

In August 2015 I wrote a chapter about my stay at 'The Jungle', an illegal refugee camp in Calais, France, (read <http://www.ginodartali.org/bitch/Chapter%202.pdf> ) where I found, saw and literally experienced the inhuman conditions under which the then approx. 3000 refugees had to live because the national nor the local government were helping them and they were completely depending on the goodwill of volunteers and the ngo Médecins sans frontières.

On October 25th. Médecins sans frontières at the Court of Lille started summary proceedings against the French authorities because of "the continuing lack of action" in the refugee camp. The ngo cites the following Wednesday in a press release a report of the University of Birmingham stating that there is a structural lack of shelter, food, hygiene and safety. The report, carried out with support from Médecins sans frontières, states that there are only about 40 toilets for approx. 4.500 refugees. The research team also found that some water containers had been used before for the storage of chemical waste and 'not adequately' cleaned. 'The presence of bacteria in some containers exceeded the safety standards of the European Union. '

Pathogenic bacteria were found in food and "that explains the high number of cases of diarrhea and nausea among the refugees" as Médecins sans frontières explains. They also demand to prevent further the lack of facilities to wash clothes and bed linen to dry an effective treatment of scabies, bedbugs and lice. Many shelters are not waterproof, forcing the refugees to sleep in soaked beds and clothes. The living conditions in the camp do not meet the international standards of UNHCR, the refugee agency of the United Nations, and of the World Health Organization, says Médecins sans frontières along with Le Secours Catholique and a group of refugees that started the summary proceedings. The ruling is expected at the end of this week, according to the communication.

The ruling:

on November 3rd. an administrative court ordered the French authorities in Lille to improve the living conditions in 'The Jungle'. The Prefecture of the Pas-de-Calais Department and the municipality of Calais must now, at the request of the Court, demands to place 50 extra watertaps and 50 additional toilets. And in addition, better access for the emergency services. All measures must be implemented within eight days. For each day of delay the court imposed a fine of 100 euro.

Update November 12<sup>th</sup>.: guerrilla warfare

In the past days there were an increasing number of violent clashes between refugees and the police during which the first were throwing stones and the latter using water canons and teargas. On both sides there were numerous injured. The refugees feel more and more desperate, also because since the ruling of the court the only thing that changed was and is the increased number of policemen on their grounds (speaking of 'boots on the ground!').

During the clashes around 250 refugees "repeatedly tried to slow down traffic at the port ring road by placing different objects in the road," a spokesperson of the police said. "Police had to push the refugees back from the ring road several times."

More and more 'The Jungle' is turning into a guerrilla warfare but the French government official Fabienne Buccio said that refugees and people smugglers need to learn that Calais is a dead-end street."

The mayor of Calais, Natacha Bouchard, has called on the French army to help with security at the site. "Maybe the army should come to watch over the place,". The request comes despite 750 police officers already having been tasked with keeping the camp secure.

The situation has been made worse by plunging temperatures, dropping down to around 5C at night. As winter approaches, many are raising humanitarian concerns.

Kunduz (Afghanistan). November 4th.

Médecins sans frontières(MSF), strongly condemned the airstrikes on her hospital in Kunduz, in northern Afghanistan. In a press release the ngo is demanding an independent inquiry. The bombings took place Saturday morning between 2.08 am and 3.15 am local time, with intervals of about 15 minutes. The Central main building of the hospital with intensive care, emergency departments and physiotherapy space was repeatedly, and with precision, affected, says MSF. Also, and out the plane, people were shot at. Other buildings around were not affected. Nineteen people in the bombing died: twelve employees and seven patients including three children. There were also 37 wounded, among them 19 MSF employees. This despite the fact that the MSF passed the GPS coordinates of the hospital to the US coalition, Afghan military and civilian authorities, and this to in order to avoid that it would be hit by bombing stresses the ngo.

Heman Nagarathnam, head of MSF in Northern Afghanistan, and eye-witness reports: "One after the other bomb hit the hospital, after which the main building of the hospital stood ablaze. Some could hide in the two bunkers of the building to shelter, but patients who could not escape, burned alive in their beds". After the attack the team tried desperately to save the lives of wounded colleagues and patients. They put an improvised operation room in a room that was still intact. Some of the most critical patients were transferred to the hospital in Puli Khumri, a two hour drive.

MSF condemns this attack as "a serious violation of international humanitarian law". "Everything suggests that currently the bombardment has been carried out by the international coalition forces. We do not accept that this is dismissed as collateral damage " reads the press release. MSF requires a full and transparent report of the coalition. MSF also asks for an independent investigation of the attack for maximum transparency and accountability". The Hospital of Médecins sans frontières was the only health centre of its kind in the northeast of Afghanistan. Since four years it offers free surgical trauma care. So far 22.000 patients were treated and in 2014 5.900 operations performed. "In addition to the death of our colleagues and patients, this attack also cuts off the population in Kunduz of emergency medical help, right now this is most needed. We ask the warring parties once again to respect citizens, health structures and medical personnel such as the international

humanitarian law prescribes." according to the ngo.

By the way: art. 4 of the Geneva convention forbids military violence against non-combatants and it seems to me that the US should be brought to the the International Criminal Court (ICC), located in The Hague (NL) for war crimes.