

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 63/25/95

26 October 1995

Further information on EXTRA 91/95 (EUR 63/17/95, 8 August 1995) and follow-ups (EUR 63/21/95, 15 August and EUR 63/24/95, 12 October) - Fear for Safety

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA Non-Serbs in Bosnian Serb-controlled areas**

Amnesty International remains gravely concerned about the situation in northwest Bosnia-Herzegovina where Bosnian Serb forces and paramilitary forces from Serbia continue to commit gross human rights abuses against the remaining Muslims and Croats in the areas which they control. The organization continues to receive reports of deliberate and arbitrary killings and the arbitrary detention of men of military age.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) now estimates that 2,000 or more men are unaccounted for after men of military age were separated from their families before groups of women and children left the area or were expelled. There have also been earlier reports of some women being abducted. International observers, in particular delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross have not had access to the missing or detained men and fears for their safety have been heightened by reports of the deliberate and arbitrary killing of some of the men who have been taken away or had earlier been put into forced labour brigades.

These reports come from refugees crossing into central Bosnia. For example, one man from Klju\_ interviewed by Amnesty International, stated that about a month ago he was shot by Serbian paramilitaries of the group commanded by \_eljko Ra\_natovi\_. At least 12 other Muslim men were killed, and the man says that he, too, was left for dead. However, he escaped and found other Serbs who organized medical treatment and eventually allowed home to join a convoy to central Bosnia. Another man, a teacher interviewed by the UNHCR, stated that he had been allowed to escape from detention in a factory near Sanski Most on 8 October. He was then able to join a convoy taking his family and others to central Bosnia, but was taken from the bus by Serbian soldiers along with the about 350 other men. He claimed that the men were beaten, some to death, and that 10 men were separated from the group and machine-gunned, killing nine of them. The mainly-Muslim Bosnian Government Army took control of the town around 11 October.

Expulsions of non-Serbs have continued. The UNHCR estimates that some 6,000 people have fled or been expelled into areas controlled by the Bosnian Government in central Bosnia in the last few weeks. This is in addition to larger numbers of refugees who fled or were expelled into Croatia in August and September. Large numbers of Serbs have also been displaced from the Prijedor area as the authorities feared further advances by the mainly Muslim Bosnian Army and Croatian forces in Bosnia. United Nations Military Observers in northwest Bosnia have not been given unrestricted access to areas recently taken by Bosnian Government and Croatian forces.

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

- expressing grave concern about fresh reports of the abduction or arbitrary detention of Muslims and Croats and of unlawful killings of civilians and other human rights abuses by armed forces or paramilitary forces in the Banja Luka region;

- demanding urgent action to bring all members of armed forces operating in northwest Bosnia under strict control;
- calling for access to be granted to international observers to all places of detention and for the immediate and unconditional release of all persons held solely on account of their nationality or religion;
- calling for perpetrators of human rights abuses to be held to account.

**APPEALS TO:**

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

**Representative of the Bosnian Serb de facto authorities - faxes only**

Dr Radovan Karad\_i\_  
Pale, Bosnia-Herzegovina  
**Faxes: +381 71 783 566; + 381 71 783 497**  
**Salutation: Dear Dr Karad\_i\_**

**Commander of the Bosnian Serb Army - faxes only**

Col-Gen General Ratko Mladi\_  
Pale, Bosnia-Herzegovina  
**Faxes: +381 71 783 324**  
**Salutation: Dear General**

**President of the Commune of Banja Luka - faxes only**

Predrag Radi\_  
Predsednik Skupštine Opštine  
Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina  
**Faxes: +381 78 126 26**  
**Salutation: Dear President**

Please note that the international telephone code given above 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.

**President of the Republic of Serbia**

Slobodan Miloševi\_  
Predsednik Republike Srbije  
Andri\_ev venac 1  
11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia  
**Faxes: +381 11 682 167 or 656 862**  
**Telegrams: Slobodan Miloševi\_, Beograd, Yugoslavia**  
**Salutation: Dear President**

Copies to diplomatic representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 November 1995.