

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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*This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 15 per Section.*

19 May 1995

Further information on EXTRA 51/95 (EUR 63/09/95, 5 May 1995) - Forcible expulsions / Fear of hostage-taking and new concern: Fear for safety

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA Croats in the Bosnian-Serb controlled area of northwest Bosnia

new names:                   Cecilija Grgi\_, nun  
                                Father Filip Lukenda, parish priest

and new concern:           Fear for safety of Muslims and other non-Serbs

There have been further reports of abuses against Croats, who are almost exclusively Roman Catholic, and against Muslims, in the area of northwest Bosnia under the control of the Bosnian Serb *de facto* authorities.

On the night of 6/7 May 1995 a Franciscan monastery in Petri\_evac near Banja Luka was blown up. Several monks and nuns had allegedly been ill-treated and expelled from the buildings earlier.

In the early hours of 12 May explosives were placed in a Roman Catholic church in the village of Presna\_e near Banja Luka. A nun, Cecilija Grgi\_ and the parish priest, Father Filip Lukenda, were reportedly burned to death in the fire which resulted.

On 13 May around 190 Muslims were effectively forcibly expelled to Bosnian Government-controlled territory at Travnik. Many of the group had paid around 500 German Marks to be allowed to leave via Croatia. But the recent taking of Western Slavonia by the Croatian Army has blocked this route. The Bosnian Serb Army reportedly removed another 30 or 40 men of military age from the group before the crossing. It is probable that they are being used to perform forced labour.

On 17 May armed men in civilian dress reportedly beat or otherwise ill-treated a Roman Catholic priest and two nuns in their house in the village of Trn near Banja Luka. The following night the parish church was blown up and the nuns' house was set alight.

In addition there have been a number of other attacks on Roman Catholic churches in the area although these have not resulted in casualties. There are also allegations that other Croats have been threatened or attacked in their homes.

Although the perpetrators of these attacks have not been identified, testimony gathered from victims who left the region last year indicates that in many cases those responsible for such attacks are frequently soldiers, both in and out of uniform. The soldiers are themselves often refugees or displaced persons. Amnesty International is also concerned that civilian or military police have not offered adequate protection to victims or potential victims.

In a statement of 8 May the "Ministry of Religious Affairs" of the Bosnian Serb *de facto* authorities condemned the attacks on Roman Catholic religious buildings and dissociated the authorities from them. However in later reports the "Minister" allegedly condoned the attacks on the basis of previous attacks

on Serbian Orthodox buildings or Serbs by Croatian forces.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send faxes in English, German, French or your own language:**

- expressing concern about new reports of the ill-treatment of Croats and attacks on Roman Catholic religious buildings, which have resulted in several deaths in the Banja Luka area;
- reiterating concern about reports of new expulsions of Muslims and Croats from northwest Bosnia;
- calling on the authorities to immediately cease any form of involvement in such acts;
- calling for urgent action to be taken by civilian and military police to give protection to non-Serbs in the area.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Vitomir Popovi\_

Member of Bosnian Serb *de facto* authorities believed to be responsible for human rights.

Banja Luka

Bosnia-Herzegovina

**Faxes: \* 381 78 303 14**

**Salutation: Dear Mr Popovi\_**

2) Radovan Karad\_i\_

Representative of the Bosnian Serb *de facto* authorities

Pale

Bosnia-Herzegovina

**Faxes : \* 381 71 783 497**

**Salutation: Dear Dr Karad\_i\_**

Please note that the international telephone code given is for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (381). The code for Bosnia-Herzegovina (387) should not be used. Connections may be difficult to obtain and persistence may be necessary. If there is recorded message in German saying "no connection under this area code", please try later.

**NO COPIES**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your Section office, if sending appeals after 19 June 1995.