## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS APRIL 1994 - 1997

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	Rwanda	MSF
<b>1994</b> APRIL 1994		<b>6 APRIL 1994</b> Genocide launched against Rwandan Tutsi; Rwandan Hutu opposed to the genocide also killed.	
MAY 1994	1 MAY 1994  Human Rights Watch publishes report on Rwandan genocide. One section addresses "abuses by the Rwandan Patriotic Front" (RPF).  23 MAY 1994  Amnesty International publishes report on the genocide. One section addresses "deliberate and arbitrary murders carried out by the RPF and its supporters".		MAY 1994  MSF Belgium initiates programme in Byumba (RPF zone in northeastern Rwanda) – team witnesses RPF exerting heavy pressure on the population.
JUNE 1994			3 JUNE 1994 MSFBelgium opensprogramme in Nyamata (Bugesera).  6 JUNE 1994 MSF Holland initiates programme based in Kigali's King Faisal Hospital to treat prisoners.  17 JUNE 1994 MSF France press conference: "You can't stop genocide with doctors." Press packet includes statements from Burundian refugees in Rwanda about abuses committed by RPF soldiers.
	18 JUNE 1994 France announces its intention to address the <u>UN</u> <u>Security Council</u> regarding a "targeted military intervention for humanitarian ends in Rwanda, codenamed 'Operation Turquoise,' with or without the support of other countries."		

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JUNE 1994	<b>22 JUNE 1994</b> <u>Security Council Resolution 929</u> authorises Operation Turquoise on the basis of Chapter 7 of the <u>UN Charter</u> : "protection of civilian populations and humanitarian aid".		
		23 JUNE-EARLY JULY 1994 Under precarious conditions, RPF carries out forced transfer of 50,000-100,000 residents of the Gitarama-Butare region to the Bugesera region.	23 JUNE-EARLY JULY 1994  MSF asked to provide medical assistance during population transfer but RPF hinders activities – MSF Belgium  Communications Director is there with the team.  24 JUNE 1994
			MSF Belgium press release: '35,000 Civilians Evacuated After Tension Increases South of Gitarama.'  28 JUNE 1994  MSF Belgium begins work with displaced people at
			Rilima Hospital.
JULY 1994			MSF Belgium press release: 'Rwanda: Massive Population Displacement to Bugesera.'
	3 JULY 1994 <u>UN</u> authorises <u>France</u> to establish "safe humanitarian zone" in southwestern Rwanda (Cyangugu, Gikongoro, Kibuye).		
		4 JULY 1994  RPF takes Kigali and Butare – Hutu begin massive exodus, heading to northwestern Rwanda (Ruhengeri, Gisenyi), where interim government is located.	4-10 JULY 1994 MSF Belgium, France and Holland conduct evaluation mission in the <i>Zone Turquoise</i> , around Gikongoro: MSF France and Holland agree to joint programme; MSF Holland later withdraws.
		6 JULY 1994 Rwandan national unity government formed.	

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JULY 1994			<b>7 JULY 1994</b> <u>Sitrep</u> from <u>MSF Belgium</u> Coordinator: <u>RPF</u> neglects the population and manipulates humanitarian organisations.
			9 JULY 1994 'Report on RPF incidents' delivered to MSF Belgium headquarters: MSF Belgium Coordinator summarises RPF abuses.
			11 JULY 1994  Article by MSF Belgium Communications Director in Le Soir opposes Operation Turquoise.
			12 JULY 1994  MSF France launches programme in southwestern Rwanda ( <i>Zone Turquoise</i> ).
		14 JULY 1994  RPF takes Ruhengeri. Interim Rwandan government flees to Zone Turquoise.	
		<b>14-17 JULY 1994</b> 500,000-800,000 Rwandans settle near Goma, Zaire.	
			19 JULY 1994  MSF Belgium press conference and press release: 'MSF  Belgium Demands the Refugees "Return to Rwanda"  - MSF Holland takes the same position.'
		<b>22 JULY 1994</b> Rwandan government calls on refugees to return: "Those who did not participate in the massacres have nothing to fear."	

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JULY 1994			29 AND 30 JULY 1994  RPA lays siege to Rilima Hospital seeking to arrest Hutu staff (former ICRC) – in Kampala, MSF Belgium Coordinator notifies Dutch Foreign Minister about RPF abuses.
AUGUST 1994		5 AUGUST 1994 Operation Turquoise spokesperson reports Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) abuses against displaced people. 6 AUGUST 1994 Rwandan Defence Minister denies statements by	Prisoners disappear from MSF Holland programme at King Faisal Hospital in Kigali.  4 AUGUST 1994  MSF press conference in Goma: President of MSF France says he's afraid that people repatriating to Rwanda are being abused but has no proof; states the refugees are too weak and the risks too great for them to return to Rwanda.
	11 AUGUST 1994 <u>UN Security Council</u> supports "rapid" return of refugees and displaced people to Rwanda – <u>UNHCR</u> cancels mass return scheduled for 16 August.	Operation Turquoise spokesperson.	10 AUGUST 1994  MSF Belgium press conference update on operations and finances, "call for human rights monitoring in Rwanda," – decision of International Board of Directors to lobby for more human rights observers in Rwanda and to send MSF volunteers to gather information on human rights violations in Rwanda, Zaire and Tanzania.  11 AUGUST 1994  Article by MSF Belgium President appears in Le Soir (Belgium): appeal to human rights organisations.

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AUGUST 1994		<b>13 AUGUST 1994</b> Hutu flee <i>Zone Turquoise</i> for Bukavu following announcement that French troops will leave <i>Zone Turquoise</i> .	
	17 AUGUST 1994 Statements by Burundian refugees victimised by RPF abuses published in <i>Le Monde</i> (France).		
			19 AUGUST 1994  MSF Belgium and MSF France press releases: 'French Troops Depart Rwanda, Leaving Chaos in Their Wake.'
			20 AUGUST-5 SEPTEMBER 1994  MSF's Legal Advisor in Rwanda – report on the catastrophic state of the legal system.
		<b>21 AUGUST 1994</b> Last French soldiers leave the <i>Zone Turquoise</i> .	
		<b>22 AUGUST 1994</b> Rwandan Interior Minister admits in the press that acts of revenge and disappearances are continuing.	
SEPTEMBER 1994		<b>5 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> <a href="#">RPF</a> begins deploying 2,000 troops in cities of Gikongoro, Kibuye and Cyangugu.	

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SEPTEMBER 1994	7 SEPTEMBER 1994 Publication of <u>Human Rights Watch</u> report on serious human rights violations by <u>RPF</u> troops during June and July 1994. Humanitarian organisations tell the newspaper <i>Le Monde</i> that these actions "probably" occurred but prefer to remain silent to protect their programmes in Rwanda – first descriptions of prison conditions in international press.		<b>7 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> ICRC transfers first five prisoners from Gitarama prison to the Kabgayi hospital where MSF France is working.
	12 SEPTEMBER 1994 In Brussels, Faustin Twagiramungu, former Rwandan Prime Minister, says that conditions required for refugees to return to Rwanda are "far from being satisfied".		
	<b>16-17 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> According to <u>UNAMIR</u> , there are more than two million internally displaced people inside Rwanda.		
	23 SEPTEMBER 1994 <u>UNHCR</u> announces it is not encouraging Rwandan refugees to return home "based on reports of violence being carried out there" (Gersony report, not distributed) – <u>UN Secretary-General</u> requests further investigation.		
	24 SEPTEMBER 1994 <u>UNAMIR</u> denies having information regarding killings committed by <u>APR</u> soldiers.	24 SEPTEMBER 1994 <u>UNAMIR</u> -supervised <u>Operation Homeward</u> begins repatriation of internally displaced people from Gikongoro to their communes.	
	27 SEPTEMBER 1994  UN Secretary-General calls for halt to publication of information regarding risks facing refugees returning to Rwanda.		

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OCTOBER 1994	3 OCTOBER 1994  UN Security Council adopts report from the UN Commission establishing that genocide was committed against Rwandan Tutsi – discussion in conjunction with the General Assembly on information in the Gersony report regarding RPF massacres.		FORTH MSF Belgium Coordinator in Rwanda delivers detailed report on RPF abuses he witnessed in Byumba and Bugesera between May and September 1994 to the Dutch Foreign Minister.
		6 OCTOBER 1994 Rwandan authorities take total control of the former 'safe humanitarian zone' in southwestern Rwanda. When questioned by <u>UN Commission</u> on possible <u>RPF</u> massacres, Rwandan authorities refer to individual, uncontrolled acts of revenge. Rwandan <u>President</u> calls for <u>international tribunal</u> to try crimes against humanity.	
	<b>24 OCTOBER 1994</b> <u>UNHCR</u> , Zaire and Rwanda sign <u>agreement</u> on refugee repatriation.		$\label{eq:mid-october 1994} \begin{split} & \underline{\text{Articles}} \text{ in the French press by } \underline{\text{MSF}} \text{ members criticise} \\ & \underline{\text{UN}'s lack of resolution, without mention of } \underline{\text{RPF}} \\ & \text{violence.} \end{split}$
	28 OCTOBER 1994 Rwandan government calls for limiting jurisdiction of an <u>international tribunal</u> on genocide and war crimes to acts prior to the <u>RPF</u> 's coming to power in July, thus excluding war crimes committed subsequently by the new regime.		28 OCTOBER 1994 Information on abuses by the new Rwandan regime reported to MSF France Board of Directors by an administrator returned from Rwanda; discussion of MSF's dilemma – "trapped in the framework of genocide".
NOVEMBER 1994	8 NOVEMBER 1994  UN Security Council passes Resolution 955 creating international criminal tribunal for Rwanda.		
		10 AND 11 NOVEMBER 1994  RPA soldiers open fire on the Musange refugee camp (north of Gikongoro), leaving 14 dead and seven wounded.	<b>10 NOVEMBER 1994</b> Distribution of MSF Holland report, 'Breaking the Cycle,' describing the situation in Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire and Tanzania.

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NOVEMBER 1994			14 NOVEMBER 1994  MSF International, MSF US and MSF Great Britain press release: 'MSF withdraws from Rwandan refugee camps in Bukavu, south of Kivu (Zaire).'  6 DECEMBER 1994  RPA carries out forced closure of Kaduha displaced people's camp (Gikongoro region) in full view of MSF France team – displaced people flee to Kibeho camp.
DECEMBER 1994	9 DECEMBER 1994 UN asks Rwandan government to suspend camp closure operations and authorise first-aid stations.	9 DECEMBER 1994 The Gikongoro prefect announces that Rukondo, Cyanika and Kibeho camps to be closed.  13 AND 14 DECEMBER 1994 RPA and UNAMIR undertake 'Operation Hope' (leaders arrested and weapons confiscated) in Kibeho and Ndago camps.  18 DECEMBER 1994 Rwandan government announces it will give up plan to close camps in the former "safe humanitarian zone".  30 DECEMBER 1994 Rwandan government suspends ACF activities throughout Rwanda.	MSF France conducts survey in the camps with alarming results – returning refugees face arrest, torture, abuse and killings.  MID-DECEMBER 1994  MSF Belgium wants to take over medical care from ICRC in Kigali and Butare prisons; debates the issue with MSF France.
<b>1995</b> JANUARY 1995			6 AND 7 JANUARY 1995  MSF France doctor conducts forensic examination after RPA attacks Busanze camp.  30 JANUARY-7 FEBRUARY 1995  MSF legal advisor in Rwanda – MSF France team in Gitarama decides to draft a report with data on hospitalised prisoners and mortality rates in prison. Collaboration with ICRC and MSF Belgium.

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MARCH 1995			9 MARCH 1995 Debate among MSF operational sections regarding repatriation of refugees and displaced people to Rwandan communes: MSF Belgium supports informing refugees; MSF France opposes encouraging repatriation.
APRIL 1995		FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 1995 Displaced people driven by the RPA from the region's small camps gather in Kibeho.  7 APRIL 1995 Ceremonies in commemoration of the beginning of the genocide.	EARLY APRIL 1995  Report on Gitarama prisoners' state of health presented to Rwandan authorities.
			11 APRIL 1995  MSF operational sections' programme managers decide to create a position for international information officer in Rwanda.  13 APRIL 1995  MSF France team finds Rwamiko camp ransacked – 5,000 displaced people flee to Kibeho.
		14 APRIL 1995 RPA reinforces troops around Kibeho camp.	14 APRIL 1995  MSF France team asked UNAMIR for a detachment of soldiers to protect the Kibeho hospital.  15 APRIL 1995  MSF team learns that RPA has ordered that camp is no longer to receive food deliveries.

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APRIL 1995			18 APRIL 1995  MSF team discovers that <u>Kibeho</u> camp has been ransacked, and that displaced people have gathered around <u>UNAMIR</u> buildings, school and hospital – MSF team treats wounded in the hospital – <u>MSF France Coordinator in Rwanda</u> notifies press in Kigali.
		<b>19 APRIL 1995</b> 2,500 <u>RPA</u> soldiers fire on crowd gathered near the Kibeho hospital – RPA cuts off water delivery system.	19 APRIL 1995 Humanitarian organisations forbidden to provide aid to thousands of people crammed into small outside area in precarious conditions – MSF and OXFAM logisticians install several water tanks.
		<b>20 APRIL 1995</b> Displaced people gather in an even smaller area – denied access to water tanks installed by <u>MSF</u> and <u>OXFAM</u> .	20 APRIL 1995  MSF France team delayed at checkpoint, RPA hampers team's work – 18:00: on leaving the camp, the team sees soldiers arrive – radio operator hears gunfire.  MSF Belgium, MSF France, MSF US and MSF International press release: 'Médecins Sans Frontières Calls for Displaced People's Camps in Rwanda to be Maintained Temporarily.'
			21 APRIL 1995 Following shooting, MSF team discovers 21 bodies and tries, unsuccessfully, to alert authorities to risks of epidemic – MSF France press release: 'Nearly 200,000 People Gathered Around Displaced People's Camps in Southwest Rwanda Prepare to Spend their Fifth Day in the Open' – MSF France delivers this message in a letter to the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs and UNHCR.
		<b>22 APRIL 1995</b> RPA fires into crowd of displaced people with heavy weapons.	22 APRIL 1995  RPA refuses MSF International team entry to Kibeho hospital – team walks across thousands of corpses, tries to treat wounded, present for several rounds of firing and evacuated by UNAMIR.

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APRIL 1995	23 APRIL 1995  UNAMIR spokesperson announces to the press that RPA has killed several thousand displaced people – Zambian UNAMIR Commander accuses RPA of firing heavy weapons – he is evacuated immediately after receiving death threats.	23 APRIL 1995 Survivors leave the massacre site under RPA threat - 2,000 displaced people still entrenched in central buildings - RPA issues ultimatum before bombing - Rwandan Justice Minister visits to calm RPA - Defence Minister and Rwanda President visit, latter says 300 victims were crushed during riot - in Brussels, Rwandan Prime Minister regrets heavy loss of life and announces investigation into the responsibility of Rwandan soldiers.	MSF press release: 'Thousands of Victims in Kibeho: MSF Denounces Killings.'  23 APRIL 1995  Kibeho: Thousands of corpses disappear – MSF team forbidden access to the hospital, treats wounded in UNAMIR barracks, evacuates infants from the hospital and buries dead in a ditch.  RPA hinders evacuation of wounded to Butare.  Butare: MSF and ICRC teams prevented from working and from transferring wounded to hospitals.  MSF Belgium press release: 'Forced March for Kibeho's 100,000 Displaced People: Tens of Thousands of People Collapse En Route. MSF Angered by UNAMIR's Inability to Protect Civilians,'  MSF USA press release: "Five to Eight Thousand Victims of Massacres in Kibeho Camp, and Many Collapse of
	24 APRIL 1995  Australian military spokesperson announces that UNAMIR counted 4,000 bodies the morning after the Kibeho massacre. Three hours later, the UNAMIR Commander in Kigali puts the number at 2,000 – announcement that direct aid to Rwanda is suspended.	24 APRIL 1995  Rwandan President accuses Hutu militias of responsibility for the massacre and blames international community for not separating victims from innocent people – RPA bombing ultimatum is pushed back and then called off.	Exhaustion Among the 80,000 Displaced People on a Forced March"  24 APRIL 1995  MSF team mobilises UN, embassies and international agencies to notify them of RPA ultimatum.  MSF Belgium press release: 'MSF Demands Free Access to Victims of Kibeho Massacre.'  MSF France press release: "After Last Weekend's Carnage, the Situation of Displaced People Continues to be Worrying"  MSF UK press release: 'Rwandan Army Still Preventing Assistance from Reaching Kibeho Victims: MSF Condemns RPA Attacks on Kibeho and UN's Failure to Protect Civilians in Rwanda.'

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APRIL 1995	25 APRIL 1995 <u>Belgian government</u> suspends bilateral aid to Rwanda  – <u>UN</u> acknowledges it was not informed of the Kibeho evacuation and confirms official death toll at 2,000.		25 APRIL 1995  MSF press conference in Kigali: statements from volunteers on the Kibeho massacre "Timely" interruption of satellite link during CNN discussion among President of MSF Holland, UN representative to Rwanda, and Rwandan Ambassador to the US.
		26 APRIL 1995 Kibeho: witnesses observe RPA transfer of corpses and exhumation of bodies from latrines during the night.	26 APRIL 1995  MSF France team denied access to Kibeho. Several NGOs experience security incidents. MSF team leaks news of "corpses in latrines" – invitation from MSF team to a "meeting with the Rwandan Head of State" in Kibeho the next day – MSF lobbies embassies.
	27 APRIL 1995  UN Secretary-General asks that force not be used against displaced people entrenched in Kibeho – UN Security Council condemns "death sentence" carried out against civilians and asks Secretary-General to make a report.	27 APRIL 1995 Rwandan government press conference in Kibeho: exhumation of 300 official victims – MSF accused of providing false data – NGOs accused of supporting militias in displaced people's camp – announcement of creation of an international "independent" investigative commission.	<b>27 APRIL 1995</b> During the Rwandan government press conference, the MSF representative maintains that the team saw thousands of corpses.
			<b>28 APRIL 1995</b> Warning by <u>MSF</u> Information Officer in Rwanda: proof of massacres is disappearing very quickly.
	30 APRIL 1995 Rwandan government commits to not use force against displaced people remaining in Kibeho.		30 APRIL 1995 On Radio Rwanda, <u>Minister of Rehabilitation</u> accuses <u>MSF France</u> of providing false information.

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MAY 1995	1 MAY 1995 According to Agence France-Presse, a report by Australian blue helmets accuses RPA of disinterring and removing corpses from Kibeho to hide truth about number of victims from April 22 massacre.		1 MAY 1995  MSF Belgium, MSF France, MSF Holland, MSF Spain, and MSF Switzerland country coordinators and programme managers meet in Kigali to evaluate space available for MSF intervention with Rwandan population – MSF Belgium announces a project in jails and children's prison – MSF targeted during demonstration in Kigali against international community's position on Kibeho events.
	2 MAY 1995 <u>UNAMIR</u> denies it is source of AFP <u>report</u> that <u>RPA</u> has surreptitiously removed corpses but does not contradict the information.	8 MAY 1995 First meeting of the Independent Investigative Commission established at Rwandan government request.  9 MAY 1995 Lastdisplaced people leave Kibeho camp - Independent Investigative Commission visits Kibeho site.	2 MAY 1995  MSF given access to Kibeho – groups of displaced people leave the camp.
			MSF presents its report on Kibeho events to Rwandan authorities and Independent Investigative Commission.  17 MAY 1995  MSF decides to write a second, more thorough report on Kibeho events – sections disagree over MSF Belgium's participation in construction of a juvenile prison–letter from Rwandan Minister of Rehabilitation and Social Integration' to MSF France asking that it adhere to its "strict humanitarian purpose".

	International	Rwanda	MSF
MAY 1995	18 MAY 1995 Independent Investigative Commission on Kibeho events presents its report to Rwandan government.  20 MAY 1995 Independent Investigative Commission's report on Kibeho events is published: unable to determine precise number of victims; RPA excesses; international community and NGOs unable to effectively aid displaced people to evacuate camp quickly.		
			23 MAY 1995  MSF France responds to Minister of Rehabilitation: "advocacy on behalf of the population's fate is central to the physician's vocation".  25 MAY 1995  MSF's report on Kibeho events is published  26 MAY 1995  Letter from MSF to UN Security Council President and UNAMIR Commander regarding UNAMIR's attitude
JUNE 1995			during Kibeho events.  22 JUNE 1995 Rwandan journalists physically threaten MSF Communications Officer during a seminar in Kigali.  29 JUNE 1995 MSF France press release: 'Catastrophic Mortality
JULY 1995			Rates Among Prisoners in Gitarama, Rwanda.' <b>5 AND 6 JULY 1995</b> MSF press conferences in Brussels, Nairobi and Paris on health status of prisoners in Gitarama

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JULY 1995			Press release from all MSF sections: 'Catastrophic Death Rates in Gitarama Prison: MSF Calls for Immediate Transfer of Prisoners to Other Detention Facilities.'  7 JULY 1995
			MSF France signs registration with authorities in Rwanda.
			27 JULY 1995 'Deadlock in the Rwandan Refugee Crisis,' a report by MSF Holland on the repatriation of Rwandan refugees from camps in Zaire and Tanzania is published. Part of the report addresses Kibeho massacre and Rwandan prisons.
AUGUST 1995		<b>3 AUGUST 1995</b> Rwandan President's office announces series of measures to improve prison conditions.	
		30 AUGUST 1995 Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu and Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga dismissed after calling role of armed forces in continuing insecurity into question.	
NOVEMBER 1995		<b>8 NOVEMBER 1995</b> Rwandan Defence Minister Paul Kagame tells Belgian daily newspaper <i>Le Soir</i> that soldiers who committed mistakes have been punished.	<b>8 NOVEMBER 1995</b> <u>MSF France</u> sends <u>letter</u> to Rwanda <u>Health Minister</u> regarding shooting attack by <u>RPA</u> against health centre in Gikongoro prefecture.
DECEMBER 1995		6 DECEMBER 1995 Rwandan government announces that NGOs have seven days in which to leave Rwanda and must leave all their supplies in the country.	6 DECEMBER 1995  MSF France press release: 'The French and Swiss sections of Médecins Sans Frontières expelled from Rwanda without explanation'.

	International	Rwanda	MSF
DECEMBER 1995	18 DECEMBER 1995  European Parliament passes resolution calling on Kigali government to reconsider decision to expel 38 NGOs.	9 DECEMBER 1995 The Rwandan government gives the NGOs concerned seven days to leave Rwanda, leaving behind all their equipment.	7 DECEMBER 1995  MSF France press release: 'MSF Requests Official Explanation of its Expulsion from Rwanda.'  MSF UK press release: 'MSF Calls for Meeting with Rwandan Government Regarding its Expulsion.'  MSF International press release: 'MSF Calls for Meeting with Rwandan Government Regarding its Expulsion.'  9 DECEMBER 1995  French German TV chain Arte broadcasts film by a member of MSF France Board of Directors showing catastrophic conditions in the Rwandan prisons from which the organisation has been expelled.  12 DECEMBER 1995  Bank accounts belonging to MSF France and other NGOs are blocked and their phone service cut off.
			19 DECEMBER 1995  Meeting between MSF France Board President Philippe Biberson, MSF Switzerland Board President Doris Schopper, and Mr Mazimhaka, Rwandan Minister of Rehabilitation and Social Integration, who promised to give explanations.  22 DECEMBER 1995  Last MSF France international staff leave Rwanda. MSFFrance press release: 'Three MSF France Volunteers are Expelled.'

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<b>1996</b> JANUARY 1996			3 JANUARY 1996  MSF press conference in Nairobi denounces theft of supplies by RPA. MSF France press conference in Paris denounces authoritarian moves within Rwandan government. Reuters news agency wrongly picks up comments of MSF Programme Manager (comparing Rwandan prisons to Auschwitz).  4 JANUARY 1996  Other MSF sections react negatively after Reuters picks up MSF France comments.
1997			Dutch authorities criticise MSF Holland for "irresponsibility" at the time of the Kibeho events.
2008	Publication of the book 'Combat Medic', an account of the experience of Terry Pickard, a doctor with the Australian Australian peacekeepers present in Kibeho during the massacres in April 1995.		