In reaction to your feedback below quickly the following:

In the Dutch press (did you receive the articles?) and in two wires (Reuters and AP) the MSF appeal was NOT interpreted as calling for a military intervention, but almost the opposite.

Reuters opened: “A leading agency said on Friday …… that the threat of Serb reprisals would force to pull out…”

AP opening was alike.

Vincent, and Guillaume, there are more ideas here, I will put them in writing later. I like as well to discuss with you planning kososvo region today,

Many greetings, Wilna

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hi tim and guillaume,

with some more distance I see now why our appeal could be interpreted as calling for a military intervention: although it was as clearly as possible without saying opposed to airstrikes, I should have suggested 'political experts' to cover for the spectre inbetween rather than the military. sorry for this lapsus

in follow-up on this be aware of the even more explicit comments from joelle on the military intervention

still I must admit that I don't really see how the publication of your (guillaume) document would neutralize this: it basically insists on details of the incidents and interpretations of what the (military ?) strategic must be behind it, but doesn't refer at all to the main question: what do we want ?

so basically I wouldn't be much in favour of bringing this out as a pressrelease; I would keep it for the use it was originally made for (booklet ?) and go through this with myriam who is supposed to come back today.

i spoke with tim over the WE and I feel we have to take his feedback into account since it is basically them who are in the frontline; particularly if you might consider a pressconference with myriam g. (i'am not sure that rendering public the link between journalists and msf will calm down the spionitis paranoia..

actually another thing I thought over in the WE following some internal criticism on msf leaving for the moment, is the following I would like reaction upon:

- what we want is protection of civilians on the ground and the possibility of still further improve our assistencial operations;
- this is for sure not met by mere airstrikes
- actually those strikes (we did not ask for) impede our operational capacity and bring along indirectly the threat to humanitarian organisations
- they put NGO's actually in a risk politicians and military are basically afraid to take (groundtroops)
- we don't want to take this up for reason of a general principle not to mix with politico-military
- ...and we would suggest internally to stay basically to honour the slogan of "staying when others go.."
I think this is the wrong angle of looking at the reality, and it makes me feel that we could have actually more stressed our opposition to airstrikes; but then again this wouldn't do on public level...

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vincent

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Subject: Kosovo
Author: Guillaume LE GALLAIS at MSF-PARIS
Date: 09/10/98 18:19

hi,

here with the text, that we could use and distribute...

If any comments please send them by fax over the week end (ou emails are out of order for the week end and even if you send some thing it will be lost...)

I think that we should be ready for monday.

That this document could be used by all sections

Thanks

guillaume