 April 1999 Refugees in the Blace no-man's-land are forcibly evacuated by the <u>Macedonian</u> authorities to the camp at Stenkovec-Brazda set up by <u>NATO</u> for <u>UNHCR</u>, as well as to Albania and Turkey.</p>	<p>1 April 1999 <u>MSF Belgium</u> press release: 'MSF Prepares to Receive Tens of Thousands of Refugees. Two Cargo Planes Leave for Albania and Macedonia.' <u>MSF France</u> press briefing: 'MSF Reinforces Its Presence with Kosovar Refugees.' <u>Libération</u> (France): 'The Situation is Volatile; the Refugees are Not Limited to Fixed Areas', interview of <u>Jean-Hervé Bradol</u>, <u>MSF France</u>, Director of Operations.</p> <p>2 April 1999 <u>MSF Greece</u> Board of Directors asks the <u>MSF International Council (MSF IC)</u> that the Greek section be involved in <u>MSF</u> operations concerning the Kosovo crisis.</p> <p>4 and 5 April 1999 Press release <u>MSF Holland</u>, <u>MSF UK</u>, <u>MSF USA</u>, <u>MSF France</u>, <u>MSF Spain</u>: 'MSF Calls for Immediate and Unconditional Access to Kosovar Refugees in No-Man's-Land on Macedonian Border.'</p> <p>6 April 1999 Decisions of the <u>MSF</u> operations directors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational sharing: <u>MSF Belgium</u> in Albania, <u>MSF Holland</u> in Macedonia, <u>MSF France</u> in Montenegro. • <u>MSF's</u> commitment to taking action, again, as quickly as possible in Kosovo. • <u>MSF</u> does not finance Kosovo-related operations with NATO member countries' funding. </p>

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1999 APRIL 1999	<p>7 April 1999 NATO states that Milosevic 'ceasefire' announcement is not enough.</p> <p>9 April 1999 <u>Sadako Ogata (UNHCR)</u> press conference in Skopje (Macedonia).</p>	<p>7 April 1999 UNHCR: 460,000 Kosovars have fled their country. <u>Macedonia</u> allows the presence of a <u>NATO</u> force on its territory.</p>	<p>7 April 1999 <u>Le Soir</u> (Belgium): 'On Western Ambivalence Regarding Acceptance of Refugees from Kosovo', interview with <u>Alex Parisel</u>, MSF Belgium Executive Director. <u>Libération</u> (France)/<u>El Mundo</u> (Spain): 'The European Union Will Have to Recognise Kosovo's Independence - The Case for Military Action', signed by <u>Rony Brauman</u>, 'Honorary President of MSF'. Collection of refugee accounts from Albania, Macedonia, and Montenegro.</p> <p>8 April 1999 <u>James Orbinski</u> (President of MSF IC) to <u>AFP</u> (France): 'The Kosovar Refugees Are in a State of Psychological Shock'. <u>MSF Belgium</u> and <u>MSF Switzerland</u> programme managers agree to integrate Greek volunteers in the Kosovo crisis operations.</p> <p>9 April 1999 <u>MSF Belgium/MSF Holland/MSF France/MSF USA</u> press release: 'Médecins Sans Frontières Asks That UNHCR Carry Out Its Mandate with the Refugees'. <u>MSF USA</u> letter to <u>InterAction's</u> president expresses disagreement with <u>InterAction</u> joining the <u>Federal Kosovo Refugee Fund</u>.</p> <p>10 April 1999 <u>The Scotsman</u> (UK): 'War in Europe - Medical Charity Accuses United Nations Official of Failing Refugees - Organisation says minimum standards ignored for 600,000'. <u>The New York Times</u> (USA): 'With NATO in Charge, Relief Looks Less Neutral', <u>MSF USA</u> Executive Director quoted. <u>MSF Holland</u> takes over from <u>NATO</u> in Stenkovec-Brazda camp.</p>

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1999 APRIL 1999	<p>11 April 1999 <u>NATO</u> decides to launch the 'Joint Guard' operation: deployment of a force of 8,000 men to Albania, tasked with transporting and distributing humanitarian assistance to the refugees from Kosovo and guaranteeing their security.</p>	<p>11 April 1999 The Macedonian authorities claim control over the refugee camps in their territory.</p>	<p>11 April 1999 <u>MSF Tirana</u> press release: 'UN Agencies Must Lead Humanitarian Aid Efforts – Military Support for Humanitarian Aid Risks Being Seen as Support for Military Action'.</p>
	<p>13 April 1999 <u>UNHCR</u> spokesman reacts sharply to MSF's allegations of failure. <u>FIDH</u>'s report: crimes against humanity in Kosovo.</p>		<p>12 April 1999 <u>MSF France/MSF UK</u> press release: 'New Influx of Kosovar Refugees Arrive in Montenegro - Thousands Left Without Shelter.'</p>
	<p>14 April 1999 <u>El País</u> (Spain): 'More than 3,200 Civilians Assassinated Since the End of March in Kosovo, According to a US Report.'</p>	<p>14 April 1999 New influx of <u>refugees</u> in <u>Montenegro</u> and <u>Macedonia</u>.</p>	<p>13 April 1999 Press conference <u>MSF Tirana</u>: - Plight of the populations still trapped inside Kosovo. - Misunderstanding on MSF having information about NATO troops in Kosovo. - First leaks of refugees' accounts. <u>MSF</u> press release: 'Silence Over One Million – MSF Demands an Immediate Solution to the Security of Civilians in Kosovo.' <u>MSF Belgium</u> announces that it does not participate in the construction of 'NATO' camps. <u>The New York Times</u> (USA): 'In Kosovo, Time for All to Save Face; Aid Groups Do Best', Letter to the Editor-in-Chief from the <u>MSF USA Executive Director</u>.</p> <p>14 April 1999 Letter from <u>MSF USA</u> to President of <u>InterAction</u>: 'MSF USA withdraws from the <u>Disaster Response Committee</u>.'</p>

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1999 APRIL 1999	<p>15 April 1999 The <u>Greek government</u> starts negotiating with the <u>government of the Yugoslav Federation</u> and with <u>NATO</u> to set up a humanitarian corridor for Greek NGOs.</p> <p>17 April 1999 Deployment of <u>NATO 'Joint Guard'</u> operation in Albania.</p> <p>18 April 1999 <u>NATO Secretary General</u> statement about the possibility of a land intervention in Kosovo.</p>	<p>16 April 1999 Departure of the last <u>NATO</u> troops from the camps in Macedonia: worried refugees fear the brutal methods used by the Macedonian police.</p>	<p>15 April 1999 <u>MSF</u> address to the <u>Council of Europe</u> on the humanitarian situation in the Balkans.</p> <p>16 April 1999 <u>MSF France/MSF UK press release</u>: 'MSF Calls for Protection for Kosovar Refugees in Northeastern Montenegro.' <u>The Independent</u> (UK): 'Investigators Told of 15 Mass Graves – War Crimes,' quote <u>Christopher Stokes, MSF Belgium Coordinator in Albania</u>.</p> <p>19 or 20 April 1999 The <u>director of operations for the Greek-Swiss Common Operational Centre (COC)</u> refuses to assume the operational responsibility of the 'observer mission' in Kosovo proposed by the <u>president of MSF Greece</u>.</p> <p>20 April 1999 <u>MSF Belgium press conference in Brussels</u>: 'Médecins Sans Frontières and Balkanactie Launch "Family to Family" and a Food Drive Among the Belgian Public.' The <u>director of operations for the Greek-Swiss Common Operational Centre (COC)</u> informs the <u>president of MSF Greece</u> of his decision to give up his responsibilities as <u>director of operations for MSF Greece</u>.</p>

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1999 APRIL 1999	<p>23 April 1999 <u>NATO</u> imposes an oil embargo on Yugoslavia. <u>OSCE's</u> report revealing the scope of atrocities committed by the <u>Serbian armed forces</u> and <u>paramilitary militias</u> in Kosovo.</p>	<p>22 April 1999 <u>Montenegro president</u> publicly opposes Belgrade.</p>	<p>21 April 1999 <u>MSF France</u> press conference in Podgorica (Montenegro). The <u>executive director</u> of <u>MSF Switzerland</u> proposes launching an international exploratory mission in Serbia and Kosovo to his counterparts in the other sections.</p> <p>22 April 1999 The <u>executive director</u> of <u>MSF Norway</u> announces to his colleagues that his section <u>will return the funding</u> granted for operations related to the Kosovo crisis to the Norwegian government. The <u>executive directors</u> of the <u>operational sections</u> decide to launch an <u>international exploratory mission</u> in Kosovo and Serbia, under <u>MSF Switzerland</u> responsibility and including <u>MSF Greece</u> volunteers. The <u>executive director</u> of <u>MSF Switzerland</u> informs the President of <u>MSF Greece</u> of this decision (according to <u>MSF Switzerland</u> general director).</p> <p>23 April 1999 <u>El Mundo</u> (Spain): 'There Is No Humanitarian War', <u>Eric Stobbaerts</u>, <u>MSF Spain</u> Executive Director. Letter from <u>MSF Switzerland/MSF Greece</u> Director of <u>Operations</u> to Presidents of <u>MSF Greece</u> and <u>MSF Switzerland</u>: 'Resignation as Operations Director for Athens.'</p> <p>24 April 1999 <u>MSF Belgium</u> press release: '50,000 Children to be Vaccinated in Northern Albania.'</p>

	International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
1999 APRIL 1999	25 April 1999 The <u>Greek Prime Minister</u> announces that Greece will not participate in a land intervention.	25 April 1999 <u>Vuk Draskovic, Yugoslav Vice Prime Minister</u> states he will approve a <u>UN</u> force in Kosovo. A humanitarian aid convoy organised under the auspices of the <u>Greek government</u> enters Serbia.	26 April 1999 MSF Belgium press release: 'More than 20,000 Food Parcels for Kosovar Families and Their Albanian Host Families.' MSF Norway press release: 'MSF Independent of NATO Funds in the Balkans – Do Not Want Support from the Warring Parties.' MSF Greece president begins telephone discussions with the director of the <u>Pristina hospital</u> regarding medical aid the Greek section could provide.
		28 April 1999 <u>Vuk Draskovic, Yugoslav Vice-Prime Minister</u> is dismissed.	27 April 1999 First version of the document: ' <i>Kosovo: Accounts of a Deportation</i> ,' circulated for approval within the <u>MSF</u> movement.
			28 April 1999 MSF executive directors decide to release the report ' <i>Kosovo: Accounts of a Deportation</i> ' (' <i>Kosovo: Histoires d'une Déportation</i> '), by the end of the week.
			29 April 1999 Distribution of the report ' <i>Kosovo: Accounts of a Deportation</i> ' to the entire <u>MSF</u> network.

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1999 APRIL 1999		<p>30 April 1999 UNHCR: 35,000 Kosovars have been deported: - 373,400 to Albania - 160,700 to Macedonia - 62,400 to Montenegro - 50,000 to Serbia - 15,000 to Bosnia - 125,000 to other countries.</p>	<p>30 April 1999 The <u>MSF</u> report: '<i>Kosovo: Accounts of a Deportation</i>', is sent out to the press. <u>Press release</u>, all MSF sections: 'Doctors Without Borders (MSF) Issues Report on Deportation of Albanian Population of Kosovo.' <u>Libération</u> (France) 'Médecins Sans Frontières Issues a Report Friday on the Testimony of Hundreds of Refugees – Survey on the Deportation of Kosovar Albania.' The spokesman for <u>NATO</u> draws journalists' attention to the <u>MSF</u> report.</p>
MAY 1999		<p>Early May 1999 The residents of Prizren are being forced to stay while it is bombed. • The camp of Kukes (Albania) becomes overcrowded.</p> <p>4 May 1999 Serbia accuses <u>NATO</u> of bombing an <u>MDM Greece</u> convoy.</p>	<p>1 May 1999 <u>The Guardian</u> (UK): 'Charity Lists Reports of Atrocities.'</p> <p>4 May 1999 The executive director of <u>MSF Switzerland</u> rejects the Greek section's unilateral appointment of a new <u>operations director</u>.</p> <p>5 May 1999 <u>MSF directors of operations'</u> decisions: - Criteria for the <u>MSF International exploratory mission</u> in Kosovo and Serbia - Carry on collecting refugee accounts. - Email from the President of <u>MSF IC</u> to the <u>president of MSF Greece</u>: - <u>Refusal of support for MSF Greece exploratory mission project</u> - Carrying out an exploratory mission in Kosovo would expose the Greek section to the <u>harshest sanctions</u>, including the <u>possibility of expulsion</u> from the movement.</p>

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1999 MAY 1999	6 May 1999 <u>G8</u> adopts seven general principles for solution of the conflict, including withdrawal of <u>Serb forces</u> from Kosovo, deployment of an international force, and repatriation of the refugees.		6 May 1999 <u>MSF Holland</u> coordinator in Macedonia alerts that an <u>MSF Greece</u> team is ready to leave from Skopje to Pristina and Belgrade. Phone calls from <u>IC</u> members to the president of <u>MSF Greece</u> requesting he put a halt to the exploratory mission are in vain.
	7 May 1999 <u>NATO</u> raid strikes the centre of Nis (Serbia).	7 May 1999 The <u>Yugoslav government</u> agrees to allow a <u>UN</u> humanitarian assessment mission on its soil.	7 May 1999 The <u>MSF Greece</u> exploratory team enters Kosovo. Most <u>MSF officials</u> express disagreement with <u>MSF Greece's</u> action. The <u>MSF International secretary general</u> asks the communications officers to keep a 'low profile' on the issue.
	8 May 1999 3 <u>NATO</u> missiles fall on the <u>Chinese embassy</u> in Belgrade.	8 May 1999 <u>UNHCR</u> : states that since 25 March 1999, half of the population of Kosovo has been driven from the province, and launches an appeal for funding.	
	10 May 1999 <u>Newsweek</u> (USA) David Rieff: 'There are No Humanitarian Solutions to Humanitarian Problems.'	10 May 1999 The <u>Yugoslav government</u> announces the start of withdrawal of its troops from Kosovo. However, <u>NATO</u> air strikes continue.	
		11 May 1999 <u>UNHCR</u> begins to transfer people from the camps in Macedonia and northern Albania to southern Albania.	12 May 1999 <u>Le Monde</u> (France): 'Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo – Seven Weeks of Mass Exodus in Kosovo.' <u>Le Monde</u> (France) <u>Régis Debray</u> : 'Letter from a Traveler to the President of the Republic,' <u>MSF Greece</u> doctors mentioned as witnesses.

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1999 MAY 1999	<p>13 May 1999 Petition from the Balkan Action Council (USA): 'Only Ground Troops Will End Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo.'</p>	<p>15 May 1999 Refugees report offensives by <u>Serb forces</u> in northwestern Kosovo.</p> <p>16 May 1999 <u>Montenegro's president</u> supports the <u>G8</u> decisions but asks for a halt to NATO strikes.</p> <p>17 May 1999 Severe crackdown on protests by the families of Serbian <u>soldiers</u> in southern Serbia. In response, some local soldiers stationed in Kosovo desert.</p>	<p>14 May 1999 MSF Spain press release: 'Médecins Sans Frontières Rejects Government Funds for the Balkan Crisis.' Press conference of the President of MSF Greece in Athens: he claims that the road, which MSF Greece's car was traveling on, was bombed by NATO near Nis.</p> <p>15 May 1999 <i>Libération</i> (France): 'Debray Sees What He Believes', <u>Rony Brauman</u>, former president of MSF. MSF IC envoys start investigations on <u>MSF Switzerland/MSF Greece operational centre</u> breakdown and unilateral exploratory mission in Kosovo.</p> <p>17 May 1999 MSF Greece President's open letter to MSF IC members. <i>Newsweek</i> (USA): 'Letter to the Editor', <u>MSF USA</u>: 'Contrary to Rieff's assertion [...], Doctors Without Borders has always known that the presence of medical aid is not enough to stop the forces of oppression.'</p> <p>18 May 1999 MSF Switzerland informs <u>MSF Greece</u> that it is ending their collaboration.</p>
	<p>18 May 1999 OXFAM criticises NATO and demands that <u>UNHCR</u> be strengthened in its role as emergency aid coordinator. Its message is widely reported by media in the UK.</p>		

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1999 MAY 1999	<p>20 May 1999 <u>UNHCR</u> plan for returning refugees to Kosovo made public. <u>UN</u> Secretary General's visit to Albania.</p> <p>21 May 1999 MDM press release: 'MDM Condemns Restrictions on Humanitarian Work in Montenegro.'</p> <p>25 May 1999 <u>UN</u> report on numerous rapes committed by <u>Serbian forces</u> against Kosovar women.</p> <p>27 May 1999 <u>Slobodan Milosevic</u> charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity by the <u>International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)</u>.</p>	<p>24 May 1999 1,000 Kosovar men released from the prison of Mitrovica describe the abuse they have been subjected to. <u>UNHCR</u> opposes the Macedonian authorities' decision to transfer Kosovar refugees from Macedonia to Albania in the middle of the night.</p> <p>27 May 1999 <u>UNHCR</u>: 800,000 Kosovars have fled their province. Camps in Macedonia overcrowded again.</p>	<p>20 May 1999 <u>MSF</u> disseminates an <u>epidemiological study</u> conducted by Epicentre with Kosovar refugees hosted by families in Albania and a <u>press release</u>: 'Refugees in Albania: Refugees Living with Albanian Families Neglected by International Aid Agencies According to a Survey by Médecins Sans Frontières.' <u>MSF Kukes</u>, <u>MSF Skopje</u> <u>press release</u>: 'MSF Calls on Governments to Support Effective and Principled <u>UN</u> Leadership over Kosovo Refugee Relief Effort and Stresses the Need for Registration and Protection.'</p> <p>21-27 May 1999 5 medical staff leave <u>MSF</u> programme in Albania to join the <u>KLA</u>.</p>

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1999 MAY 1999	<p>28 May 1999</p> <p>The <u>Yugoslav presidency</u> accepts the 'principles' laid out by the G8.</p> <p><u>NATO</u> maintains its air strikes.</p> <p>The <u>Russian and Finnish emissaries</u> continue to negotiate with <u>Milosevic</u>.</p> <p>3 members of <u>Care</u> [NGO] are found guilty of espionage and given severe sentences by a <u>Yugoslav military tribunal</u>.</p> <p><u>UNHCR</u> announces a new fundraising campaign to finance assistance for the return of the refugees.</p>		
JUNE 1999	<p>31 May 1999</p> <p><i>El Mundo</i> (Spain) publishes details of a <u>NATO</u> report, which admits that the Alliance is losing the information war in Kosovo and recommends using journalists and NGOs to improve its propaganda.</p>		<p>1 June 1999</p> <p><i>La Libre Belgique</i> (Belgium): 'Humanitarian-Military Organisations: A Dangerous Alliance?' <u>Alex Parisel</u>, <u>MSF Belgium Executive Director</u> quoted: "Our humanitarian agenda differs from that of <u>NATO</u> members."</p>
	<p>2 June 1999</p> <p><u>MDM</u> and <u>FIDH</u> report: the Kosovo Albanians have been subjected to a 'systematic process of deportation'.</p> <p><u>UN</u> under secretary general for humanitarian affairs, back from mission in Serbia and Kosovo: delivering aid to the displaced populations inside Kosovo is an urgency; abundant evidence of the violence committed by Serbian forces in Kosovo.</p>		

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1999 JUNE 1999	<p>3 June 1999 <u>Yugoslav government</u> agreement on Russia/western countries <u>Peace Plan</u>.</p> <p>8 June 1999 The foreign ministers of the <u>G8</u> countries adopt a <u>peace plan</u> that includes an <u>UN-led international peacekeeping force</u>.</p> <p>9 June 1999 <u>NATO</u> suspends air strikes as <u>Serbian forces</u> begin their withdrawal from Kosovo.</p> <p>10 June 1999 <u>UN Security Council Resolution 1244</u> authorises the immediate deployment of KFOR in Kosovo under NATO auspices.</p>	<p>10 June 1999 First <u>Kosovar returnees</u> enter Kosovo.</p> <p>Night of 11 June 1999 Several hundred <u>Russian troops</u> began arriving in <u>Pristina</u>, the capital of Kosovo.</p>	<p>3 June 1999 <u>Report: 'Fact Finding Mission Regarding the MSF Greece Mission to the FRY and the Breakdown of the MSF Greek-Swiss Common Operational Centre Agreement,'</u> finalised by the MSF IC envoys.</p> <p>4 June 1999 MSF Tirana, MSF Skopje, MSF Spain, MSF Holland press release: 'Kosovo: The Return of the Refugees Should Take Place Without Political or Military Interference – Médecins Sans Frontières Calls for a Clear Separation of Military and Humanitarian Action.'</p>

	International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
1999 JUNE 1999		<p>12 June 1999 KFOR British and French troops enter Kosovo.</p> <p>15 June 1999 As Kosovars return, acts of <u>vengeance</u> against the <u>minority Serb and Romani populations</u> start.</p> <p>17 June 1999 Over <u>90 mass grave sites</u> are found in Kosovo.</p> <p>20 June 1999 <u>Serb forces</u> finally withdraw from Kosovo.</p>	<p>12 June 1999 MSF teams enter Pristina several hours before the arrival of KFOR troops. MSF IC meeting: - <u>MSF Greece</u> refuses to discuss their exploratory mission. - <u>Resolution</u>: the Greek section is given until 28 June 1999 to provide a written commitment to terminate its operational activities or face expulsion from the movement. - Discussion about principles, objectives and strategy of <u>MSF</u> return to Kosovo.</p> <p>12 and 13 June 1999 <u>UNHCR/MSF/MDM/IMC</u> joint exploratory mission in Kosovo.</p> <p>15 June 1999 <u>MSF Belgium</u> press release: 'Médecins Sans Frontières Sends 90 Tonnes of Aid to Kosovo.' <u>MSF France</u> Press release: 'Médecins Sans Frontières, Present in Two Regions of Kosovo: 140 Tonnes of Emergency Equipment Ready to Leave.'</p> <p>18 June 1999 <u>MSF Belgium</u> closes its camp in <u>Kukes</u> for security reasons.</p>
	<p>20 June 1999 <u>NATO</u> announces the formal cessation of bombing over the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.</p>		

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1999 JUNE 1999	21 June 1999 <u>Agreement between KLA and KFOR</u> on KLA immediate demilitarisation and disarmament process within three months.		23 June 1999 <u>MSF France press release:</u> '30 Volunteers from Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) are Working in Kosovo.'
			24 June 1999 <u>MSF Spain press release:</u> 'Antipersonnel Mines Represent a Grave Danger for the Civilian Population.'
			28 June 1999 <u>MSF Skopje press release:</u> 'Médecins Sans Frontières Provides Medical Aid to the First Official UNHCR Refugee Convoy to Kosovo.'
JULY 1999		2 July 1999 <u>Bernard Kouchner</u> (one of the founders of Médecins Sans Frontières) is named 'High Representative of the United Nations for Kosovo'.	14 July 1999 Dilemma posed by dead bodies in wells; public health constraints/the need to preserve evidence so justice can be done; MSF Kosovo coordinator chooses not to speak out but to push on and collaborate with the <u>International Criminal Tribunal for the ex-Yugoslavia (ICTY)</u> .
			16 July 1999 <u>MSF France press release:</u> '50 Volunteers from Médecins Sans Frontières are Working in Kosovo.'

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1999 AUGUST 1999			<p>5 August 1999 Letter from <u>MSF IC President</u> to <u>MSF Greece President</u> and <u>Executive Director</u> demanding that the former <u>MSF Greece</u> ceases all use of the MSF logo and the name 'MSF/ Médecins sans Frontières'.</p> <p>27 August 1999 MSF France Board of Directors debate on MSF's role in denouncing acts of <u>vengeance against the minority Serb</u> and Romani populations: decision <u>not to speak out</u>.</p>
SEP. 1999		<p>30 August 1999 <u>UNHCR/OSCE</u> report: 180,000-200,000 Serbs have left Kosovo since the withdrawal Serb troops.</p> <p>9-10 September 1999 <u>KFOR</u> intervention between groups of Serbs and Albanians who clashed violently (150 wounded) in Mitrovica.</p>	<p>9 September 1999 <u>MSF France</u> press release: 'Press Update – Kosovo "Objective: 1,000 Roofs for Winter", Médecins Sans Frontières Launches its Programme of House Repair in the Region of Pec.'</p> <p>16 September 1999 The Serbian nationalist press associates the <u>High Representative of the United Nations for Kosovo</u> with MSF and <u>compares MSF with Ku Klux Klan</u>.</p>
OCT. 1999			<p>15 October 1999 The <u>Nobel Peace Prize</u> is awarded to <u>MSF</u>.</p> <p>17 October 1999 <u>Le Monde</u> (France): '<u>MSF Greece</u> was expelled from the movement'.</p>

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1999 OCT. 1999 NOV. 1999 DEC. 1999			<p>October 1999 MSF Greece press release: 'MSF Victim of the Conflict in Kosovo.'</p> <p>13 November 1999 <u>Le Temps</u> (Switzerland): 'Médecins Sans Frontières Expels Its Greek Section, which was Seen as Too Pro-Serb.'</p> <p>27-28 November 1999 MSF IC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unanimously adopts a resolution expelling <u>MSF Greece</u> from the movement for not having complied with decisions taken at the meeting on 12 June 1999. • Decides to maintain contacts with Greek society. </p> <p>4 December 1999 <u>The Financial Times</u> (UK): 'Doctors Operating in a Divided House.'</p> <p>10 December 1999 MSF officially receives the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo. <u>Members of MSF Greece</u> holds a press conference in Oslo.</p> <p>20 December 1999 The Yugoslav minister of information publicly describes MSF as an 'espionage organisation'.</p>
2000 JAN. 2000			<p>26 January 2000 The MSF International Council votes to formalise the <u>expulsion of the Greek section</u>.</p>

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2000 FEB. 2000	11 February 2000 An independent study commissioned by <u>UNHCR</u> demonstrates <u>UNHCR's inadequate response to the influx of Kosovar refugees</u> and suggests that this inadequacy was, to a great extent, due to its being sidelined by <u>NATO</u> and <u>western governments</u> .		
MARCH 2000			3 March 2000 <u>Rony Brauman</u> , (MSF France Foundation/CRASH) refuses to speak at a <u>NATO</u> seminar, and states to <i>La Tribune de Genève</i> (Switzerland): 'To mix war and humanitarian action is simply mystification.'
MAY 2000			20 May 2000 <u>MSF France President of the Board</u> annual report : "The overall image given by MSF [in the Kosovo crisis] was rather dubious in terms of independence and impartiality."
NOV. 2000			21 to 23 November 2000 <u>MSF IC meeting</u> : A process of reintegration of <u>MSF Greece</u> is opened, under the operational responsibility of <u>MSF Spain</u> .
2005 FEBRUARY 2005			9 February 2005 <u>MSF International/MSF Greece press release</u> : 'MSF Greece Reintegrated into the MSF International Movement.'