Àuteur : Bastien VIGNEAU à MSF-Brussels
Date : 26/03/99 13:22
Priorité : Normale
Objet : Update kosovo - Friday 26/03/99 - 12h00

3 MSF expats still presents in Pristina/Kosovo
8 expats still present in Skopje/Macedonia

YUGOSLAVIA

GENERAL
- Stronger bombing in Yougo last night and during the night.
- There is a strong determination of NATO, Serbs and UCK to fight for their positions.
- There is a serious increase of tensions among civilians and militaries, not mentioning the fear of Kosovar Albanians.
- A very strong “anti-foreigners” feeling growing among Serbs (especially towards expats from NATO countries).
- No freedom of expression allowed (opposition Radio closed by force).
- International press systematically monitored and censored. Some journalists have been brought back to the border after declarations.
- Interpretation of our discussion with NATO officer this morning confirms air strikes on Pristina with possible intensification in the coming days.

IN KOSOVO
- Seems retaliation increased towards Kosovar Albanian in the field.
- This morning we heard Serb shelling Kosovar Albanian villages.
- In Pec it was reported that our warehouse had been looted.
- In Gjakovac it was reported that a surgeon was killed and some executions took place (?).

IN PRISTINA
- Some saw Serb civilians (or milicî?) throwing Molotov cocktails in Albanian houses. Some restaurants have been burned.
- A US facility has been burned in the center of Pristina.
- The newspaper "Kohaditore" office (Albanian) has been burnt. Their guardian has been killed.
- It was reported that warehouse (MSF/MT) in Kosovopje (5 km north of Pristina) has been looted (?).
- ICRC still in their houses (like us). They are on a wait/see policy.
  They are asking today authorisation to drive their cars.
- Police received orders to confiscate all cars of foreign journalist/agencies, organisations when they see them in the street.

MSF (non) actions
- ICRC & MSF completely isolated, no possibilities of using the cars in Pristina. Both teams work together in exchanging info, analysis etc...
- Last night stronger shellings on Pristina. Tim reported the house was "shaking".
- Our staff is staying at home/office (same street), very little communication abilities as we have no Serb translators. Moral is good.
- Contact with hospital is difficult and hospital staff very tense.
- On our way to the hospital yesterday we’ve been arrested by police and we had to go to the police post. We were well treated.
- Obviously no possibilities to go to the field. We have therefore very few information on situation out Pristina.
- Tim is not answering to journalist since last night. Too many, no more journalists in Pristina, too high risks to be expelled by authorities.
- Bas will take over, and will move from Barcelona to Brussels on Monday.

Macedonia

Anti NATO-foreigners manifestations in Skopje yesterday.
MSF team on explo tour. Many NGO's, organisations, observers/soldiers etc...
No SITREP yet of explo team.

Take Care.