6 June 1994

Al Index: EUR 11/04/94

Further information on UA 172/94 (EUR 11/03/94, 3 May 1994) - Death penalty

ALBANIA:Laver Goga, teacher, aged 48

According to unofficial sources, Laver Goga is due to be executed on 14 June 1994. If this information is correct, as Amnesty International believes is likely, it means that his death sentence was confirmed on appeal and has been approved by President Berisha.

Laver Goga was sentenced to death by the district court of Fier in April 1994, after being found guilty of the premeditated murder of his 17-year-old daughter-in-law, whom he stabbed to death on 1 May 1993 at the home of her parents.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has also learned of two other death sentences imposed by Albanian courts this year. In January a court in Tirana sentenced Luan Isufi to death for murder and on 3 i April a court in Viora sentenced Jeto Muka to death for killing two people while carrying out a robbery. Amnesty International does not know whether these sentences were confirmed on appeal. In February 1994 the President of the Court of Cassation, Zef Brozi, reportedly stated that in the past five years 45 men had been sentenced to death and 24 of these had been executed.

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

- urging President Berisha to exercise his constitutional power to commute Laver Goga's death sentence. State that you recognize the gravity of his crime, but that Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without reservation, on the grounds that it is a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment;
- urging President Berisha to commute all other death penalties which are brought to him for review:

APPEALS TO:

President of Albania Dr Sali Berisha President i Republikës se Shqiperisë Tiranë Albania

Faxes: +355 42 32971 or 32979

Telegrams: President Berisha, Tirana, Albania

Salutation: Dear President

COPIES TO:

Minister of Justice Mr Kudret Cela Ministria e Drejtësisë Tiranë Albania

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Alfred Serreqi Minister i Punëve të Jashtme Tiranë Albania Faxes: +355 42 32971

The Albanian Helsinki Committee Komiteti Shqiptar i Helsinkit Qendra Nderkombetare e kultures, Dhoma no. 35 Bulevardi "Deshmoret e kombit" Tiranë Albania.

and to diplomatic representatives of ALBANIA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 July 1994.