



MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES

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To : Medicinski centar VUKOVAR Attn. : Dr. Vesna Bosanac
Faxno :

From : MSF

Ref : ZAG.22

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REF: NEUTRAL HUMANITARIAN CONVOY FOR EVACUATION OF WOUNDED

Dear Dr. Bosanac,

I am aware of the extreme difficulties which you are facing. In the light of this crisis I would like you to calmly read this letter carefully - as it is essential to the success of the mission.

We propose to perform an evacuation operation of your seriously ill patients by road, by means of a NEUTRAL CONVOY which will be entirely staffed by members of our organisation.

As you know, a previous attempt has failed. This was due, in part, to lack of preparation with respect to security, in particular, that the contents and aims of the convoy were unacceptable to the relevant security forces.

We now believe that these mistakes have been corrected. You will understand that we have had to compromise substantially in our aims, to guarantee safe passage to and from your hospital. For this reason, you may, at first, be disappointed, but you must believe that we are making all possible efforts on your behalf.

THE MISSION IS PLANNED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) The convoy will be comprised of ten emergency vehicles.
- 2) They will carry ONLY essential requirements for the evacuation of wounded people.
- 3) There will be NO provision of food or medicines.
- 4) There will be NO provision for replacement staff and ONLY patients will be evacuated.
- 5) Our organisation will guarantee entirely humanitarian methodology.

- 6) It is proposed, in the first instance, that 3 separate journeys will be performed in succession.
- 7) The vehicles will be staffed by foreign doctors and nurses from 8 different European countries - all having experience in this type of work.
- 8) Patients will be evacuated to an emergency center at Novi Mikanovci and from there to district hospitals.
- 9) The mission is planned for Saturday 19th October. (A more precise time will be available later).
- 10) We have received security clearance from all parties concerned and the safe passage will be assured with the help of the European Community monitoring mission.

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For your information and understanding you should know that the group Medecins sans Frontieres has very extensive experience, in bringing aid to areas which have been struck by natural disasters, epidemics and war. We are specialized in managing crisis in areas where medical care services have broken down.

The organisation acts on the principle that every human being has the right to medical care. It acts independently from any international organisation, any national government, or any religious organisation. This means that it can observe strict neutrality and it is the organisation itself which determines its own policy.

We have been following your helpful reports on the situation in the hospital. We are therefore well informed of the severe crisis which confronts you.

With this in mind, we would be grateful for as much cooperation and calmness as possible.

It is hoped that, following the success of this mission, we will be able to perform further humanitarian journeys to the hospital of Vukovar, perhaps to relieve your severely overworked staff and replenish your stocks of medicines while the conflict continues.

Please understand that we are completely devoted to your cause and hope your courage can continue to be so strong. Any further information will also be welcome.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Christopher Besse. MSF