



*Copy to: Mr. François Hollande, President of the French Republic*

To the attention of Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Paris, 29 April 2015

Mr. Secretary-General,

Considering the alarming situation of migrants in the Mediterranean,

Considering that Médecins du Monde care centres are active in more than eleven countries in Europe,

Considering the extremely difficult and traumatic conditions met by migrants during their journey,

Considering that the EU has not brought guarantees for the protection of migrants,

Taking into account that migrants should be considered as refugees until proved otherwise,

Taking into account that migrants should under no circumstances be held in detention during the period pending their refugee determination,

Taking into account that this situation is a shame for Europe and the World and should be changed,

Médecins du Monde wishes to bring to your attention the following:

- The United Nations, through the High Commissioner for Refugees, should protect refugees, initiate and organise search and rescue programs where needed. Médecins du Monde and its medical teams would proudly take part in these programs.
- In Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, Médecins du Monde and its medical teams are witnessing a mass influx of refugees coming from Syrian. The Syrian war, real “fabric of refugees”, has been raging for more than four years now, and the conflict is still ongoing. The United Nations should take the initiative of organising a large scale international conference with the objective of planning the reception and geographic distribution of Syrian refugees worldwide.

Médecins du Monde is deeply concerned that, without concrete and strong measures, a major deterioration of the Human Rights’ situation in the Mediterranean Basin will occur.

I would welcome the chance to discuss this issue with you or your office at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thierry BRIGAUD  
President