



## **Ebola hits Guinea's capital**

*Clip from 'This World, Outbreak: The Truth About Ebola'*

*NARRATOR:*

Ebola hit the capital of Guinea – Conakry. MSF decided to sound the alarm.

*MICHEL VAN HERP [ENGLISH TRANSLATION]:*

We are confronted with an unprecedented epidemic. The number of cases is unprecedented, so is the territory.

*NARRATOR:*

The government of Guinea was furious with MSF for going public with their concerns. The last thing they wanted was an Ebola panic causing foreign companies to pull out of the country.

*COLONEL REMY LAMAH [ENGLISH TRANSLATION]:*

I summoned the MSF team to my office. I asked them why they'd used this phrase: 'An unprecedented epidemic'.

*MICHEL VAN HERP [ENGLISH TRANSLATION]:*

It was spontaneous. It was so obvious to me that I didn't think it would shock other people. There was so much evidence.

*COLONEL REMY LAMAH [ENGLISH TRANSLATION]:*

I did not agree with them. I told them I didn't appreciate their unilateral decision to say things different from our official line. At the time we had our own analysis. We thought we could contain the disease.

*NARRATOR:*

The government now tried to hide the true extent of the outbreak. The Ministry of Health sent a memo to its teams in the field, ordering them only to count laboratory-confirmed cases of Ebola when, in reality, many people were dying before they could be tested.