



10 July 1995

Press Release

SREBRENICA HOSPITAL OVERWHELMED WITH CASUALTIES

Médecins Sans Frontières calls for respect of vulnerable civilian and medical installations

The heavy shelling which began last Thursday resumed this morning, once again targeting the town centre of Srebrenica. In the local hospital, 50 wounded have been checked in over the past few days, 10 of whom have since died of their wounds.

“The hospital is particularly vulnerable to shelling because it was never given the protection to resist an attack of this kind; after all, Srebrenica is a safe area.” Dr Stefan Oberreit, MSF’s Belgrade-based Co-ordinator.

The MSF team (one doctor and one nurse) went to the hospital early this morning where they are working with the local medical team (two doctors, a surgeon and a gynaecologist). In one hour, from 2.30 - 3.30 pm (BST) today, seven further wounded patients were brought into the hospital, five of whom were seriously wounded; three needed urgent amputations.

Said Dr Oberreit: “The local staff are working ceaselessly and efficiently with the patients, most of whom have shrapnel wounds, and are coping tremendously well in this difficult situation.”

The 100-bed hospital is completely full, while the shelling gets nearer. Already, several windows of the hospital have been hit.

Despite its status as a ‘safe zone’, the Srebrenica enclave, which has a population of 40,000, is once again the target of a deadly offensive. The shelling is indiscriminate, and civilian as well as military installations are being hit.

After three years of war, the long-suffering inhabitants of Srebrenica find themselves under attack once again.

Médecins Sans Frontières today called for all civilian and medical installations to be spared.

For further information, please call either Médecins Sans Frontières UK on 0171 713 5600 or Stefan Oberreit on 00381 11 661509.