

# MSF IN PORTUGAL

**On 14 February 1989, the two - year moratorium on the creation of new entities was over. Fernando Nobre, a former member of MSF Belgium's Board of Directors and founder of International Medical Assistance/Assistencia Medical International (AMI) in Portugal applied to the International Council for the creation of MSF Portugal. Criteria for inclusion of any new section were proposed that would be debated at the next IC meeting. MSF France, considered as the sponsor of the applicant, decided to verify AMI missions, starting with Mozambique.**

 **Minutes** from the MSF International Meeting in Brussels, 14 February 1989 (in French).

## **Extract:**

### 3. New sections -

Fernando Nobre, former MSF member, announced his intention to set up MSF Portugal, to MSF France. There's no major problem with this plan, given that he's ex-MSF and would be guided by MSF France from the outset.

 **Minutes** from MSF France Board of Directors meeting, 24 February 1989 (in French).

## **Extract:**

### Médecins Sans Frontières International: Portugal [...]

Coming back to Portugal, it was decided to verify the AMI missions and this will be the role of the sponsor, that is to say MSF France. We could, for example, explore their mission in Mozambique. And then Rony [Brauman] could go and visit them in Portugal to see how they work.

**On 3 and 4 June 1989 in Toulouse, during the 'first European convention of Médecins Sans Frontières,' the AMI representative pleaded once again for recognition of the MSF association in Portugal.**

 **Minutes** from the Médecins Sans Frontières European Convention in Toulouse, 3-4 June 1989 (in French).

## **Extract:**

Admission criteria for new sections and internationalisation policy. Not a lot was said on this point. The representatives of the executive committees will explain their viewpoint on new section creation by former MSF members, a period of sponsorship by an existing section, and final admission into the Médecins Sans Frontières family via the biannual presidents and directors meeting. The only person to object was the representative of Assistencia Médica Internacional, who said that AMI should be

recognised as an MSF section since the association already exists.

**In January 1992, during the Melun meeting, the case of AMI Portugal presenting itself in Mozambique as MSF Portugal while attempting to legally register the brand in Portugal was discussed. The president of the IC was tasked with giving formal notice to abstain from using the MSF name. A few months later, AMI Portugal agreed to abstain using 'MSF Portugal' name any longer.**

 **Minutes** from the MSF International Council meeting, 10 January 1992 (in French).

## **Excerpt:**

### 10 - Miscellaneous

The problem of AMI [Fundação de Assistencia Médica Internacional] in Portugal was raised. This association is presenting itself in Mozambique as MSF Portugal. The MSF name has been filed [for registration] in Portugal. It was decided to send them a formal notice based on the incidents in Mozambique. The next International Board President will be responsible for this formal notice.

 **Minutes** of the MSF International Council meeting, 26 June 1992 (in French).

## **Extract:**

AMI [Aide Médicale Internationale] Portugal: Alain met with the director of AMI Portugal, a former MSF volunteer, Mr. Nobre. AMI Portugal will no longer refer to 'Médecins Sans Frontières of Portugal.'

**TO BE CONTINUED...**