

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of torture / Ill-treatment

22 September 1994

YUGOSLAVIA (Kosovo province)

Ganimet Podvorica

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Ganimet Podvorica, an ethnic Albanian from Kosovo province, was arrested on 17 September 1994 and is currently being held in Priština under investigation on charges of "terrorism". He is reportedly accused of having, together with other as yet unidentified persons, shot at a police patrol in the town of Glogovac on 22 May 1993, killing two Serbian police officers and wounding five others. A machine gun and ammunition were reportedly found at his home.

Amnesty International has received many reports that ethnic Albanians charged with political crimes have been severely tortured or otherwise ill-treated by police following arrest, with the aim of obtaining self-incriminating statements from them. Amnesty International fears that given the gravity of the crime of which Ganimet Podvorica is accused, and the fact that the victims were police officers, he too may be severely ill-treated or tortured.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In July this year, a Serbian police inspector, Dragan Mladenovi\_, gave an interview to the Albanian-language section of the German radio station *Deutsche Welle*, in which he alleged that high-ranking Serbian police officers were involved in organized crime, in particular arms and drug trafficking. In this interview he also reportedly accused a deputy minister of the Interior (of Serbia) of having organized the shooting of the police officers in Glogovac, with the aim of provoking conflict between ethnic Albanians and Serbs. According to a recent report, Dragan Mladenovi\_ is himself currently under arrest on charges of possessing a weapon without license.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Ganimet Podvorica, detained on 17 September 1994 and currently under investigation on charges of terrorist activity;
- seeking assurances that he is not being subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- acknowledging the extreme gravity of the offence with which he has been charged but noting that torture and other ill-treatment are in all circumstances prohibited both under Yugoslav national law and under international law.

#### APPEALS TO

##### 1. Federal Minister of Internal Affairs

Vukašin Jokanovi\_  
Ministar za unutrašnje poslove  
Savezno ministarstvo za unutrašnje poslove  
Kneza Miloša 92  
Beograd, Yugoslavia  
**Faxes: +381 11 235 1005**  
**Telexes: 11 448 siv yu or 11 185;**  
**Telegrams: Savezno ministar unutrašnje poslove, Beograd, Yugoslavia**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

##### 2. Head of police for Kosovo province

Na\_elnik  
Pokrajinski Sekretarijat za Unutrašnjih Poslova  
Kragujeva\_ka 4  
38000 Priština, AP Kosovo i Metohija, Yugoslavia  
**Telegrams: Nacelnik, Pokrajinski SUP, Priština, APKM**  
**Salutation: Dear Chief of Police**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1. District Public Prosecutor  
Okru\_ni javni tu\_ilac  
38000 Priština, AP Kosovo i Metohija, Yugoslavia
2. Committee for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms, Priština:  
Xhavit Mitrovica 15  
38000 Priština, Yugoslavia.
3. Humanitarian Law Fund  
Terazije 6/III  
11000 Belgrade, Yugoslavia

and to diplomatic representatives of Yugoslavia accredited to your country

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