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EXTERNAL

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@Miško and Marko ERCEGOVIC

Miško Ercegovic_ is a 43-year-old photographer and art gallery owner from Dubrovnik in Croatia. Marko Ercegovic_ is his 20-year-old son, who is a student.

According to information received by Amnesty International, they were arrested on or about 10 October 1991 by the JNA (Yugoslav National Army), apparently on charges of espionage. They are at present being held in a prison at Bile_a (20 km from Trebinje in Bosnia).

Miško and Marko reportedly drove to Trsteno, a short distance north of Dubrovnik, where there is a world-famous botanical garden which was burnt and destroyed in the fighting there some weeks ago. Their purpose was allegedly to take photographs of the garden and of other war damage inflicted in the area. After visiting Trsteno they reportedly drove on northwards and their car was shot at. They attempted to take refuge in the village of Slano, where they were arrested by Yugoslav National Army forces.

Amnesty International's concern: Amnesty International is concerned that Miško and Marko Ercegovic_ are detained after having been arrested around 10 October by officers of the JNA after they had photographed Trsteno botanical gardens and other war damage. Amnesty International urges that they be granted legal safeguards in accordance with international human rights standards, including access to their family and a lawyer of their choice. The organization also urges that they be released, if as Amnesty International's information indicates, they have been arrested as a result of exercising their rights to freedom of expression, guaranteed under Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was ratified by Yugoslavia in 1971.

