

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 146/94 (EUR 63/07/94, 13 April 1994) - Deliberate and arbitrary killings

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: Muslim civilians in the Gora_de area

Amnesty International remains deeply concerned about further reports of deliberate and arbitrary killings of Muslim civilians in Gora_de, in particular the deliberate shelling of civilian targets by Bosnian Serb artillery or tanks.

In an artillery attack by Bosnian Serb forces on 19 April, the roof of the main hospital in Gora_de was hit and collapsed. On 20 April it was reportedly hit again by three rockets fired by Bosnian Serb forces, which killed 10 patients and wounded 15 others. On 21 April a Bosnian Serb tank shelled a makeshift medical clinic which was housed in an apartment building, adjacent to the city hospital. The tank round reportedly blew away protective sandbags from the clinic and this was followed by a second round which reportedly exploded inside.

According to a spokesman of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) up to 28 people were killed, mainly patients who were being treated for shell wounds.

Bosnian Serb spokespersons have alleged that the mainly Muslim Bosnian Army has been using the hospital for military purposes. While it is difficult to verify these claims, Amnesty International is concerned that the reports of the latest attack indicate that the shelling was indiscriminate and aimed at causing civilian casualties.

Other civilian targets which have been shelled include residential buildings near the hospital, refugee centres and aid agency premises such as the offices of the local Red Cross.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to UNHCR officials, the Bosnian Serb offensive on Gora_de has killed 486 people and wounded 1,467 since 30 March 1994. 21 April was the worst day for casualties when 97 people were killed. A convoy of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia, including medical staff, has been delayed by Bosnian Serb women demonstrators *en route* for Gora_de. The demonstrators claimed that their male relatives were being detained by Muslims in Gora_de.

International humanitarian law is unequivocal in stating that in an armed conflict, people who take no active part in the hostilities, including most civilians, must be distinguished from military personnel and others who are directly involved and able to influence the course of the conflict. This principle is directly derived from the protection of the individual enshrined in Article 3 common to the four Geneva conventions of 1949.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English, French, German or in your own language:

- condemning the deliberate targeting of civilians by Bosnian Serb artillery and stating that international humanitarian law requires the military to distinguish civilians from combatants;
- noting that on many previous occasions Bosnian Serb artillery has deliberately targeted civilians;

- calling for the chain of command of the Bosnian Serb forces to be strengthened to ensure that such incidents are not allowed to reoccur;
- calling for an immediate and thorough investigation of the latest incidents and for those suspected of ordering or perpetrating the incidents to be brought to justice;
- stressing that Amnesty International is concerned for victims of human rights abuses of all nationalities and that it takes no position on questions such as international military intervention.

APPEALS TO:1) Representative of the Bosnian Serbs at the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia

Dr Radovan Karad_i_
 Biro Republike Srpske
 Moše Pijade 8
 110000 Beograd
 Yugoslavia

Faxes : +381 11 338 633**Telegrams : Representative of the Bosnian Serbs Karad_i_, Beograd, Yugoslavia****Salutation: Dear Dr Karad_i_**2) Commander of the Bosnian Serb forces

General Ratko Mladi_
 Biro Republike Srpske
 Moše Pijade 8
 110000 Beograd
 Yugoslavia

Faxes : +381 11 338 633**Telegrams : Commander of Serbian forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mladi_, Beograd, Yugoslavia****Salutation: Dear General Mladi_**3) President of Serbia

Slobodan Miloševi_
 Predsednik Republike Srbije
 Andri_ev venac 1
 11000 Beograd
 Yugoslavia

Faxes : +381 11 682 167**Telegrams : President Miloševi_, Beograd, Yugoslavia****Salutation : Dear President****COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Prof Vojin Šulovi_
 President of the Serbian Medical Association
 D_ord_a Vašingtona 19
 11000 Beograd
 Yugoslavia

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 June 1994.