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**TO: PRESS OFFICERS**

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**DATE: 18 JUNE 1993**

**WEEKLY UPDATE SERVICE 65/93**

Contained in this weekly update are external items on Algeria, World Conference (Myanmar) and Serbia.

**PLEASE NOTE:** A weekly update is enclosed on police ill-treatment in Serbia, including the cases of Vuk Drašković, President of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), his wife and others arrested and ill-treated. There are also UAs on this issue: EUR 70/10/93 (2 June) and EUR 70/11/93 (14 June).

**NEWS INITIATIVES**

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES**

**UN WORLD CONFERENCE-RELATED NEWS INITIATIVES ONLY THROUGHOUT JUNE**

**\*\*WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS\*\***

(New Information)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Item 3 enclosed on World Conference - Aung San Suu Kyi.

**PLEASE NOTE:** AI is going to be making a statement to the World Conference this evening - when we receive further information, we will let you know.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is going to be a major NGO human rights march in Vienna tomorrow (Saturday).

**PLEASE NOTE:** The following numbers are now working in the Vienna Press Office: Tel: +43 222 219 3574/3573/3572, Fax: +43 222 219 357221.

Amnesty International's press office in Vienna will be based at AI's tent outside the Austria Centre and will be open for 24 hours each day.

AI's press team will be staying at Pension Dr Geissler, Postgasse 14, 1010 Vienna. Telephone: +43 1 533 2803.

The strategy team in Vienna will report developments to sections via the IS press office to section press officers. Can press officers ensure that this information is circulated to the relevant people in their section.

General enquiries from press officers should go to Paula and James at the IS Press Office, on Tel: +44 71 413 5562/5810.

The second and third ENRs for the World Conference; Challenge to Governments, (Ref: 1838) and AI Activities Compilation, (Ref: 1840) are ready. Please order copies and refer journalists for copies from: Dubbs Copying House, giving the correct video reference number (as above) on Tel: +44 71 629 0055 or Fax: +44 71 287 8796.

**Annual Report - 0600 hrs gmt, 8 July**

**PLEASE NOTE:** It is VERY important that the annual report news release does not get leaked to the media over the next two weeks - in view of the pessimistic reference to the UN World Conference. Please be careful not to let it be seen by too many people until after the World Conference is over.

Annual Report Summaries, Regional Updates, ENR and news release have all been sent to you.

**Indonesia (Aceh) - 28 July**

Document and news release to go with action on massive numbers of political killings.

**TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES**

**Saudi Arabia - 1 July**

A weekly update item is being written to go with the document: **Saudi Arabia: An Upsurge in Public Executions**, AI Index: MDE 23/04/93. The document and weekly update item will be embargoed for 1 July and will be sent out to selected international media by the IS Press Office. Please note that the document has been sent out in the weekly mailing.

2. MDE 28/WU 02/93 EXTERNAL  
18 June 1993

ALGERIA: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GRAVELY CONCERNED BY RISING TIDE OF POLITICAL KILLINGS

Amnesty International is gravely concerned at the rising tide of political killings by both government security forces and armed opposition groups in Algeria.

The climate of political violence in Algeria has escalated sharply since the Algerian Government renewed the state of emergency in February 1993. Since the end of 1992 over 350 alleged opposition militants have been killed by the security forces.

"Some of these may be individuals who have been unlawfully killed as a result of excessive use of lethal force", Amnesty International said; "some may have been extrajudicially executed after being captured or incapacitated".

Amnesty International has frequently expressed its concern about the alleged unlawful killings by the security forces, and has urged the Algerian authorities to investigate each case of killing and to make the findings public. Until now no investigation has been made public.

Amnesty International has also called on the Algerian authorities to ensure that all law-enforcement personnel comply with relevant international standards, notably the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials. The increase in the number of killings by the security forces calls into question the nature of official instructions given to the Algeria's law enforcement agencies, in particular with regard to the use of lethal force, as well as the issue of whether individual members of the security forces are held accountable when using such force.

Amnesty International is also concerned by the alarming increase in the number of deliberate killings of civilians by armed groups in Algeria. Since the end of 1992, over 70 civilians have been targeted and killed by alleged Islamic militant groups. Amnesty International condemns all deliberate killings of civilians by opposition groups and calls for such arbitrary killings to cease. Over 70 members of the security forces, have also been killed in armed attacks or confrontations.

Amongst those allegedly killed by opposition groups have been civilians who were members of government-appointed organizations and independent public figures known for their opposition to the political agenda of Algeria's Islamist movement. They include Djilali Lyabes, a former Minister of Education, shot dead outside his home on 16 March 1993; Laadi Fichi, a medical doctor and writer who was shot dead at his surgery on 17 March 1993; Tahar Djaout, the director of the weekly, *Ruptures*, who died on 2 June 1993 after having been shot on 26 May; and Mahfoud Boucbabci, a psychiatry professor, stabbed to death on 15 June outside the hospital where he worked in Algiers.

No group is known to have claimed responsibility for any specific attack on civilians. Islamic opposition groups in their leaflets praise attacks against the "juntists" or their "aides" (including civilians) by the "moujahidin". Public statements and communiques by leaders of the *Front Islamique du salut* (FIS), Islamic Salvation Front, call for the continuation of "legitimate jihad" against the Algerian government.

After the interruption of the electoral process and the banning of the FIS in the beginning of 1992, many of its members and supporters, including some who held positions of responsibility within the party reportedly formed some of the groups which have engaged in attacks against civilians and members of the security forces. In Amnesty International's view the deliberate killing of civilians and others who are not taking part in a violent conflict is never justified. Likewise, Amnesty International believes that such abuses by armed opposition groups can never justify human rights violations by governments.

**3. IOR 41/WU 13/93 EXTERNAL**  
**18 June 1993**

**INTERNAL**

The following item was released in Vienna late yesterday. Please note an addition under this item, which we have just added, which is a statement from Vaclav Havel's press office in Prague.

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**EXTERNAL**  
**17 June 1993**

**HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS PROTEST AS MYANMAR SPEAKS AT WORLD CONFERENCE**

Human rights organizations today (17 June) made a silent protest in the name of prisoner of conscience Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as the Foreign Minister of Myanmar (Burma) spoke at the World Conference on Human Rights.

Scores of human rights activists stood silently during the 13-minute speech wearing masks of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi -- the Nobel Laureate and leader of the main opposition party in Myanmar who has been under house arrest since 1989.

"It is the ultimate irony that the violators of human rights in Myanmar have a voice at this conference, while a defender of those rights is silenced in her country," Amnesty International said.

"Today human rights organizations gave Daw Aung San Suu Kyi the presence that the government has denied her for four years."

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is perhaps one of the best known women political activists in the world today. For her non-violent opposition to the repressive military regime governing her country and her defence of human rights, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in December 1991.

As a result of the supposed threat she poses to state security, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been held under house arrest by the Myanmar authorities since July 1989. On Saturday 19 June, she will mark her 43th birthday imprisoned in her own home.

At least 1,500 opponents of the government, many of them prisoners of conscience, are believed to be held in Myanmar despite the release of almost 1,450 in the 12 months leading up to May 1993. Some are detained without trial, others were sentenced after unfair trials.

Gross and persistent human rights violations continue to be reported from all parts of the country, including arbitrary detention of civilians to serve as military porters, torture and extrajudicial executions.

**RELEASED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 17 June 1993**

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The President of the Czech Republic issued the following statement in connection with Amnesty International's campaign for the release of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi:

I have been watching with concern the ruthless treatment of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi who has become a symbol of the democracy movement in Burma while being held under house arrest in harsh conditions by the military junta. I am therefore adding my voice in support of all peaceful actions aiming to secure Aung San Suu Kyi's release and the

**rule of justice and democracy in Burma.**

**Signed: Ladislav Spacek  
Presidential Spokesman**

4. EUR 70/WU 01/93 EXTERNAL  
18 June 1993

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA: POLICE BRUTALITY IN SERBIA**

Amnesty International is deeply concerned about the apparent impunity with which members of Serbia's police force beat and ill-treat citizens, during arrest or later in police stations.

In the great majority of cases known to Amnesty International, the victims of police ill-treatment are ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province. Many have received injuries needing medical treatment, and there have been cases in which the victim has died as a result of beatings. Recent events have shown that a police force allowed to act with impunity against one sector of the population may also act violently and unlawfully against other groups of citizens.

Amnesty International has called on the authorities to initiate independent and impartial investigations into reports of police abuses and to bring to justice all those responsible. The organization has also repeatedly urged that police officers be informed of, and required to implement, international standards for law enforcement.

Among the most recent victims of police brutality are Vuk Drašković, leader of Serbia's largest opposition party the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPD) and his wife, Danica. They were arrested without warrant on 1 June, together with other party members and some journalists, at party headquarters in Belgrade. Eye-witnesses saw them being beaten with rifle-butts and truncheons as they were taken from the building to the Central Prison in Belgrade.

The arrest and beating took place after they returned to party headquarters from demonstrations in protest against the government of Serbian President Slobodan Milošević and the ousting of Federal Yugoslav President Dobrica Čosić through a no-confidence vote in Parliament. In the aftermath of the vote an SPD deputy was assaulted outside the debating chamber by a member of the extreme nationalist Serbian Radical Party. According to press reports, demonstrators led by Vuk Drašković approached the Parliament building. When they attempted to enter the Parliament they clashed with police, who reportedly used truncheons and later teargas and rubber bullets to disperse them. One police officer died in the clashes and some 14 others were injured. Many demonstrators as well as journalists and onlookers were beaten by police.

Vuk Drašković and his wife were examined by prison doctors on 7 June who established that they were severely bruised and that Danica had injuries to her spine. Since then their condition has deteriorated and Vuk Drašković has complained of severe headaches and dizzy spells. On 12 June he reportedly lost consciousness and struck his head on the floor while being visited in the prison hospital. It is reported that the same day he underwent a brain scan at a Belgrade hospital; a doctor said the examination showed no signs of organic brain damage. However, on 17 June, his health reportedly worsened suddenly and a Belgrade magistrate ordered his immediate hospitalization.

The health of his wife, Danica, is also reported to be extremely poor. On 7 June her lawyers stated she appeared to have serious injuries to the spine and bruising in the area of the kidneys. The Ministry of Justice on 8 June stated that Vuk Drašković's health was "completely satisfactory" and that immediately after he was taken into custody it had been established that he had "scratches" and "minor bodily injuries", which in the Ministry's view he had most probably received during the demonstrations.

On 4 June investigation proceedings were started against them under Articles 114 and 139, paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code of Yugoslavia, which carry a prison sentence of up to 15 years. They are accused of having advocated the entry by force of demonstrators into the Federal Parliament on 1 June with the aim of overthrowing the "highest state organs of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia".

Vuk Drašković is held indirectly responsible for the death of a police officer who was killed in the course of the demonstrations and for injuries to 14 other police officers and 16 citizens. He is also accused of punching and injuring a police officer. Danica Drašković is charged with inciting demonstrators to break into and demolish the Parliament and beat up police officers protecting the building.

On the night of the demonstrations many journalists were beaten and some spent the night in prison. According to press reports, among them were Lazar Lilić, President of the Executive Committee of the Independent Trade Union of Radio Television, who suffered two broken ribs. He stated: "they [police] forced me to "run the gauntlet" of their truncheons blows and fists... I tried to tell the commander of the unit that there was some mistake, but he was one of the first to hit me and gave the signal to the others. They then threw me bleeding into a "black maria" (police van)." Other journalists beaten by police included Zeljko Šafer, a cameraman for the Belgrade newspaper *Novosti* and Dušan Vranić, cameraman from *Associated Press*, who had their photographic equipment broken.

On the same day that these events were taking place in Belgrade, police reportedly ordered an ethnic Albanian, Naim Krasniqi, a laboratory technician, to get out of a bus travelling from Pristina to Peć in Kosovo province and beat him on the spot. He was then taken to a police station in the town of Glogovac where he was further ill-treated. After his release he was examined by a doctor who found that his right arm was broken.

Two days previously another ethnic Albanian, Ukshin Hoti, a university professor and former political prisoner, was stopped by a police patrol outside the town of Glogovac. He had just visited hunger-strikers in Pristina who were protesting against the forcible take-over and effective closure by the government of the Albanian-language press and publishing house *Rilindja*. He was reportedly beaten unconscious by police before being released. According to a medical report, he suffered injuries to his ribs, head and legs.

These are just two of the many incidents which followed the shooting in Glogovac on 23 May of two police officers and the wounding of five others. Police subsequently carried out mass house searches for arms in the area. By 25 May, over 60 ethnic Albanians were reported to have been arrested and some 30 beaten, including children and an elderly man. Arrests and beatings in the Glogovac area and elsewhere are continuing, but to Amnesty International's knowledge no one has yet been charged with the murder and wounding of police officers.

A year ago Amnesty International published a report, Yugoslavia: Ethnic Albanians - Victims of torture and ill-treatment by police in Kosovo province, (AI Index: EUR 48/18/92), including victims' and witnesses' testimonies and photographic and medical evidence. It documented 15 illustrative cases; in two of these the victims died, allegedly as a result of the injuries they received from beatings. The organization called on the authorities to investigate these cases and the many others about which it had learned. However, the Government of Serbia has never responded to these concerns and to Amnesty International's knowledge no investigations were carried out. Police officers who committed these abuses have never been brought to justice.