# **ATTN EDITORS**

**THE FOLLOWING SCRIPT/SHOTLIST IS TO ACCOMPANY FOOTAGE DISTRIBUTED BY MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES ON 16th AUGUST 2017**

**STORY: Consequences of war for civilian population in Bangassou, CAR**

**LOCATION:** Bangassou (Central African Republic)

**SHOOT DATES:** 07-13 August 2017

**SOUND:** NATURAL SOUND WITH FRENCH & SANGO

**DURATION:** 6’21’’

FORMAT: FULL HD 1920x1080 25p H.264

**SOURCE:** MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES

**RESTRICTIONS:** FREE ACCESS WORLDWIDE FOR BROADCASTING AND WEBCASTING

**INTRO:**

The Central African Republic is back at war after violence started to drastically increase last September. However, the crisis remains largely out of sight and unfolds with very little attention from the international community. This video shows the consequences of the war in CAR on the civilian population as well as the difficulties MSF faces to provide impartial medical care in this very polarized context.

Bangassou has only been marginally affected by the devastating conflict of 2013-2014 and was praised for the reconciliation work and social cohesion which followed. However, on May 13th the town’s Muslim neighborhood was attacked during a major offensive by so called “auto-defence” groups and the situation drastically changed: Bangassou has become a ghost town controlled by loosely organized armed men. Most of the population has fled to Ndu, on the Congolese side of the river, a trading post which now host over 16.000 people in addition to its 1.000 residents.

About 2.000 Muslim people have sought refuge in the “Petit Séminaire St Louis” of the Catholic Church and have been living there since May with little support from international actors. Indeed, recurrent fighting in town forced most actors to leave Bangassou and today only MSF and the Catholic church  are present. MINUSCA has also troops there. The site does not fit the requirements for the protection of IDPs and despite presence of some MINUSCA around, most Muslim people do not feel secure enough to leave the site, nor risk going to town for fear of being killed by “auto-defense” groups.

MSF runs mobile clinics to this area and therefore can provide basic medical care to IDPs. However references to the MSF-run hospital in town are very difficult and some IDP in need of hospitalization flat out refuse to be referred. MSF also runs mobile clinics in Ndu, on the Congolese side of the river, where they encounter the same difficulties if they need to refer Muslim patient to Bangassou hospital.

As a consequence of the violence and the massive displacement of population, the 115 bed hospital in Bangassou is only functioning at 60% of its capacity. In opposition peripheral health center supported by MSF, as well as mobile clinics, provides twice or three times more consultations than before. However, the poor living conditions of IDPs, the lack of medical staff or supply in most health centers in the region, as well as the fear which prevent people to seek help in medical structures in due time means that patients reach the hospital in a much more severe state than before. For example, MSF team in Bangassou have noticed this year an increase of severe malaria in the hospital.

The situation remains very volatile today in and around Bangassou. Since last week, heavy fighting have been raging in Gambo, a town 75 km West of Bangassou. Little information is filtering about the situation there but some wounded have arrived to the hospital to seek care. Meanwhile further north the health center of the town of Bakouma (135km) where violent fighting occurred in June and July is barely functioning. MSF has been supplying drugs and referred wounded to Bangassou, but as an example, the last delivery registered in the health center dates from June 10th as pregnant women are too afraid to come to the health center for fear of renewed attacks. Nzako (150 km North of Bangassou) remains out of reach of our teams, and the echoes from there are very worrying. Finally, in the East of Bangassou conflict in Zemio is also increasing.

**SHOTLIST:**

00:00 Info Text

00:03 Bangassou’s mosque destroyed.

00:11 Street of Bangassou.

00:16 House with signs of bullet damage from fighting

00:30 A school destroyed from the fighting in Bangassou

00:53 MSF mobile clinic in “Petit Séminaire St Louis” of the Catholic Church, a place where the Muslim community have sought refuge after the attack on the community and where around 2,000 people are stranded.

01:12 Establishing shots of Hissène, a kid injured during the fighting that has been treated by MSF.

01:36 Interview in Sango: Hissène, injured during the attack on the Muslim community:

01:36 It was a Saturday when it happened and we had sought refuge at the Mosque

01:42 People fought, they fired shots.

01:46 My brother received a bullet in his heart and a second in his chest.

01:50 I also received a bullet that tore off a testicle.

01:53 My older brother also got two bullets in his chest.

02:00 They came to threaten the people who were in the hospital with weapons.

02:04 They say, they say they're going to hit them. They said they do not like Muslims.

02 :09 Establishing shots of Pelé Kotto, MSF Nurse.

02:23 Interview in French: Pelé Kotto, MSF Nurse.

 Original French:

« Maintenant il y a la communauté musulmane et une partie de la communauté chrétienne qui s’était réfugiée au niveau du site catholique. Ils n’avaient pas le droit de sortir pour aller se faire soigner à l’hôpital ou dans des centres de santé périphériques. Ils ne devaient pas sortir car une fois qu’ils sortent soit ils sont kidnappés soit ils sont carrément tués. En quelque sorte ils étaient vraiment coincés là où ils pouvaient pas bouger. C’est la raison pour laquelle c’était important pour MSF d’organiser une clinique sur place ».

 English translation:

*« The Muslim community and some Christian people sought refuge in the Catholic site. They could not get out to seek care in the hospital or health centers on the town’s outskirts. Once they go out of here they can be kidnapped or killed. They were trapped here and couldn’t move, which is why it was important for MSF to organize a clinic on this site”.*

03:00 Images of “Petit Séminaire St Louis” of the Catholic Church, a place where the Muslim community have sought refuge after the attack on the community and where around 2,000 people are stranded.

03:40 Establishing shots of Zeneba Ahmat, a woman stranded at  “Petit Séminaire St Louis”.

03:57 Interview in Sango: Zeneba Ahmat, a woman stranded at  “Petit Séminaire St Louis”.

03:57 I was wounded in the shoulder and on my back and I was burned on my leg.

04:02 Two of my siblings were killed, my older and younger brother.

04:06 It’s difficult because armed men are on the road,

04:08 they can kidnap me and kill me for nothing that's why it's hard for me.

04:12 Entrance of MSF Bangassou hospital.

04:27 MSF hospital pediatrics consultation

04:37 Emergency entrance and people waiting at MSF Bangassou hospital.

04:46 Establishing shots of Dieudonné during a consultation.

05:04 36 Interview in Sango: Dieudonné, MSF Patient

05 :04 I was transported on a bicycle by the chiefs of the village. They came this far.

05:11 The hospitals that are on the road, ask for money. You have to pay for the drugs you need.

05:21 In Lumumba, I needed money for the drugs, so I was not even given a painkiller.

05:27 They just sutured the wounds but they did not give me painkillers

05:33 My condition was not improving, so I was taken to this big hospital in Bangassou.

05:39 Establishing shots of Ernest Lualuali Ibongu, MSF Doctor

06:03 Interview in French: Ernest Lualuali Ibongu, MSF Doctor

 Original French:

*« Il y a des gens qui ont vraiment besoin de soins urgents au niveau de l’hôpital car on a maintenant une équipe chirurgicale qui est en place – le chirurgien, anesthésiste – mais il y a des cas qui trainent au niveau de la paroisse, qui ne peuvent pas arriver à l’hôpital puisque on ne sait pas garantir leur sécurité au niveau de l’hôpital »*

 English translation:

« Some people are in real need of emergency care in the hospital, and we now have a surgical team in place – the surgeon, the anesthetist – but some people remain uncared for in the catholic site, they cannot get to the hospital because their safety cannot be guaranteed”.