

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 264/94 Torture / Fear of further torture or ill-treatment 8 July 1994

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (KOSOVO) Kadri AVDIU, aged 33  
and his brothers

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On 27 June 1994, Kadri Avdiu was severely beaten and ill-treated by police at Lu\_ane police station. He has temporarily moved away from home, but police have recently searched the family home, and on 6 July summoned his brothers to the police station. Amnesty International fears that Kadri Avdiu, if located by police, and his brothers risk further ill-treatment.

Kadri Avdiu is an ethnic Albanian from Belopoje village near Podujevo in Kosovo province in southern Serbia. He is chairman of a local branch of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), the main ethnic Albanian opposition party. According to a detailed statement he made which was issued by the LDK on 7 July, he was arrested at his home, together with his brother Ali, on 27 June and taken to Lu\_ane police station. There police officers questioned him about weapons which they said he had distributed locally. When he denied this, an officer punched him in the face. He was then forced to remove his shoes, and an officer repeatedly beat the soles of his feet until he lost consciousness. After water was thrown over him, he revived, was again beaten and again lost consciousness. This was repeated four times. When he continued to refuse to confess to possessing and distributing arms, he and his brother were released.

Kadri Avdiu subsequently sought medical treatment and has since not returned home. Failing to find him, police have summoned his four brothers to the police station, and on 5 July threatened his brother, Shefki, that he had three days to bring his brother Kadri to the station. The following day police searched the family home and ordered the five brothers to report to the police station.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Police violence has escalated in the predominantly Albanian-populated province of Kosovo since the beginning of 1994. Amnesty International daily learns of cases in which officers of the largely Serbian police force have beaten ethnic Albanians in police stations or while carrying out arms searches in their homes. Since 1990, when Serbia adopted a new constitution which deprived Kosovo province of most of its autonomy, most ethnic Albanians have refused to recognize Serbian authority in the province. LDK members and members of other ethnic Albanian political parties have been among the most frequent targets of police violence. For further information, see *Yugoslavia: Police violence against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province* (AI Index: EUR 70/06/94, April 1994).

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams, faxes and airmail letters either in English, French or German or in your own language:**

- expressing deep concern about allegations that Kadri Avdiu, from Belopoje near Podujevo, president of a local branch of the Democratic League of Kosovo, was severely beaten by police at Lu\_ane police station on 27 June, apparently with the aim of forcing him to confess to distributing weapons;
- expressing concern that other members of his family have been threatened by police searching for Kadri Avdiu;
- urging the authorities to initiate a prompt, independent and impartial inquiry into the allegations of torture and ill-treatment made in this case and in many other recent cases involving LDK members.
- urging that any persons found to be responsible for torture or ill-treatment

be brought to justice;

- urging that police officers be informed of, and required to uphold, international standards for law enforcement.

**APPEALS TO**

1. Chief of police, Podujevo

Na\_elnik

Sekretarijat Unutrašnjih Poslova

38240 Podujevo, AP Kosovo i Metohija

Yugoslavia

**Telegrams: Na\_elnik, Sekretarijat Unutrašnjih Poslova, Podujevo, Kosovo, Yugoslavia**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

2. Minister of Justice of the Republic of Serbia

Arandjel Marki\_evi\_

Ministar pravde

Republi\_ko Ministarstvo za pravosudje i opštu upravu

Nemanjina 26

11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

**Telegrams: Ministar pravde, Ministarstvo za pravosudje, Belgrade, Yugoslavia**

**Faxes: +381 11 683 041**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

3. Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia

Zoran Sokolovi\_

Ministar Unutrašnjih Poslova Republike Srbije

Kneza Miloša 101

11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

**Telegrams: Ministar Sokolovi\_, Kneza Miloša, Belgrade, Yugoslavia**

**Faxes: +381 11 683 041**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1. Federal Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs

Ms Margit Savovi\_

Bulevar Lenjina 2

11070 Beograd

Yugoslavia

2. Committee for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms, Priština:

Khavit Mitrovica 15

38000 Priština, Yugoslavia.

3. Humanitarian Law Fund

Terazije 6/111

11000 Beograd

Yugoslavia.

and to diplomatic representatives of Yugoslavia accredited to your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 August 1994.

