AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 121/94

TO: PRESS OFFICERS
AI INDEX: NWS 11/121/94
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE
DISTR: SC/PO

DATE: 9 JUNE 1994 NO OF WORDS:481

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

<u>PLEASE NOTE:</u> For further information on the death sentences awarded in Kuwait to 6 men alleged of participation in attempted assassination of President Bush see follow up to UA 180/93, AI INDEX: MDE 17/05/94.

<u>PLEASE NOTE:</u> Early next week a news item will be sent to you on the question of impunity, based on letter being drafted to President Mandela and his Minister of Justice by the S. Africa research team at the IS.

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

<u>USA - 14 June</u> - SEE NEWS SERVICE 114/94 <u>Turkey - 22 June</u> - SEE NEWS SERVICES 118/94 AND 104/94 <u>Pakistan - 27 July</u> - Please note New Date. SEE News Service 81/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Denmark - 21 June - PLEASE NOTE ANOTHER CHANGE OF EMBARGO DATE. Apologies for the numerous changes to the embargo date. This is the final date. SEE NEWS SERVICES 118/94 AND 105/94

Mozambique - 23 June - SEE ENCLOSED ITEM, SEE NEWS SERVICE 115/94

Myanmar - 20 July - SEE NEWS SERVICE 99/94

FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Annual Report - 7 July - SEE NEWS SERVICE 51/94

News Service 121/94

AI INDEX: EUR 63/WU 05/94 9 .IIINF 1994

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONCERNED AT "DISAPPEARANCE" OF TUNISIAN AID WORKERS IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Two Tunisian aid workers who "disappeared" in early May in Bosnia-Herzegovina may have been detained by rebel Bosnian Serb forces.

Details of the aid workers' disappearance are incomplete, but Amnesty International fears for their safety. The organization has written to the *de facto* Bosnian Serb authorities urging them to investigate the "disappearance" of the aid workers.

"If they are being held, we call on the Bosnian Serbs to make public the reasons for their detention", Amnesty International said.

The two, Shafik Ayadi and Nabil Makhlouf, work for the *Muwafak Foundation*, which distributes food aid in central Bosnia. The men were last seen on 7 May 1994 travelling toward their destination: a check point at Had_i_i, south of Sarajevo, on the road from the Croatian coast to Sarajevo.

Witnesses saw them leave a United Nations convoy at Konjic in Government-controlled territory at about 11am and proceed alone in a single four-wheel-drive vehicle into a region controlled by Bosnian Serb forces. Ayadi and Makhlouf, aged 31 and 30 years, should have reached Had i i sometime between 1pm and 2pm, yet their whereabouts remain unknown.

Bosnian Serb forces have in the past detained foreign aid workers with the purpose of obtaining the release of prisoners held by the Bosnian Government. Eleven french aid workers from the organization *Première Urgence* were detained for a month near Sarajevo by Bosnian Serb forces after being accused of carrying arms in their vehicles.

After proposing an exchange of the group with prisoners held by the Bosnian Government and threatening a trial, the Bosnian Serb authorities finally released the French aid workers on 18 May after payment of large sums as "bail". Amnesty International considered them to have been held as hostages.

ENDS\