Dear all

The fact that MSF will pull out of North Korea has reached the ears of journalists. During a meeting among the 3 different sections last week it was decided that:

- an official press release will be written to explain the reasons why MSF will withdraw from North Korea. The timing of that will depend on the outcome of a survey among NK refugees done by Paris. Before that there will no official statement of MSF.

- After the press release MSF will organise a round table conference to discuss the NK challenge with UN agencies and NGO's. If everything goes well, this should take place at the end september, beginning of october. You will be informed about it.

If journalists are calling about an eventual withdrawal of MSF you can tell them that,

- the results of the last negociations on a second Memorandum of Understanding were negatif.

The authorities asked MSF to intervene in the rehabilitation of the existing pharmaceutical industries and the delivery of raw materials for the production of medicines.

MSF insists on having access to the population, reduction of the actual program, access to vulnerable groups and provide more quality inside the program.

It is obvious that both points of view cannot be matched.

- there will be an official statement from MSF as soon as we have all the elements to make a good and unique press release.

-We still have teams on the ground who are continuing the work.

We will keep everybody informed on all the developments.