

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 70/46/00

Further information on UA 239/00 (EUR 70/36/00, 11 August 2000) -
Ill-treatment/medical concern/prisoner of conscience 11 September 2000

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (FRY) Miroslav Filipovi_ , journalist

Prisoner of conscience Miroslav Filipovi_ may well suffer a fatal heart attack unless he is moved at once to a well-equipped cardiology unit, according to an independent doctor.

He has been at Niš military hospital since 14 August, but there are concerns that the hospital is not adequately equipped to treat him, and that he may be returned to prison. An independent doctor who has examined the results of hospital tests and other information about Filipovi_'s health has concluded that without proper treatment he is at serious risk of a heart attack, probably fatal. The Belgrade Military Medical Academy (VMA), where he was treated from 8-11 August, can provide the treatment he needs. According to his family he received excellent medical care there.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Journalist Miroslav Filipovi_ was jailed for seven years on 26 July. He was convicted by a military court of "espionage" and "spreading false information", apparently because of articles he wrote about the conflict in Kosovo, one of which contained eyewitness accounts of human rights violations by Serbian and FRY forces. His lawyer has lodged an appeal with the Supreme Military Court, which is obliged to respond by mid-November.

Miroslav Filipovi_, who writes for the Serbian independent newspaper *Danas*, is a correspondent for the London-based Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), and Kraljevo correspondent for *Agence France Presse* (AFP).

Filipovi_ has a history of minor heart problems, and became unwell on 3 August, after a week in Niš Military prison. He was taken to Niš Military hospital to have his heart function monitored on an electrocardiograph (ECG), but taken back to the prison a few hours later, against the advice of the doctor.

On 8 August his condition deteriorated and he was taken to the cardiology unit at the VMA in Belgrade, where he was found to have severe chronic arrhythmia (an irregular heart-beat). He was moved back to the prison on 11 August, a move described as "very dangerous" by hospital sources at the time. Three days later he was taken to the Niš military hospital, where he remains.

At the prison he shared a cell with two other inmates, a situation which may cause stress which would aggravate his medical condition.

Filipovi_ has lost 20 kilograms since he was detained in May.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Serbian, English or your own language:

- expressing renewed concern for Miroslav Filipovi_, after recent medical tests showed that he is at serious risk of a heart attack, probably fatal, unless he is given proper medical care;
- pointing out that he can only receive adequate care as an in-patient in a properly equipped hospital;
- urging the authorities to move him immediately to the Belgrade Military Medical Academy (VMA);

- reminding the authorities that Amnesty International considers Miroslav Filipovi_ a prisoner of conscience, who should be immediately and unconditionally released.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister

Predsednik Savezne Vlade
Dr Momir Bulatovi_
Bulevar Mihaila Pupina 2
11070 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation:Dear Prime Minister

Fax: + 381 11 636 775 or + 381 11 659 682

E-mail: momir.bulatovic@gov.yu

Salutation:Dear Minister

Federal Minister of Defence

Dragoljub Ojdani_
Kneza Miloša 37
11000 Beograd
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

E-mail:dragoljub.ojdanic@gov.yu

Salutation:Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ministar za inostrane poslove
ivadin Jovanovi
Savezno ministarstvo za inostrane poslove
Kneza Miloša 24-26
11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Telegram:Foreign Minister, Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Fax: + 381 11 361 8366

email: zivadin.jovanovic@gov.yu

Salutation: Dear Minister

and to diplomatic representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 October 2000.