

3 May 1996

**Further information (1) on EXTRA 58/96 (EUR 70/10/96, 26 April 1996) - Arbitrary Detentions / Torture**

**YUGOSLAVIA, KOSOVO PROVINCE** Nazmi Kabashi, Shaqir Kryeziu, Ramush Ahmeti, Ramush Sylaj, Ahmet Aliu, Halim Baftiu, Dr Mehmet Alibegu, Alush Gashi, Reshat Sinani, Gazmend Arifi, Muhamet Pajaziti, Avni Krasniqi and others

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Arrests of ethnic Albanians and reports of their torture or other ill-treatment in custody have continued following four incidents on 22 April 1996 in Kosovo province in which five Serbs were shot dead and four others wounded. In particular there have been reports of mass arrests in Štimlje where a police officer was shot dead on 22 April. Local human rights activists claim that over 100 people have been arrested or searched in Štimlje. Most detainees were released within hours, but some were held for up to three or four days. Some 35 people, including several children, are alleged to have been beaten by police.

Police have reportedly searched many homes and during searches have sometimes beaten the male members of the household, destroyed the furniture and threatened the family generally. Other people have been forcibly taken out of buses passing through the town and beaten.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

An organization calling itself the Liberation Army of Kosovo (Ushtria Çlirimtare e Kosovës -UÇK), about which little is known, has reportedly claimed responsibility for the 22 April shooting incidents. This organization also claimed responsibility for explosive devices thrown at five centres for Serbian refugees (from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina) in February 1996; these caused no casualties.

Another violent incident occurred on 27 April 1996. According to ethnic Albanian sources an explosive device was thrown from a passing car into a field in the village of Suva Reka where ethnic Albanian boys were tending sheep. One of them, Nexhat Hetemi, aged 14, died as a result of his injuries, and three others were injured. Police are alleged to have detained members of their families at the site for up to five hours and to have spoken insultingly to them because of their Albanian nationality. Previously, on 21 April, an ethnic Albanian medical student, Armend Daci, was shot dead by a Serb civilian, who was subsequently arrested.

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

- noting recent incidents in Priština, De\_ane, Pe\_, Štimlje, Kosovska Mitrovica and Velika Reka, in which five Serbs and two ethnic Albanians were killed and other Serbs and ethnic Albanians wounded;
- acknowledging the duty of the authorities to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes;
- expressing concern, however, about reports that police have in some cases carried out what appear to be arbitrary detentions of ethnic Albanians and have tortured or otherwise ill-treated detainees (refer to the cases mentioned above);
- urging the authorities to issue explicit instructions to members of police forces to act in accordance with international standards for law-enforcement,

in particular the *United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials*, which states in Article 5: "No law enforcement official may inflict, instigate or tolerate any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment..."

- urging the authorities to investigate the above reports of torture and ill-treatment and to bring any police officer responsible to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President of the Republic of Serbia

Slobodan Milošević  
Predsednik Republike Srbije  
Andrijev venac 1  
11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

**Faxes: +381 11 682 167**

**Telegrams: President Milosevic, Beograd, Yugoslavia**

**Salutation: Dear President**

2) Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia

Zoran Sokolovic  
Ministar Unutrasnjih Poslova Republike Srbije  
Kneza Milosa 101, 11000 Beograd, Republic of Yugoslavia

**Faxes: +381 11 683 041 or 685 937**

**Telegrams: MUP Srbije, Beograd, Yugoslavia**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

3) Chief of police, Urosevac

Nacelnik  
Sekretarijat Unutrasnjih Poslova  
382230 Urosevac, AP Kosovo i Metohija  
Yugoslavia

**Telegrams: Nacelnik SUP-a, Urosevac, APKM, Yugoslavia**

**Salutation: Dear Chief of Police**

**COPIES TO:**

Humanitarian Law Centre

Terazije 14  
11000 Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Committee for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms, Pristina

Xhavit Mitrovica 15, 38000 Pristina, 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 31 May 1996.