





## **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
<b>1389</b>	Kosovo Polje Battle ( <i>'Field of Blackbirds'</i> ) Kosovo under Ottoman domination.	
<b>1913</b>	Kosovo incorporated into Serbia.	
<b>1944</b>	Birth of Yugoslav Federation of six republics: Slovenia, Montenegro, Serbia (including Kosovo), Bosnia-Herzégovina, Macedonia and Croatia.	
<b>1974</b>	Marshal Tito's presidency: Kosovo enjoys considerable autonomy.	
<b>1980</b>	Tito's death	
<b>1981</b>	Start of 'Albanians demonstrations/ repression by Serb police' cycle.	
<b>1987</b>	Perestroika in USSR: birth of independent and nationalist movements.	
<b>1989</b>	<p><b>27 February</b> - Strikes and demonstrations of Albanian Kosovars - Belgrade declares 'State of Emergency' and troops intervene.</p> <p><b>23 March</b> Slobodan Milosevic, new President of Yugoslav Federation ends Kosovo's autonomous status and places the province under the direct trusteeship of Serbia.</p> <p><b>28 June</b> Slobodan Milosevic's nationalist speech before thousands of Serbians at the <i>'Field of Blackbirds'</i>.</p>	
<b>1990</b>	Constitution of Serbia reformed; Albanians political institutions in Kosovo are suppressed.	<p><b>March</b> An MSF Belgium team conducts an investigation into the possible criminal poisoning of 2,000 Albanian adolescents.</p>
<b>1991</b>	<p>Instruction in Albanian language in Kosovo schools is abolished.</p> <p><b>September</b> Clandestine Kosovars referendum proclaiming the founding of the "Republic of Kosovo."</p>	

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<b>1992</b>	<p><b>24 May</b> Ibrahim Rugova, head of the Democratic League of Kosovo (DLK), is elected president of the self-proclaimed Republic of Kosovo. A parliament is also elected. The Belgrade regime declared the body illegitimate and transferred its powers to the Serb parliament.</p>	
<b>1993</b>		<p><b>6 to 18 February</b> MSF France evaluation mission in Kosovo.</p> <p><b>April</b> A joint MSF Belgium-France team starts working in Kosovo</p>
<p><b>1995 14 December</b> The Bosnian peace accord, signed in Dayton. It ignores the fate of Kosovo's population.</p>		
<b>1996</b>	<p><b>February</b> The Kosovo Liberation Army – KLA [UCK] emerged and claimed several bombing attacks.</p>	
<b>1997</b>	<p><b>March</b> Macedonia: demonstrations by Albanian minority</p> <p><b>September</b> - DLK becomes more radical - Demonstrations of Albanian students are repressed.</p>	
<p><b>1998</b></p> <p><b>31 March</b> UN embargo on weapons deliveries to Belgrade.</p>	<p><b>28 February - 1 March</b> 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.</p> <p><b>22 March</b> Election of Ibrahim Rugova: not recognised by Belgrade nor by the International Community</p> <p><b>10 April</b> Kosovars starts daily demonstrations in Pristina.</p> <p><b>23 April</b> The Serbs approves Slobodan Milosevic's rejection of international mediation on Kosovo by a vote of 94.73%.</p>	<p><b>March</b> MSF forms a mobile emergency team to care for displaced persons in Drenica Valley.</p>

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<p><b>1998</b></p> <p><b>9 May</b> The European Union and the US prohibit investments in Serbia.</p> <p><b>June</b> First mention of a possible NATO intervention.</p> <p><b>11 August</b> UN Security Council calls for a ceasefire in Kosovo.</p> <p><b>23 August</b> The UN demands that Belgrade agree to a ceasefire, withdraw its forces, dialogue with the Kosovars, and facilitate the refugees' return.</p> <p><b>23 September</b> UN Security Council Resolution 1199 demanding that Serb forces retreat and that negotiations begin under threat of 'new measures'.</p> <p><b>24 September</b> NATO begins to prepare an aerial force.</p> <p><b>26 September</b> Human rights watch Press release: 'Eighteen Civilians Massacred in Kosovo Forest – Thirteen Others Believed</p>	<p><b>29 May</b> A Serb offensive starts in West Kosovo.</p> <p><b>June - July - August</b> KLA [UCK]/Serb forces fight in west Kosovo. The Kosovars flee en masse to the interior of the province, but also to neighboring countries.</p> <p><b>22 August</b> New offensive of the Serb forces in central and northern Kosovo.</p> <p><b>22 to 24 September</b> Serb forces launch a new offensive in central and northern Kosovo.</p>	<p><b>June</b> - Emergency team (ET) exploratory mission in Macedonia and Albania. - An MSF base is set up in Pec, west Kosovo.</p> <p><b>5 August</b> - Press release MSF Belgium: '<i>MSF Mobile Teams Report Alarming Medical Situation in Kosovo,</i>' - MSF teams are asked to collect witness statements from refugees'.</p> <p><b>28 August</b> Press conference MSF Belgium and public awareness campaign in Brussels: '<i>Kosovo Burns at Europe's Door.</i>'</p> <p><b>15 September</b> - Press release MSF Belgium: '<i>New Abuses in Kosovo – Populations in a Deadlock.</i>' - Press release MSF France: '<i>Mobile Teams Based in Pec Report Serious Deterioration in the Situation in Western Regions Over the Last Few Weeks.</i>'</p> <p><b>23 September to 5 October</b> The MSF mobile team provides aid to people in the Pristina-Pec-Prizren triangle and gather testimonies of exactions committed by the Serb army and police.</p>

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<p><b>1998</b> Executed,' (information on the Vatchac and Golubovac region provided by MSF teams there).</p> <p><b>6 October</b> Russia threatens to use its veto against any NATO intervention.</p> <p><b>12 October</b> NATO is about to issue an activation order to its troops, without having obtained UN agreement.</p> <p><b>13 October</b> Draft agreement on the deployment of an OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM), with aerial support after the withdrawal of Serb forces.</p> <p><b>19 October</b> First OSCE mission started in western Kosovo.</p> <p><b>23 October</b> UNHCR: the refugees can't return because villages destroyed and Serb forces still present.</p> <p><b>25 October</b> - UN Security Council resolution 1203 requiring immediate application of the agreements signed by the government of the Yugoslav Federation with NATO and the OSCE.</p>	<p><b>28 September</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Belgrade announces the end of military operations.</li> <li>- Military operations resume in southern Kosovo.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1 October</b> The programme managers officers and information officers from the Belgian and French sections draft an information strategy.</p> <p><b>7 to 15 October</b> Following rumors of possible danger the MSF team in Kosovo evacuates to Macedonia for several days.</p> <p><b>9 October</b> MSF Belgium Press conference in Brussels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Condemnation of the assassination of Dr Lec</li> <li>- Warning on the humanitarian situation in Kosovo.</li> <li>- <i>AFP: 'MSF Asks for a "Strong International Physical Presence in Kosovo.'</i></li> </ul> <p><b>13 October</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Dutch section suggests giving operational responsibility back to the ET (the international emergency team).</li> <li>- The MSF Belgium programme manager decides to further internationalise the Kosovo mission.</li> </ul> <p><b>23 October to mid November</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Job description for an international information officer for Kosovo under discussion.</li> <li>- MSF Press-line on Kosovo: situation and needs of displaced and returnees</li> </ul>

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<p><b>1998</b> - USA mediator discusses with Yugoslav Government a possible agreement on the future of Kosovo.</p> <p><b>27 October</b> After a substantial pullout of Serb forces, NATO abandons the immediate use of force but maintains its military forces ready to intervene.</p> <p><b>13 November</b> - NATO's plan for an 'Extraction Force' based in Macedonia to help OSCE if needed. - UNHCR: over 100,000 displaced in Kosovo.</p> <p><b>1 December</b> Positioning of 500 (out of an agreed 2000) OSCE verifiers.</p> <p><b>23 December</b> Physicians for Human Rights publishes</p>	<p><b>19 October</b> Witnesses report on bombing by the Serb military, who denies any offensive</p> <p><b>27 October</b> - Thousands of Kosovars return home. - The first OSCE 'verifiers' arrive in Kosovo.</p> <p><b>21 November</b> Belgrade proposes its own text: for a strengthening of ties between Kosovo and Serbia.</p> <p><b>December</b> KLA leaders meet regularly with William Walker, the American Representative on the KVM.</p> <p><b>13 December</b> Slobodan Milosevic: an intervention of the NATO extraction force in Yugoslavia would be considered an aggression.</p> <p><b>14 December</b> - 36 KLA-fighters killed by Yugoslav border guards. - Anti-Serb bombing in Pec killed six.</p>	<p><b>28 October</b> <i>Le Monde</i> (France): 'Kosovo: New Accounts of the Barbarity of the Serb Forces,' eyewitness accounts collected by MSF team on atrocities committed by the Serb army and police in the Pristina-Pec-Prizen triangle between 23 September and 5 October 1998.</p> <p><b>November</b> MSF teams note that Serb police harassment and intimidation of Albanians, notably members of the medical corps, continue.</p> <p><b>December</b> MSF France decides to send an exploratory mission to Montenegro.</p> <p><b>December</b> Discussions inside MSF about whether or not to make a public comment on the PHR report.</p>



International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<p><b>1998</b> 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><b>29 December</b> NATO reiterates that it is prepared to intervene in Kosovo.</p>	<p><b>24 December</b> Serb forces launch a substantial offensive against a KLA stronghold in northern Kosovo.</p>	
<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>18 January</b> Access to Kosovo denied to Louise Arbour, International Court for Yugoslavia Prosecutor, who came to investigate on the Racak massacre.</p> <p><b>20 January</b> <i>New York Times (USA): 'US to Push NATO to Issue ultimatum to Serb Leader.'</i></p>	<p><b>15 January</b> 45 people killed in the Albanian-speaking village of Racak, in the south of Kosovo, on the road between Pristina and Prizren.</p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> January</b> First MSF France exploratory mission in Montenegro.</p> <p><b>January</b> 'The Hidden War in Kosovo,' by Myriam Gaume and MSF is published.</p> <p><b>4 January</b> The Serb official responsible for health matters in Kosovo, states to the Serb and international press that the MSF teams in Kosovo are taking advantage of the hospitality afforded by Belgrade and engaging in arms traffic to the benefit of the Albanian terrorists'.</p> <p><b>16 January</b> An MSF team goes to Racak and discovers a decapitated corpse.</p> <p><b>17 January</b> A convoy of two trucks and two MSF cars bringing assistance to Racak and the surrounding villages is stopped by the UNHCR representative. .</p> <p><b>18 January</b> MSF assessment in Racak area.</p>

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>21 January</b> Investigations and analyses by different international press outlets regarding the Racak massacre: question raised of possible manipulation of the facts.</p> <p><b>6 to 23 February</b> Negotiations between representatives of the Serb Republic and the Kosovar Albanians to begin at Rambouillet (France), under the auspices of the Contact Group.</p> <p><b>19 February</b> NATO statement: - Ready to launch air strikes against Serbian targets if the Rambouillet talks fail. - If agreement, willingness to deploy a peacekeeping force.</p> <p><b>23 February</b> End of the negotiations in a framework proposal for the establishment of an autonomous province of Kosovo.</p>	<p><b>2 February</b> UNHCR: in the last month 45,000 people have fled their homes because of the fighting.</p> <p><b>23 February</b> UNHCR: 9,000 displaced in Kosovo since the fighting resumed.</p> <p><b>25 February</b> The Serbian government continues to mass troops on the border with Kosovo. Fighting between Serbian forces and Albanian rebels intensifies.</p> <p><b>3 March</b> - Serb bombing of southern Kosovo - Fighting between Serb police and armed Albanians kills 20.</p> <p><b>10 March</b> Milo Djukanovic, the president of Montenegro, claims that NATO air strikes would strengthen Slobodan Milosevic, whom he accuses of concentrating troops on the border between Kosovo and Montenegro.</p>	<p><b>29 January</b> MSF France programme manager announces to its Board they plan to set up an autonomous programme in Kosovo.</p> <p><b>3 February</b> MSF France programme manager expresses reservations over the line of communication maintain-ed by the coordination team in Kosovo.</p> <p><b>25 February</b> MSF Belgium/ MSF France director of operations/programme managers meeting: MSF France announces its decision to leave the joint mission in Kosovo and set up an autonomous mission. MSF Belgium disagrees.</p>

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>11 March</b> Richard Holbrooke, the United States Envoy in Belgrade, acknowledges his failure to persuade the Serbian president to accept the peace plan tabled at Rambouillet.</p> <p><b>19 March</b> Negotiations between Serbs and Albanians (resumed on 15 March in Rambouillet) adjourned due to the Serbs' failure to come to an agreement.</p> <p><b>21 March</b> Albania asks for NATO's help.</p> <p><b>22 March</b> - The Yugoslav government requests a meeting of the United Nations Security Council on Kosovo and the threat of NATO air strikes.</p> <p><b>24 March</b> - NATO announces the decision to launch air strikes against Serb targets. - The Russian foreign minister states his opposition to the strikes. - Greece strengthens surveillance of its borders with Macedonia. - ICRC asks for full respect of civilians. - UNHCR announces the evacuation of all personnel from United Nations humanitarian agencies.</p> <p><b>Night of 24 March</b> First NATO strikes on Yugoslav territory.</p>	<p><b>11 March</b> UNHCR: over a period of 2 years 400,000 Kosovars have fled their homes. 230,000 are displaced inside Kosovo.</p> <p><b>19 March</b> Start of the process of evacuating the OSCE's Kosovo Verification Mission and western embassy personnel in Belgrade.</p> <p><b>21 March</b> - Military pressure on Kosovar civilians is increasing. - 5 – 6,000 people fleeing from the Pec region arrive in Rozaje, Montenegro. - NGOs reduce their staff and consider evacuating from Kosovo.</p> <p><b>23 March</b> UNHCR: 201,500 Kosovars are refugees: 25,000 in Montenegro, 18,500 in Albania, 18,000 in Macedonia.</p> <p><b>24 March</b> - The government of Montenegro refuses to acknowledge the state of emergency decreed by Belgrade in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to be a base for NATO bombings. . - Organised deportation of Albanians by Serb forces starts. - Kosovars have difficulties to enter Albania because of landmines and Macedonia because of administrative constraints.</p>	<p><b>12 March</b> <i>Libération (France): 'Save Kosovo,'</i> appeal advocating a firm stand against Milosevic's policies in Kosovo and, for self-determination for the Albanian people, signed by Rony Brauman, former President of MSF's French section.</p> <p><b>20 March</b> <i>Libération (France): 'NATO, Humanitarian Aid Workers and Death,'</i> J.C Ruffin (former MSF France Vice-President).</p> <p><b>23 March</b> MSF Pec and Prizren teams withdraw to Pristina.</p> <p><b>24 March</b> - MSF Prizren and Pec teams evacuate to Macedonia: in addition to the ICRC staff, three MSF volunteers remain the only humanitarian presence in Kosovo.</p>

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>25 March</b> Breakdown of diplomatic relation between Belgrade and Washington, London, Bonn and Paris</p> <p><b>26 March</b> NATO bombing of military targets in Kosovo.</p> <p><b>27 March</b> NATO speaks of 'ethnic cleansing' in Kosovo.</p> <p><b>29 March</b> - Start of phase 2 of NATO strikes campaign. Ground intervention is excluded. - Russia negotiate with Belgrade and announces that NATO bombing killed 1,000.</p>	<p><b>25 March</b> In Skopje (Macedonia) 10,000 people demonstrated against NATO strikes.</p> <p><b>29 March</b> NATO, OSCE, Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro announced the arrival of tens of thousands of Kosovar refugees in countries bordering Kosovo.</p> <p><b>30 March</b> UNHCR: 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><b>26 March</b> - Launch of MSF exploratory missions: MSF Holland to Macedonia. MSF France to Montenegro (through Croatia without visas). - MSF Greece requests that MSF be prepared for refugee arrivals in Greece.</p> <p><b>29 March</b> - The last MSF volunteers leave Pristina for Belgrade. - MSF Belgium team from Fier (southern Albania) to Kukes (northern Albania) - The Operations Director of the MSF Switzerland/MSF Greece joint operational centre requests that MSF Greece be involved in MSF Operations in the Balkans.</p> <p><b>30 March</b> - Press release MSF Belgium: '<i>MSF Leaves Kosovo,</i>' - Press briefing MSF France: '<i>Médecins Sans Frontières Evacuated its Personnel from Kosovo Yesterday Evening and is Focusing its Efforts on the Province's Border Regions.</i>' - MSF Greece volunteers do an explo northern Greece in case of refugee arrivals.</p> <p><b>31 March</b> - Arrival of a new MSF Belgium team in Albania (7 people) + 2 MSF France supporting team. - MSF Greece insists that Greek volunteers be integrated into MSF teams. - During a teleconference, MSF directors of operations decided to launch the collection of refugee accounts.</p> <p><b>1st April</b> • Press release MSF Belgium: '<i>MSF Prepares to Receive Tens of Thousands of Refugees. Two Cargo Planes Leave for Albania and Macedonia.</i>' • Press briefing MSF France: '<i>MSF Reinforces its Presence with Kosovar Refugees.</i>' • <b>Libération (France):</b> '<i>The Situation is</i></p>

## International

## Kosovo/Balkans

## MSF

1999

### 2 April

Press release Sadako Ogata (UNHCR): 'UNHCR's Ogata Demands an End to Expulsions as Humanitarian Crisis Mounts.'

### Night of 2 April

NATO 's first bombing in the heart of Belgrade.

### 6 April

- Milosevic announces a unilateral ceasefire.
- Russia and China accuse NATO of targeting civilians.
- International Conference States/ UN /NGO: refugees welcomed in other states, humanitarian aid coordinated by UNHCR, NATO in charge of transportation of relief and refugees.
- the Clinton Administration sets up a media campaign to raise and manage contributions to the NGOs helping the Kosovar refugees

### 7 April

NATO states that Milosevic 'ceasefire' announcement is not enough.

### 2 April

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.

### 6 April

- Refugees in the Blace no-man's-land are forcibly evacuated by the Macedonian authorities to the camp at Stenkovec
- Brazda set up by NATO for UNHCR; as well as to Albania and Turkey.

### 7 April

- UNHCR: 460,000 Kosovars have fled their country.
- Macedonia allows the presence of a NATO force on its territory.

*Volatile; the Refugees are Not Limited to Fixed Areas,'* interview of J-H. Bradol, MSF France Director of Operations.

### 2 April

MSF Greece Board of Directors asks the IC that the Greek section be involved in MSF operations concerning the Kosovo crisis.

### 4 and 5 April

Press release MSF Holland, MSF UK, MSF USA, MSF France, MSF Spain (7 April): 'MSF Calls for Immediate and Unconditional Access to Kosovar Refugees in No-Man's-Land on Macedonian Border.'

### 6 April

Decisions of the MSF operations directors:

- Operational sharing: MSF Belgium in Albania, MSF Holland in Macedonia, MSF France in Montenegro.
- MSF's commitment to taking action, again, as quickly as possible in Kosovo.
- MSF does not finance Kosovo-related operations with NATO member countries funding.

### 7 April

- **Le Soir (Belgium):** 'On Western Ambivalence Regarding Acceptance of Refugees from Kosovo,' interview by Alex Parisel, MSF Belgium Executive Director.
- **Libération (France)/ El Mundo (Spain):** 'The European Union Will Have to Recognise Kosovo's Independence – The Case for Military Action,' signed by Rony Brauman, 'Honorary President of MSF'
- Collection of refugee accounts starts in Albania, Macedonia, and Montenegro.

### 8 April

- James Orbinsky (President MSF IC) to **AFP:** 'The Kosovar Refugees are in a State of Psychological Shock.'
- MSF Belgium and MSF Switzerland programme managers agree to integrate Greek volunteers in the Kosovo crisis operations.

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>9 April</b> Sadako Ogata (UNHCR) Press conference in Skopje (Macedonia)</p> <p><b>11 April</b> NATO 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><b>13 April</b> - UNHCR spokesman reacts sharply to MSF's allegations of failure. - FIDH's report: crimes against humanity in Kosovo.</p> <p><b>14 April</b> <i>El País</i>: 'More than 3,200 Civilians Assassinated since the End of March in Kosovo, According to a US Report'.</p>	<p><b>11 April</b> The Macedonian authorities claim control over the refugee camps in their territory.</p> <p><b>14 April</b> New influx of refugees in Montenegro and in Macedonia.</p>	<p><b>9 April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press release MSF Belgium/Holland/France/USA: '<i>Médecins Sans Frontières Asks that UNHCR Carry Out its Mandate with the Refugees.</i>'</li> <li>• MSF USA letter to InterAction's President expresses disagreement with InterAction joining the Federal Kosovo Refugee Fund.</li> </ul> <p><b>10 April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Scotsman (UK)</i>: '<i>War in Europe – Medical Charity Accuses United Nations Official of Failing Refugees - Organisation says minimum standards ignored for 600,000.</i>'</li> <li>• <i>The New York Times (USA)</i>: '<i>With NATO in Charge, Relief Looks Less Neutral,</i>' MSF USA Executive Director quoted.</li> <li>• MSF Holland takes over from NATO in Stenkovec- Brazda camp.</li> </ul> <p><b>11 April</b> Press release MSF Tirana: '<i>UN Agencies Must Lead Humanitarian Aid Efforts – Military Support for Humanitarian Aid Risks Being Seen as Support for Military Action.</i>'</p> <p><b>12 April</b> Press release MSF France, MSF UK: '<i>New Influx of Kosovar Refugees Arrive in Montenegro - Thousands Left Without Shelter.</i>'</p> <p><b>13 April</b> Press conference MSF Tirana: - Plight of the populations still trapped inside Kosovo - Misunderstanding on MSF having information about NATO troops in Kosovo. - First leaks of refugees accounts. Press release: '<i>Silence Over One Million – MSF Demands an Immediate Solution to the Security of Civilians in Kosovo.</i>' MSF Belgium announces that it does not participate in the construction of 'NATO' camps. <i>The New York Times (USA)</i>: '<i>In Kosovo, Time for All to Save Face; Aid Groups Do Best,</i>' 'Letter to the Editor-in-Chief' from the MSF USA Executive Director.</p> <p><b>14 April</b> Letter from MSF USA to President of InterAction: 'MSF USA withdraws from the Disaster Response Committee.'</p>

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>15 April</b> The Greek government starts negotiating with the government of the Yugoslav Federation and with NATO to set up a humanitarian corridor for Greek NGOs.</p> <p><b>17 April</b> Deployment of NATO 'Joint Guard' operation in Albania.</p> <p><b>18 April</b> NATO Secretary-General statement about the possibility of a land intervention in Kosovo.</p>	<p><b>16 April</b> Departure of the last NATO troops from the camps in Macedonia: worried refugees fear the brutal methods used by the Macedonian police.</p>	<p><b>15 April</b> MSF's address to the Council of Europe on the humanitarian situation in the Balkans.</p> <p><b>16 April</b> - Press release MSF France, MSF UK: <i>'MSF Calls for Protection for Kosovar Refugees in North-eastern Montenegro'</i> - <b>The Independent (UK):</b> <i>'Investigators Told of 15 Mass Graves – War Crimes,'</i> quote Christopher Stokes, Head of Mission MSF Belgium in Albania.</p> <p><b>19 or 20 April</b> The Operations Director for the Greek-Swiss Common Operational Centre (COC) refuses to assume the operational responsibility of the 'observer mission' in Kosovo proposed by the president of MSF Greece.</p> <p><b>20 April</b> - Press conference MSF Belgium in Brussels: <i>'Médecins Sans Frontières and Balkanactie Launch "Family to Family" and a Food Drive Among the Belgian Public.'</i> - The director of operations for the Greek-Swiss Common Operational Centre (COC) informs the president of MSF Greece of his decision to give up his responsibilities as director of operations for MSF Greece.</p> <p><b>21 April</b> - Press Conference MSF France in Podgorica (Montenegro). - The executive director of the Swiss section proposes launching an international exploratory mission in Serbia and Kosovo to his counterparts in the other sections</p> <p><b>22 April</b> - The executive director of MSF Norway announces to his colleagues that his section will return the funding granted for operations related to the Kosovo</p>

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>23 April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NATO imposes an oil embargo on Yugoslavia.</li> <li>- OSCE 's report revealing the scope of atrocities committed by the Serbian armed forces and paramilitary militias in Kosovo</li> </ul> <p><b>25 April</b></p> <p>The Greek Prime Minister announces that Greece will not participate in a land intervention.</p>	<p><b>22 April</b></p> <p>Montenegro president publicly opposes Belgrade.</p> <p><b>25 April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vuk Draskovic, Yugoslav Vice Prime Minister states he will approve a UN force in Kosovo.</li> <li>- A humanitarian aid convoy organised under the auspices of the Greek government enters Serbia.</li> </ul> <p><b>28 April</b></p> <p>Vuk Draskovic, Yugoslav Vice - Prime Minister is dismissed.</p>	<p>crisis to the Norwegian government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The executive directors of the operational sections decide to launch an international exploratory mission in Kosovo and Serbia, under MSF Switzerland responsibility and including MSF Greece volunteers.</li> <li>- The executive director of MSF Switzerland informs the President of MSF Greece of this decision (according to MSF CH ED).</li> </ul> <p><b>23 April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>El Mundo (Spain): 'There is no Humanitarian War,'</i> Eric Stobbaerts, MSF Spain Executive Director</li> <li>- Letter from MSF Switzerland/MSF Greece Director of Operations to MSF Greek and Swiss sections Presidents: 'Resignation as Operations Director for Athens.'</li> </ul> <p><b>24 April</b></p> <p>Press release, MSF Belgium: <i>'50,000 Children to be Vaccinated in Northern Albania,'</i></p> <p><b>26 April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Press release MSF Belgium: <i>'More than 20,000 Food Parcels for Kosovar Families and Their Albanian Host Families.'</i></li> <li>- Press release MSF Norway: <i>'MSF Independent of NATO Funds in the Balkans – Do Not Want Support From the Warring Parties.'</i></li> <li>- MSF Greece president begins telephone discussions with the director of the Pristina hospital regarding medical aid the Greek section could provide.</li> </ul> <p><b>27 April</b></p> <p>First version of the document: <i>'Kosovo, History of a Deportation,'</i> circulated for approval within the MSF movement.</p> <p><b>28 April</b></p> <p>The executive directors decide to release the document: <i>'Kosovo, History of a Deportation,'</i> to the press at the end of the week.</p>



## International

## Kosovo/Balkans

## MSF

**1999**

### 30 April

UNHCR: 35,000 Kosovars have been deported:

- 373,400 in Albania,
- 160,700 in Macedonia,
- 62,400 in Montenegro,
- 50,000 in Serbia,
- 15,000 in Bosnia,
- 125,000 in other countries

### Early May

The residents of Prizren are being forced to stay while it is bombed.

- The camp of Kukes (Albania) becomes overcrowded.

### 4 May

Serbia accuses NATO of bombing an MDM Greece convoy.

### 6 May

G8 adopts seven general principles for solution of the conflict, including withdrawal of Serb forces from Kosovo, deployment of an international force, and repatriation of the refugees

### 29 April

Distribution of the report 'Kosovo, History of a Deportation' to the entire MSF network.

### 30 April

- The report: '*Kosovo, History of a Deportation*,' is sent out to the press.
- Press release, all MSF sections: '*Doctors Without Borders (MSF) Issues Report on Deportation of Albanian Population of Kosovo*.'
- **Libération (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 NATO draws journalists' attention to the MSF report.

### 1 May

- **The Guardian (UK)** '*Charity Lists Reports of Atrocities*.'

### 4 May

The executive director of the Swiss section rejects the Greek section's unilateral appointment of a new operations director.

### 5 May

- MSF directors of operations' decisions:
- Criteria for the MSF International exploratory mission in Kosovo and Serbia
- Carry on collecting refugee accounts.
- Email from the President of MSF IC to the President of MSF Greece:
- Refuses to support MSF Greece exploratory mission project
- Carrying out an exploratory mission in Kosovo would expose the Greek section to the harshest sanctions, including the possibility of expulsion from the movement.

### 6 May

- MSF Holland HoM in Macedonia alerts that an MSF Greece team is ready to leave from Skopje, to Pristina and Belgrade
- Phone calls from IC members to the president of MSF Greece requesting he puts a halt to the exploratory mission are in vain.

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>7 May</b> NATO raid strikes the center of Nis (Serbia).</p> <p><b>8 May</b> 3 NATO missiles fall on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.</p> <p><b>10 May</b> <i>Newsweek (USA)</i> David Rieff: '[...] <i>There are No Humanitarian Solutions to Humanitarian Problems.</i>'</p> <p><b>13 May</b> Petition from the Balkan Action Council (USA): '<i>Only Ground Troops Will End Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo,</i>'</p>	<p><b>7 May</b> The Yugoslav government agrees to allow a UN humanitarian assessment mission on its soil.</p> <p><b>8 May</b> UNHCR: since 25 March 1999, half of the population of Kosovo has been driven from the province, and launched an appeal for funding.</p> <p><b>10 May</b> The Yugoslav government announces the start of withdrawal of its troops from Kosovo. However, NATO air strikes continue.</p> <p><b>11 May</b> UNHCR begins to transfer people from the camps in Macedonia and northern Albania to southern Albania.</p> <p><b>15 May</b> Refugees report offensives by Serb forces in north-western Kosovo.</p>	<p><b>7 May</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The MSF Greece exploratory team enters Kosovo</li> <li>- Most MSF executives express disagreement with MSF Greece's action.</li> <li>- The MSF International secretary general asks the communications officers to keep a 'low profile' on the issue.</li> </ul> <p><b>12 May:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Le Monde (France): 'Ethnic Purification in Kosovo – Seven Weeks of Mass Exodus in Kosovo.'</i></li> <li>- <i>Le Monde (France) Régis Debray: 'Letter from a Traveler to the President of the Republic,'</i> MSF Greece doctors mentioned as witnesses.</li> </ul> <p><b>14 May</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Press release MSF Spain: '<i>Médecins Sans Frontières Rejects Government Funds for the Balkan Crisis,</i>'</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>15 May</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Libération (France): 'Debray Sees What he Believes,'</i> Rony Brauman, Former president of MSF,</li> <li>- IC envoys start investigations on MSF Switzerland /Greece operational centre breakdown and unilateral Exploratory mission in Kosovo.</li> </ul>

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>18 May</b> OXFAM criticises NATO and demands that UNHCR be strengthened in its role as emergency aid coordinator. Its message is widely reported by media in the UK.</p> <p><b>20 May</b> - UNHCR plan for returning refugees to Kosovo made public. - UN Secretary General's visit to Albania.</p> <p><b>21 May</b> Press release MDM: 'MDM Condemns Restrictions on Humanitarian Work in Montenegro.'</p> <p><b>25 May</b> UN report on numerous rapes committed by Serbian forces against Kosovar women.</p>	<p><b>16 May</b> Montenegro's president supports the G8 decisions but asks for a halt to NATO strikes.</p> <p><b>17 May</b> Severe crackdown on protests by the families of Serbian soldiers in southern Serbia. In response, some local soldiers stationed in Kosovo desert.</p> <p><b>24 May</b> - 1000 Kosovar men released from the prison of Mitrovica describe the abuse they have been subjected to. - UNHCR opposes the Macedonian authorities' decision to transfer Kosovar refugees from Macedonia to Albania in the middle of the night.</p>	<p><b>17 May</b> - MSF Greece President's open letter to IC members. - Newsweek (USA): 'Letter to the Editor,' MSF USA: '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><b>18 May</b> MSF Switzerland informs MSF Greece that it is ending their collaboration.</p> <p><b>20 May</b> - MSF disseminates an Epidemiological study conducted by Epicentre with Kosovar refugees hosted by families in Albania and a Press release: '<i>Refugees in Albania: Refugees Living with Albanian Families Neglected by International Aid Agencies According to a Survey by Médecins Sans Frontières.</i>' - Press release MSF Kukes, MSF Skopje: '<i>MSF Calls on Governments to Support Effective and Principled UN Leadership over Kosovo Refugee Relief Effort and Stresses the Need for Registration and Protection.</i>'</p> <p><b>21 to 27 May</b> 7 medical staff leave MSF programme in Albania to join the UCK.</p>

## International

### 27 May

Slobodan Milosevic is charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia [ICTY].

### 28 May

- The Yugoslav presidency accepts the 'principles' laid out by the G8.
- NATO maintains its air strikes.
- The Russian and Finnish emissaries continue to negotiate with Milosevic
- 3 members of Care [NGO] are found guilty of espionage and given severe sentences by a Yugoslav military tribunal.
- UNHCR announces a new fundraising campaign to finance assistance for the return of the refugees.

### 31 May

*El Mundo* publishes details of a NATO report, which admits that the Alliance is losing the information war in Kosovo and recommends using journalists and NGOs to improve its propaganda.

### 2 June

- MDM and FIDH report: the Kosovo Albanians have been subjected to a 'systematic process of deportation.'
- UN commissioner 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.

### 3 June

Yugoslav Government agreement on Russia/Western countries Peace Plan.

## Kosovo/Balkans

### 27 May

UNHCR:

- 800,000 Kosovars have fled their province.
- Camps in Macedonia overcrowded again.

## MSF

### 1<sup>st</sup> June

#### *La Libre Belgique (Belgium):*

*'Humanitarian - Military Organisations: A Dangerous Alliance.'* Alex Parisel, MSF Belgium Executive director quoted : "Our humanitarian agenda differs from that of NATO members."

### 3 June

'Fact Finding Mission Regarding the MSF Greece Mission to the FRY and the Breakdown of the MSF Greek-Swiss Common Operational Centre Agreement,' finalised by the MSF IC envoys.

### 4 June

Press release MSF Tirana -Skopje, MSF Spain, MSF Holland: 'Kosovo: the Return of the Refugees Should Take Place Without Political or Military Interference – Médecins Sans Frontières Calls for a Clear

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>8 June</b> The foreign ministers of the G8 countries adopt a peace plan that includes an UN-led international peacekeeping force.</p> <p><b>9 June</b> NATO suspends air strikes as Serbian forces begin their withdrawal from Kosovo.</p> <p><b>10 June</b> UN Security Council resolution 1244 authorises the immediate deployment of KFOR in Kosovo.</p>	<p><b>10 June</b> First Kosovar returnees enter Kosovo.</p> <p><b>Night of 11 June</b> Several hundred Russian troops began arriving in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo.</p> <p><b>12 June</b> KFOR British and French troops enter Kosovo.</p> <p><b>15 June</b> As Kosovars return, acts of vengeance against the minority Serb and Tzigane populations start.</p> <p><b>17 June</b> Over 90 mass-grave sites are found in Kosovo.</p>	<p>Separation of Military and Humanitarian Action.'</p> <p><b>12 June</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MSF teams enter Pristina several hours before the arrival of KFOR troops.</li> <li>- MSF IC meeting:</li> <li>- MSF Greece refuses to discuss their exploratory mission.</li> <li>- Resolution: 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.</li> <li>- Discussion about principles, objectives and strategy of MSF return to Kosovo.</li> </ul> <p><b>12 and 13 June</b> UNHCR/MSF/MDM/IMC joint exploratory mission in Kosovo.</p> <p><b>15 June</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Press release MSF Belgium: <i>'Médecins Sans Frontières Sends 90 Tonnes of Aid to Kosovo.'</i></li> <li>- Press release MSF France: <i>'Médecins Sans Frontières, Present in Two Regions of Kosovo: 140 Tonnes of Emergency Equipment Ready to Leave.'</i></li> </ul> <p><b>18 June</b> MSF Belgium closes its camp in Kukes (security reasons).</p>

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>20 June</b> NATO announces the formal cessation of bombing over the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.</p> <p><b>21 June</b> Agreement between KLA and KFOR on KLA immediate demilitarisation and disarmament process within 3 months.</p>	<p><b>20 June</b> Serb forces finally withdraw from Kosovo.</p> <p><b>2 July</b> Bernard Kouchner (one of the founders of Médecins Sans Frontières ) is named 'High Representative of the United Nations for Kosovo'.</p>	<p><b>23 June</b> Press release, MSF France: '30 Volunteers from Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) are Working in Kosovo.'</p> <p><b>24 June</b> Press release, MSF Spain: 'Antipersonnel Mines Represent a Grave Danger for the Civilian Population.'</p> <p><b>28 June</b> Press release, MSF Skopje, Macedonia: '<i>Médecins Sans Frontières Provides Medical Aid to the First Official UNHCR Refugee Convoy to Kosovo.</i>'</p> <p><b>14 July</b> Dilemma posed by dead bodies in wells; public health constraints/the need to preserve evidence so justice can be done; MSF Kosovo HOM chose not to speak out but to push on and collaborate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the ex-Yugoslavia (ICTY).</p> <p><b>16 July</b> Press release, MSF France: '50 Volunteers from Médecins Sans Frontières are Working in Kosovo.'</p> <p><b>5 August</b> - Letter from MSF IC President to MSF Greece President and Executive Director demanding that the former MSF Greece ceases all use of the MSF logo and the name 'MSF/ Médecins sans Frontières'.</p> <p><b>27 August</b> MSF France's Board of Directors debate on MSF's role in denouncing acts of vengeance against the minority Serb and Tzigane populations: decision not to speak out.</p>

**International****Kosovo/Balkans****MSF****1999****30 August**

UNHCR/OSCE report: 180,000 - 200,000 Serbs have left Kosovo since the withdrawal of Serb troops.

**9 -10 September**

KFOR intervention between groups of Serbs and Albanians who clashed violently (150 wounded) in Mitrovica.

**9 September**

Press release MSF France: 'Press Update – Kosovo "Objective: 1,000 Roofs for Winter," Médecins Sans Frontières Launches its Programme of House Repair in the Region of Pec.'

**16 September**

The Serbian nationalist press associates the High Representative of the United Nations for Kosovo with MSF and compares MSF with the Ku Klux Klan.

**15 October**

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to MSF.

**17 October**

*Le Monde (France)*: '[...] MSF Greece was expelled from the movement [...].'

**October**

Press release MSF Greece: 'MSF victim of the Conflict in Kosovo.'

**13 November**

*Le Temps (Switzerland)*: 'Médecins Sans Frontières Expels Its Greek Section, which was Seen as Too Pro-Serb.'

**27-28 November**

MSF IC:

- Unanimously adopts a resolution expelling MSF Greece from the movement for not having complied with decisions taken at the meeting on 12 June 1999.
- Decides to maintain contacts with Greek society.

**4 December**

*The Financial Times (UK)*: 'Doctors Operating in a Divided House.'

**10 December**

- MSF officially receives the Nobel peace prize in Oslo.
- The Greek section holds a press conference in Oslo.

**20 December**

The Yugoslav minister of information publicly describes MSF as an 'espionage organisation'.

International	Kosovo/Balkans	MSF
<b>1999</b>		<p><b>26 January</b> The International Council of MSF votes to formalise the expulsion of the Greek section.</p>
<p><b>2000 11 February</b> A study commissioned by UNHCR by independent experts demonstrates UNHCR's inadequate response to the influx of Kosovar refugees and suggest that this inadequacy was, to a great extent, due to its being sidelined by NATO and western governments.</p>		<p><b>3 March</b> Rony Brauman, (Foundation MSF France) refuses to speak at a NATO seminar, and states to La Tribune de Genève (Switzerland): "To mix war and humanitarian action is simply mystification."</p> <p><b>20 May</b> MSF France President's annual : the 2000, Annual General Meeting of MSF France: "the overall image given by MSF [in the Kosovo crisis] was rather dubious in terms of independence and impartiality."</p>
<b>2003</b>		<p><b>21 to 23 November</b> IC meeting: A process of reintegration of MSF Greece is opened, under the operational responsibility of MSF Spain.</p>
<b>2005</b>		<p><b>9 February</b> Press release MSF International/MSF Greece: 'MSF Greece Reintegrated into the MSF International Movement.'</p>