Dear All,

as the past few days - and the recent ones- are more than hell for all Press Officers I didn't have the chance to inform you about media coverages and how greek media have been presenting the situation.

Have to say that we almost had - especially the first days- a "media crisis" caused to lack of presence in media. MDM pictures were all through the media and all our donors but also journalists were really worried and posing tough questions about what MSF are doing...

Fortunately, we managed to overcome the difficulties.

I copy some newspaper titles which indicate the picture:

* "Europe is afraid of the refugees" / no common politic strategy for E.U. regarding the refugees (KATHIMERINI)

* "The greek government sends aid and builds up camps for the Kosovar refugees" (KATHIMERINI)

* "Green light" from USA supporting the greek intervention in Serbia and Kosovo"/the greek government proceeds with its willing to open a "humanitarian aid corridor" and is the only country-member of NATO which continues the open dialogue with Yuogoslavia. NATO sees it positively (EKSOUSA)

* "In Belgrade special mandate of the greek Ministry of External Affairs for an expol mission before the aid" (EKSOUSA)

* "Victims of "humanitarian bombings"/subtitle:"The humanitarian aid towards the Kosovars has gained a sponsor: USA"/ At the same time the NATO forces are providing Serbia with Tomahok. The Balcan has a new sponsor also: USA (ELEFTHEROTYPIA)

* "New Tchernobil in the Balcans" /ecological approach of the bombings (APOGEVAMINTI)

* "Humanitarian aid and medicines against bombings"/"...as the unratinal NATO bombings are continuing the greek population is giving a helpful hand to the suffering populations in Kosovo and Serbia" (THESSALONIKI)

* "UCK: politicians or rebels?/political analysis on the UCK military movement (TA NEA)

I have to notice that although the public opinion is strongly with Serbia (not Milosevic), media are presenting the situation from both sides. The refugees drama from Kosovo -caused to Serbian threats and atrocities- is also a big part of the broadcasts.

The last weeks, we had the following presentations and interviews:

- NET TV
- Athina FM
- ERA 1 FM
- PLANET FM
- ANTENNA FM (for Terens Quick)
- SKY TV / (for Athanasiasiadis emission but interviews played for all days broadcasts)
- PLANET FM
- 103 FM (Thessaloniki)
- 103 FM (Thessaloniki)
- FLASH FM/Odysseas interviewed
- RADIO HALICHTIKI FM
- PUBLIC RADIO OF LARISA
- CHANNEL 5 TV
- 103 FM THESSALONIKI
- ERA VOLOU
- 103 FM (THESSALONIKI)
- RADIO PARATIRITIS (Thessaloniki)
...and some more planned:
- SKY TV / (for the news broadcasts)
- ERA FM 1
- SKY FM
- FLASH FM
- RADIO THESSALONIKI
- OMEGA TV (THESSALONIKI) / 1 hour interview
- RADIO PARATIRITIS (THESSALONIKI)
- SKY FM
- SKY TV / live, 45 min.
- ET 1 TV / (Decafeine)
- ERA 5 FM
- TA NEA (biggest local newspaper) / Odysseas interviewed

Mostly speaking about the MSF activities in Albania, Scopje and Montenegro, doing interviews and pushing hard our position regarding the need of UNHCR taking active role. We are having every week a press briefing in the MSF offices in Athens with journalists from newspapers and they seem that they really like all this flow of information from our side.

Generally during the beginning of the crisis we have done the following interviews in numbers:

Newspaper coverages  90
Radio interviews     75
TV appearances       20

...this is all...untill now!

Kisses
Sophia