

**Further information on UA 120/98 Bosnia-Herzegovina (EUR 63/04/98, 17 April 1998) -
Fear for Safety****BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA****Bosnian Serbs returned in Drvar municipality
Vojin Trninic (killed)
Lela Trninic (killed)**

Further violent attacks against members of minority groups returning to their homes have increased Amnesty International's concerns for the safety of members of minorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in particular those who have returned to or who are visiting their pre-war homes.

Some violent incidents have been linked to the killing of the Trnini_ couple, Vojin and Lela Trninic, in Drvar. On 23 April 1998, in Derventa (Republika Srpska), a Bosnian Serb-controlled town near the border with Croatia, hundreds of Bosnian Croat refugees from Croatia were prevented from attending a religious service at the Roman Catholic church by an angry mob of Bosnian Serbs, primarily displaced people from Drvar and Bosanski Petrovac (Federation). Demonstrators prevented busses carrying Bosnian Croats from entering the town, and the crowd reportedly overturned several cars and one bus.

Approximately 30 Bosnian Croats who had arrived previously, including Roman Catholic Cardinal Vinko Pulji_, managed to enter the church. They remained trapped there for several hours because of the threat of violence outside. They were eventually evacuated from the church by members of SFOR, but demonstrators threw stones and Molotov cocktails at the departing busses. An aide to the cardinal, Ivo Tomaševi_, and five other Bosnian Croats were injured in the demonstrations. In response to the incidents, the Bosnian Serb leadership, including Mom_ilo Krajišnik, Bosnian Serb member of the three member Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Republika Srpska President Biljana Plavši_ have stated that incidents, including those in Derventa, must be viewed in the context of the killing of the Trnini_ couple in Drvar.

On 24 April, violence erupted in Drvar shortly after the conclusion of a demonstration attended by hundreds of Bosnian Croats, who had reportedly been shouting "Derventa! Derventa!". In ensuing riots, at least five buildings were set ablaze in Drvar, including the offices of international organizations. Fourteen people were injured in the demonstrations, two of whom were Bosnian Serbs, including the (Bosnian Serb) mayor of the town, Mile Mar_eta. Rioters reportedly gathered in front of an apartment building used to house more than 100 Bosnian Serbs who had returned to Drvar. The homes of some Bosnian Serbs were reportedly ransacked and vandalized. Reports indicate that Bosnian Serb houses in outlying villages may have been deliberately burned. According to Bosnian television reports, hundreds of Bosnian Serbs, likely displaced people who had returned to their homes since 1996, have fled to the Republika Srpska.

Although Amnesty International continues to have concerns for the safety of members of minorities, the violence has now extended beyond Drvar and has become considerably more complicated. Rather than issue a new Urgent Action, Amnesty International is closing this Urgent Action and will pursue campaigning on this topic through other ongoing campaigning activities. Amnesty International members interested in further action on this topic who are in

sections which are taking part in the current Section Level Action, *Bosnia-Herzegovina : All the way home* (AI Index: EUR 63/03/98), can consult their sections about participation in that action.

The authorities in Drvar may respond to appeals with reference to the violence which was committed in Derventa against Bosnian Croat refugees visiting that town. If you receive a response from the authorities, please check carefully to see whether the specific concerns regarding the killing of the Trnini_ couple were answered. If there is only general information related to the status of investigations into the killing of the Trnini_ couple, please write again, noting that violent acts committed against members of one nationality cannot be used to justify other violent acts, and asking again for the specific status of their investigations related to the killing of the Trnini_ couple.

Please note that the Deputy mayor of Drvar and the chief of police have been officially dismissed, although the United Nations reported on 23 April that both men were continuing to act in their official capacities. Please do not address these authorities by name in any further correspondence, but instead send your appeals to the "acting deputy mayor" or "acting chief of police."

Thank you for your action on this case.