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**PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

**Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY): Dr Flora Brovina faces unfair trial**

Amnesty International is concerned that tomorrow's trial of Dr Flora Brovina, an Albanian physician from Priština, will not meet international standards of justice and that Dr Brovina, as well as some other 2000 ethnic Albanians from Kosovo detained in Serbia on charges of terrorism, will not receive a fair trial. Dr Brovina has reportedly been denied the opportunity of confidential meetings with her lawyer, in contravention of international human rights standards on fair trial. She is also said to be in poor health, suffering from angina.

Charges against Dr Brovina, when investigations opened, included "association for the purpose of hostile activity", "damaging the territorial integrity of the FRY" and "terrorism". Dr Brovina was a founder of the League of Albanian Women in Kosovo and is accused of assisting in the manufacture and supply of uniforms and other material for the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), the main ethnic Albanian armed opposition group.

Although Dr Brovina has, like many Kosovo Albanians, been reported as "sympathising with" the KLA, she has denied any involvement with the organization. Amnesty International is not aware of any statements she has made advocating the use of violence, or of any evidence of her direct involvement in violent acts.

Serbian police arrested Dr Brovina on 22 April 1999, but information as to her whereabouts was not provided until June, when her family was told she was detained in Po\_arevac prison in Serbia. However, during the period in which her family feared that she had "disappeared", ethnic Albanian prisoners released from Lipljan prison, informed them that Dr Brovina had been held with them.

Amnesty International is calling upon the Yugoslav authorities to ensure full respect for Dr Brovina's rights, in particular her right to an adequate defence in a trial which meets international standards.

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