Ref.: Al Index: EUR 70/04/93

EXTERNAL1 March 1993

£Kosovo province (Yugoslavia)

@Police ill-treatment of Faton BERISHA

AI CONCERN: Amnesty International is concerned that Faton Berisha was beaten by police in Priština on 26 November 1992 as a result of which he was severely injured.

BACKGROUND: Faton Berisha, aged 28, is an ethnic Albanian from the village of Konushevc near Podujevo Kosovo province.

According to a statement written by his father (dated 27 November 1992), Faton Berisha took his wife to Priština (the capital of Kosovo province) on 26 November 1992 for a medical examination. His sister accompanied them. After visiting the doctor the three stopped for refreshments at a cake shop called "Vanilla" near the centre of Priština. While there two police officers entered and asked Faton Berisha if it was his car outside and asked him who were the two women with him. He replied that it was his car and explained he was with his wife and sister. The two police officers apparently immediately handcuffed him and took him to a police station; they did not ill-treat him. In the police station some 10 police officers beat him for almost three hours (from 1.45pm to 4.30pm), demanding to know if he possessed weapons (according to his father Faton has never had weapons).

Medical findings: A medical certificate issued by a clinic in Priština the same day notes that Faton Berisha had bruising to his head, chest, and back; and bruising and abrasions to his lower arms.