

**Nijazi MALIQI**  
**Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo province)**

Nijazi Maliqi, aged 33, is an unemployed ethnic Albanian from Gnjilane in Kosovo province.

In a statement he gave to a local human rights organization, he wrote that on 20 January 1996, at about 2pm, he was stopped in the street near his home by three police officers. They stopped him on the pretext that he was dealing in illegal foreign currency exchange. They checked his documents and searched him. He had small amount of German and Yugoslav money and they immediately asked him where he had got the money from, then took him by force to Gnjilane police station. At the station the same officers continued to interrogate him and to insult him, as an Albanian. He was forced to strip down to his underpants and sit on a chair and then they began to beat his hands, feet and head. He was released the same day but the police officers threatened that if they saw him on the streets again he would be treated even worse. According to Nijazi Maliqi, this was the second time that police had tortured him at Gnjilane police station.

A medical certificate reportedly records that Nijazi Maliqi was examined by a doctor on 22 January 1996 and records bruising to the head, and both hands and feet.

**Amnesty International's concern:** Amnesty International is concerned that on 20 January 1996 Nijazi Maliqi was beaten and otherwise ill-treated at Gnjilane police station. Amnesty International is calling for a full and impartial investigation into the incident. The organization is further calling for those responsible to be brought to justice. Both Yugoslav law and international human rights treaties which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia recognizes as legally binding (in particular the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ratified by the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1991) prohibit torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Amnesty International opposes unconditionally torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners.

**Background:** Amnesty International continues to receive frequent reports of the arrest, questioning and ill-treatment of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province which is predominantly inhabited by ethnic Albanians, the majority of whom refuse to recognize Serbian authority in the province and call for its secession.