

Her Excellency Sylvie Bermann

The Ambassador of France
The Embassy of France
58 Knightsbridge
London
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13 July 2016

Dear Madam Ambassador

As you will be aware, the plight of the refugees currently stranded in Calais continues to worsen. Thousands of women, children and men are living in tents plagued by rats, with water sources contaminated by faeces and many suffering from tuberculosis, scabies and other diseases.

We acknowledge that there are complex political problems underpinning this situation. This should not however obscure the fact that this is also a major humanitarian crisis and a serious potential public health threat. Along with the conditions described above, the inhabitants of the camp are provided with only one meal a day, consisting of unrefrigerated food. Many have untreated injuries sustained when fleeing war zones and there are reports of migrants with leg fractures being refused crutches. Violence is also a regular occurrence, with women being particularly at risk.

The BMA therefore condemns the recent decision by the French authorities to prevent aid convoys from entering the camp to deliver basic supplies as a severe breach of human rights. We respectfully request that you do everything possible to ensure that, in future, organisations who wish to provide aid to this highly vulnerable group of people are allowed unrestricted access to the camp to provide basic care and support.

Yours sincerely



Dr Mark Porter
BMA council chair