

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on EXTRA 41/94 (EUR 63/18/94, 29 July 1994) - Ill-treatment

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: Civilian prisoners detained in Velika Kladuša, western
Bosnia-Herzegovina**

The latest reports from western Bosnia-Herzegovina indicate that the forces loyal to the local separatist leader, Fikret Abdi_, are on the verge of surrender to Bosnian Government forces.

On 4 August 1994 troops loyal to Fikret Abdi_ in Pecigrad surrendered. The town was strategically important for the defence of Fikret Abdi_'s forces' stronghold in Velika Kladuša. On 9 August there were reports that large numbers of Abdi_'s soldiers had fled into neighbouring areas of Croatia. These areas of Croatia are under the control of local Serb forces with whom Fikret Abdi_ has relatively good relations. They form part of the United Nations Protected Area in Croatia. Large numbers of civilians were also reported to be fleeing with the soldiers.

In view of the probability of the defeat of the forces loyal to Fikret Abdi_ in the next few days, which should lead to the release of the civilian prisoners in Velika Kladuša no more appeals are required. Amnesty International will monitor further developments in the area.

Thank you to all who participated in this action.