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### **FRY Kosovo: Ethnic Albanian physician abducted**

The abduction of a prominent ethnic Albanian physician from her house in Priština must be investigated and her safety guaranteed, Amnesty International said today, expressing its concern for the fate of 48-year-old paediatrician Dr Flora Brovina.

According to reports, on the afternoon of 22 April a group of about eight men came to Dr Brovina's address in the Sun\_ani Breg (Bregu i Diellit) district of Priština. Most of them were wearing civilian clothing, and some are reported to have been wearing masks. After breaking into Dr Brovina's apartment, they forced her -- reportedly in handcuffs -- into a car and drove away.

Since then, her whereabouts have remained unknown. Inquiries made by members of her family to the local police have yielded no results.

"There are fears that Dr Brovina may have been targeted because of her activities -- which included setting up a rehabilitation centre for displaced women and children," Amnesty International said. She may also have been targeted for being one of the few prominent ethnic Albanians to remain in Priština.

Although many ethnic Albanians have been forced out of their homes by Serbian security forces or have fled in fear, a number of them still remain in the city. Amnesty International has also received reports that several of those attempting to flee Priština and cross the border have been turned back by Serbs and returned to the city.

### **Background**

Dr Brovina was the president of the Lidhja e Gruas Shqiptare (the Albanian Women's League), a non-party organization, and had contacts with members of local human rights groups and humanitarian organizations. She had also been active in organizing a series of women's demonstrations in March 1998 to protest against actions by the Serbian security forces in the Drenica area.

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