

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 63/13/93

Distr: UA/SC

14 May 1993

Further information on EXTRA 21/93 (EUR 63/05/93, 2 March 1993) - Fear for safety

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: Non-Serbs in the Serbian-controlled town of Banja Luka

Amnesty International continues to be very concerned for the safety of non-Serbs (mainly Muslims and Croats) in the Serbian-controlled town of Banja Luka in north western Bosnia-Herzegovina. The organization continues to receive reports alleging deliberate and arbitrary killings, arbitrary detentions and acts of intimidation. Such abuses are alleged to have been either perpetrated by the *de facto* Bosnian Serb authorities or by armed Serbian forces which the authorities have been unwilling or unable to control. These abuses appear to be intended to provoke the departure of non-Serbs from the area.

According to information received by Amnesty International, on 6 May 1993 a group of armed police officers interrupted the evening service at the Hiseta mosque. They reportedly arrested and beat on the spot one of the worshippers, a former policeman Mustafa B, aged 35, and took him away. They allegedly threatened the *imam* (prayer leader) and told him not to continue holding services in the mosque because this was dangerous.

The following day, in the early hours of the morning, two famous 16th century mosques in Banja Luka were blown up. The destruction of mosques has been one of the methods of intimidation used against Muslims in Serbian-controlled areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina and, together with arbitrary detentions and killings and various discriminatory administrative measures, has led many Muslims to flee the area. The mayor of Banja Luka has condemned the destruction of these two mosques and said an investigation would be instituted, acknowledging that one of the mosques was next to police headquarters in the town.

Muslims and Croats continue to leave Banja Luka and its surroundings in large numbers.

On 1 May, a spokesman for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees accompanying a group of about 200 Muslims who had abandoned their homes in Vrbanja on the outskirts of Banja Luka, said local people had reported incidents in which Muslims had been knifed to death and shot dead. Others had died when their houses were set ablaze. He blamed irregular Serb units. On 11 May local sources alleged that in the past two weeks 10 Muslims had been killed in Banja Luka. The same day the mosque in Vrbanja was reportedly blown up.

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

- stressing that Amnesty International is concerned for victims of human rights

violations of all nationalities in the former Yugoslavia;

- expressing concern about reports of human rights violations against non-Serbs in the town of Banja Luka in recent weeks;

- urging the authorities to take urgent measures to ensure that the local security forces or irregulars are effectively controlled and that strict orders are issued to ensure that they abide by international human rights and humanitarian law standards;

Page 2 of FU EXTRA 21/93

- urging them to instigate thorough and impartial investigations into reported killings and ill-treatment of local non-Serbs;

- urging that any individuals suspected of ordering abuses or being complicit in allowing any such as deliberate and arbitrary killings, torture or ill-treatment be removed from any position of authority and that they be held to account for their actions;

- demanding that the those who wish to leave Serbian-controlled territory are allowed safe passage without conditions, avoidable risks or prejudice to the possibility of their return.

APPEALS TO

1) The head of security in the Banja Luka police:

Stojan _upljanin

SUP - Centar slu_bi bezbjednosti

Salutation: Dear Commander

Maršala Tita bb

78000 Banja Luka

Yugoslavia (for Bosnia-Herzegovina)

Telegrams: Zupljanin, Sef bezbjednosti, SUP, Banja Luka, Yugoslavia

Telexes: Via central post office, Banja Luka, Yugoslavia 45911

2) The military commander for the Banja Luka region:

General Momir Tali_

Trg Lenjina bb

Salutation: Dear General

78000 Banja Luka

Yugoslavia (for Bosnia-Herzegovina)

Telegrams: General Talic, komandant okruga, Banja Luka, Yugoslavia

Telexes: Via central post office, Banja Luka, Yugoslavia 45911

3) The head of the Serbian Democratic Party in Banja Luka:

Dr Radoslav Vuki_

Predsjednik SDS - Banja Luka

Salutation: Dear Dr Vuki_

78000 Banja Luka

Yugoslavia (for Bosnia-Herzegovina)

Telegrams: Brdjanin, Predsjednik SDS, Banja Luka, Yugoslavia

Telexes: Via central post office, Banja Luka, Yugoslavia 45911

4) The Representative of the Bosnian Serbs:

Dr Radovan Karad_i_

Biro Republike Srpske

Salutation: Dear Dr Karad_i_

Moše Pijade 8

11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Telegrams: Representative of the Bosnian Serbs Karad_i_, Beograd, Yugoslavia
Faxes: + 38 11 235 1213

5) Commander of Serbian forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina:

General Ratko Mladi_
Biro Republike Srpske
Moše Pijade 8
11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear General Mladi_

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

Faxes: + 38 11 235 1213

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 June 1993.