

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 63/09/94
Distr: UA/SC

26 April 1994

Further information on UA 146/94 (EUR 63/07/94, 13 April 1994) - and follow-up:
EUR 63/08/94, 22 April 1994 - Deliberate and arbitrary killings

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: Muslim civilians in the Gora_de area

Amnesty International has learned that since the issuing of the follow-up Urgent Action (EUR 63/08/94) on 22 April 1994, the Bosnian Serb forces have agreed to a ceasefire and the withdrawal of their forces from Gora_de.

The ceasefire and withdrawal were in response to an ultimatum to the Bosnian Serb army issued on 22 April 1994 by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). According to the ultimatum, the Bosnian Serb army were to cease attacking immediately and withdraw its forces to a distance of at least three kilometres from the town by 00.01 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) on 24 April 1994. Bosnian Serb artillery were also to be withdrawn to a distance of at least 20 kilometres from Gora_de and other United Nations (UN)-designated "safe areas" in eastern Bosnia by 00.01 GMT on 27 April. In the event of non-compliance with the ultimatum, Bosnian Serb forces in a 20-kilometre zone around Gora_de would be subject to air strikes by NATO aircraft. The NATO ultimatum followed a request for support from NATO from the UN Security Council.

On Saturday 23 April the Bosnian Serb army resumed heavy shelling in the middle of the day, but later in the day artillery attacks ceased and their forces started to withdraw. It appears that in the new attack indiscriminate shelling aimed at causing civilian casualties was used or civilian targets were deliberately chosen. The hospital was allegedly hit again, killing three people. The Bosnian Serb army is also reported to have blown up a water treatment plant in the town before withdrawing.

A doctor working for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Gora_de hospital has reportedly confirmed the number of deaths in the attack on the makeshift clinic of 21 April to have been 20. A UN convoy which included medical staff, and which had earlier been turned back by Bosnian Serb civilian demonstrators in another town, reached the hospital in the evening of 23 April.

Since the possibility of a new offensive by the Bosnian Serb army in Gora_de or against other UN-designated "safe areas" cannot be excluded, please continue to appeal on the points issued in the follow-up of 22 April 1994.

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

- condemning the deliberate targeting of civilians by Bosnian Serb artillery and stating that international humanitarian law requires the military to distinguish civilians from combatants;
- noting that on many previous occasions Bosnian Serb artillery has deliberately targeted civilians;
- calling for the chain of command of the Bosnian Serb forces to be strengthened to ensure that such incidents are not allowed to reoccur;
- calling for an immediate and thorough investigation of the latest incidents and for those suspected of ordering or perpetrating the incidents to be brought to justice;
- stressing that Amnesty International is concerned for victims of human rights

abuses of all nationalities and that it takes no position on questions such as international military intervention.

APPEALS TO:

1) Representative of the Bosnian Serbs at the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia

Dr Radovan Karad_i_
Biro Republike Srpske
Moše Pijade 8
110000 Beograd
Yugoslavia

Faxes : +381 11 338 633

Telegrams : Representative of the Bosnian Serbs Karad_i_, Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear Dr Karad_i_

2) Commander of the Bosnian Serb forces

General Ratko Mladi_
Biro Republike Srpske
Moše Pijade 8
110000 Beograd
Yugoslavia

Faxes : +381 11 338 633

Telegrams : Commander of Serbian forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mladi_, Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear General Mladi_

3) President of Serbia

Slobodan Miloševi_
Predsednik Republike Srbije
Andri_ev venac 1
11000 Beograd
Yugoslavia

Faxes : +381 11 682 167

Telegrams : President Miloševi_, Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation : Dear President

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Prof Vojin Šulovi_
President of the Serbian Medical Association
D_ord_a Vašingtona 19
11000 Beograd
Yugoslavia

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 June 1994.