

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 70/01/95
Distr: UA/SC

24 January 1995

Further information on UA 412/94 (EUR 70/26/94, 24 November 1994) - and follow-up(s): EUR 70/27/94, 25 November; EUR 70/28/94, 2 December; EUR 70/29/94, 8 December) - Fear of torture/ill-treatment

YUGOSLAVIA (Kosovo): Ramadan Ndrecaj, Rexhep Oruçi, Salih Sokoli, Avdi Mehmedoviq, Haki Mehmeti, Ali Mehmeti, Blerim Olloni, Sejfullah Sahatçiu, Shefqet Beqa, Remzi Tertica, Adem Shala, Halil Blakaj, Reshat Maliqi, Jonuz Loshi, Selim Çitaku, Ilmi Uka, Abdullah Doroci, Ramadan Ndreca, Shaip Mustafa, Murtez Jahaj, Fadil Hyseni, Bajram Jakaj, Isak Aliu, Idriz Jashari, Enver Ramizi, Esat Merovci, Halil Kafexholli, Idriz Sejdiu, Ilmi Bujari, Shefqet Berisha, Sherif Shala, Faik Jasiqi, Gani Hajdari, Vllasnim Shehu, Shaban Shala, Xhavit Osmani, Muhamet Nimani, Shaban Dana, Halit Rexhepi, Asllan Bislimi, Ylmet Fondaj, Reshat Maliqi, Sheremet Ahmeti

New names: Destan Thaçi and Nuredin Ibushi

Up to 170 former police employees have been arrested since November 1994 and at least 133 remain in detention for investigation on charges of "endangering Yugoslavia's territorial integrity" under Article 116 of the Yugoslav Criminal Code. They are accused of having created a "parallel" ethnic Albanian police force in Kosovo province and of having collected equipment, including uniforms and arms, with the aim of obtaining by force Kosovo's independence from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its unification with neighbouring Albania. They are being held in the towns of Priština, Prizren, Gnjilane and Pe_.

On 16 December, a number of lawyers acting for the accused alleged at a press conference that state security police officers had continued to torture their clients. Blerim Olloni's lawyer stated that when her client was finally examined by doctors of the Institute of Forensic Medicine on 14 December 1994, they had confirmed wounds on his body. She alleged that state security officers had threatened Blerim Olloni that unless he confessed to the existence of a list of Serbian police officers to be "liquidated", they would torture him with electric batons and chemical drugs.

Destan Thaçi allegedly told his lawyer that he was no longer being beaten, but that instead police officers had tortured him by holding his head under water. Nuredin Ibushi's lawyer alleged that his client had been repeatedly tortured and when his wife had visited him the previous day the visit had been cut short because of his poor state of health. Nuredin Ibushi's lawyer also said that the investigating judge had refused to allow him to visit his client the following day.

On 12 January 1995, a lawyer complained that even after the detained men had been examined by the investigating judge they continued to be questioned by state security police even though, as far as their lawyers knew, no court decision had been issued entrusting parts of the investigation to the police. She said that lawyers were not allowed to be present during these interrogations and that they had been denied access to the court files of their clients, which undermined their ability to defend their clients.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern about further reports of the torture and ill-treatment of former police officers detained in Kosovo, among them, Avdi Mehmedović, Blerim Olloni, Sheremet Ahmeti, Enver Ramizi, Esat Merovci, Reshat Maliqi, Destan Thaçi and Nuredin Ibushi, and urging immediate investigation into these reports;
- calling for immediate medical examination of all former police officers recently detained to establish the veracity of allegations of ill-treatment or torture;
- urging the immediate introduction of measures to ensure detainees are granted protection against any ill-treatment or torture;
- calling for the suspension of all state security police officers or others involved in the interrogation of detainees following their arrest pending investigation of these allegations;
- urging that detainees be granted full legal safeguards, including the right of their lawyers to be present while they are questioned and the right of lawyers to examine the full court dossier.

APPEALS TO:

1. **Minister of Internal Affairs of Serbia**

Zoran Sokolović
 Ministar unutrašnjih poslova Republike Srbije
 Kneza Miloša 101
 11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia
Faxes: +381 11 685 937
Telegrams: MUP Srbije, Belgrade, Yugoslavia
Salutation: Dear Minister

2. **Federal Minister of Justice**

Uroš Klikovac
 Ministar za pravosuđe
 Savezno ministarstvo za pravosuđe Bulevar AVNOJ-a 104
 11070 Beograd, Yugoslavia
Faxes: +381 11 195 244
Telegrams: Savezni ministar za pravosuđe, Belgrade, Yugoslavia
Salutation: Dear Secretary

3. **Head of police for Kosovo province**

Sekretar
 Pokrajinski Sekretarijat za Unutrašnjih Poslova
 38000 Priština, AP Kosovo i Metohija, Yugoslavia
Telegrams: Sekretar, SUP, Priština, APKM
Salutation: Dear Secretary

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1. Committee for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms
 Xhavit Mitrovica 15
 38000 Priština, Yugoslavia.
2. Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia
 Obilićev Venac 27/IV,

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 7 March 1995.