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Activist Nurse, President of MSF-Sweden, Receives ICN's Top International Nursing Award

Geneva, Switzerland, 11 January 2007 – Anneli Eriksson, RN and president of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)* in Sweden, is the recipient of the 2007 International Achievement Award, bestowed by ICN's Florence Nightingale International Foundation (FNIF). The International Council of Nurses (ICN) selected Ms Eriksson as the recipient of this award for her outstanding work helping endangered communities during catastrophes and for her leadership in international nursing.

“Anneli Eriksson has shown dedication to getting nursing care to vulnerable populations worldwide since the beginning of her career,” said Hiroko Minami, President of the International Council of Nurses and the Florence Nightingale International Foundation. “As the spokesperson for MSF Sweden she speaks out on the humanitarian values of that organisation and the importance of access to health care worldwide.”

Ms. Eriksson's career began at the Mother Theresa Clinic in Calcutta in 1991. She has since worked in Chechnya, Burundi, Sierra Leone, East Timor and Niger. In 2005, she became President of Médecins Sans Frontières Sweden where she continues to speak out on the importance of nursing for populations living in precarious conditions.

The International Achievement Award will be presented to Ms. Eriksson at a special FNIF luncheon to be held in May 2007 at the ICN Conference in Yokohama, Japan.

The Award is given every two years to a mid-career practising nurse who is currently influencing nursing internationally in two of nursing's four domains: direct care, education, research and management. The award accords worldwide recognition of the recipient's achievements and contribution to nursing internationally.

Past recipients of the award have included Carol Etherington, an American nurse working on community based programmes for people living in the aftermath of war and natural disaster; Susie Kim, a Korean nurse whose major contributions to nursing education and practice have earned her international recognition; and Margaret Hilson, a Canadian nurse working in international health programmes.

**Doctors without Borders*

Editor's note

The **International Council of Nurses** is a federation of 129 national nurses' associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses for nurses, ICN is the international voice of nursing and works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

The **Florence Nightingale International Foundation** is a registered Charity in the United Kingdom, formed for the purposes of supporting the advancement of nursing education, research and services for the public good. It is the successor to the original Florence Nightingale International Foundation, established in 1932 as a permanent memorial to Florence Nightingale with a mandate to develop and promote nursing education worldwide. The current Foundation is domiciled in Geneva at the offices of the International Council of Nurses, a federation of 129 national nurses' associations working to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

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