

UA 447/94

Ill-treatment/torture of teachers

16 December 1994

YUGOSLAVIA (Kosovo province)

Rexhep Ahmeti, Bujar Naxhiu,

Luljeta Sefaja [f], Sami Rama and Avdie Haxhiu [f], (all teachers in the town of Kosovska Mitrovica)

On 13 December 1994 police reportedly entered a building where pupils of the "Architect Sinani" secondary school in Kosovska Mitrovica were having lessons and ordered the pupils to leave. They then reportedly beat a sociology teacher, Rexhep Ahmeti, and forced him to burn a sociology textbook by the Croatian author Rudi Supek in a stove. Police also beat another teacher, Bujar Naxhiu, and compelled the English language-teacher, Luljeta Sefaja, to burn an English language text-book.

The following day police entered a house where pupils of another secondary school (the "Trep_a" technical school) in Kosovska Mitrovica were being taught, and reportedly began to beat the pupils who tried to flee. Police officers also beat a teacher, Sami Rama, with truncheons and allegedly forced him to place his hands on a burning stove, causing him severe burns, as a result of which he later sought medical treatment. They also reportedly slapped and hit a mathematics teacher, Avdie Haxhiu.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 1990, when Serbia adopted a new constitution which effectively deprived the predominantly ethnic-Albanian inhabited province of Kosovo of its autonomy, most ethnic Albanians have refused to recognize Serbian authority in the province. The majority of teaching staff at secondary schools and Priština University have been dismissed from their posts after refusing to teach according to curricula set by the Serbian authorities. They have continued to hold classes, however, in private houses, as appears to have been the case in the two incidents referred to above.

Police violence continues to escalate in Kosovo province, and ethnic Albanian teachers and academics have been amongst the most frequent targets of police abuses. (See Yugoslavia: Police violence against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province, EUR 70/06/95, April 1994 and Yugoslavia: Police violence in Kosovo province - the victims, EUR 70/16/94).

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

- expressing deep concern about reports that on 13 and 14 December 1994 police beat and ill-treated the above teachers, and in particular caused one of them, Sami Rama, to suffer severe burns requiring medical treatment;
- urging the authorities to initiate a prompt, independent and impartial inquiry into these reports of ill-treatment;
- urging that any persons found to be responsible for ill-treatment be brought to justice;
- urging that police officers be informed of, and required to implement, international standards for law enforcement.

APPEALS TO

1. Federal Minister of Internal Affairs

Vukašin Jokanovi_
Ministar za unutrašnje poslove
Savezno ministarstvo za unutrašnje poslove
Kneza Miloša 92
Beograd, Yugoslavia
Faxes: +381 11 235 1005
Telexes: 11 448 siv yu or 11 185;
Telegrams: Savezno ministar unutrašnje poslove, Beograd, Yugoslavia
Salutation: Dear Minister

2. **Chief of police, Kosovska Mitrovica**

Na_elnik
Sekretarijat Unutrašnjih Poslova
38220 Kosovska Mitrovica, AP Kosovo i Metohija, Yugoslavia
Telegrams: Na_elnik, MUP, Priština, APKM
Salutation: Dear Chief of Police

3. **The Prefect of Kosovska Mitrovica**

Na_elnik Kosovskomitrova_kog okruga
Zdravko Trajkovi_
38220 Kosovska Mitrovica, AP Kosovo i Metohija, Yugoslavia
Telegrams: Prefekt, Kosovska Mitrovica, APKM
Salutation: Dear Prefekt

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1. **Committee for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms, Priština:**
Xhavit Mitrovica 15
38000 Priština, Yugoslavia.

2. **Humanitarian Law Fund**
Terazije 6/III
11000 Belgrade, 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 27 January 1995.