

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 70/10/97

3 March 1997

Further information on UA 38/97 (EUR 70/04/97, 3 February 1997) and follow-ups (EUR 70/05/97, 6 February; EUR 70/06/97, 7 February; EUR 70/08/97, 24 February) - Fear of ill-treatment / Possible extrajudicial executions / Death in custody

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIANait Hasani (most common spelling)
and others**

Amnesty International has learned that Nait Hasani, whose whereabouts had been unknown since 31 January, is under arrest and is being investigated on charges of terrorism. On 28 February he was brought for questioning before an investigating judge in Priština, in the presence of his lawyer.

According to his lawyer, Nait Hasani stated that he had been taken from the Priština hospital on 31 January by police to an unknown location where he was tied to a bed. He claimed that he had been ill-treated and tortured with electric shocks with the aim of forcing him to make self-incriminating statements. He reportedly still bears visible marks from his ill-treatment. According to his lawyer, in a statement to the investigating judge, Nait Hasani strongly denied he was in any way involved in terrorist groups or acts.

The whereabouts of Nait Hasani had been unknown since he was taken away from Priština hospital on 31 January, three days after his arrest (see earlier update, EUR 70/05/97, 6 February). The authorities failed to provide any information about Nait Hasani's whereabouts despite repeated queries by his family and lawyer as well as by a Belgrade-based human rights organization and Amnesty International.

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

- calling for an prompt and independent investigation into the month-long incommunicado detention and alleged torture of Nait Hasani, and for those found responsible to be brought to justice;
- acknowledging the duty of the authorities to bring to justice any person who has committed violent crimes, but stressing that such investigations must be carried out in conformity with national and international law;
- noting that confessions extracted by torture are not admissible as evidence in a fair trial;
- seeking assurances that Nait Hasani and others who similarly remain detained are not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment and that they are granted full legal safeguards, including the right to be brought promptly before a judge and to challenge their detention in a court of law, and access to their lawyers and families.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic of Serbia

Predsednik Republike Srbije

Slobodan Milošević

Andrijevica 1

11000 Beograd, FR Yugoslavia

Fax: + 381 11 682 167 or 656 862

Telegrams: Predsednik Srbije, Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear President

Minister of Internal Affairs

Zoran Sokolovi_

Ministar unutrašnjih poslova Republike Srbije

Kneza Miloša 101

11000 Beograd, FR Yugoslavia

Fax: +381 11 641 867 or 11 685 937

Telegrams: Ministar unutrasnjih poslova Srbije, Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Committee for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms

Xhavit Mitrovica 15, 38000, Priština, Yugoslavia

NGO Information Centre

Avalska 9,

11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

and to diplomatic representatives of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 April 1997.