

AI INDEX: EUR 70/13/99

News Service

056/99

23 March 1999

Amnesty International letter to all parties involved in the Kosovo conflict

The need to respect international humanitarian law is now more important than ever in Kosovo and the rest of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Amnesty International today said in a letter sent to NATO, President Slobodan Milošević and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

The letter urged all parties to respect in full their obligations to protect civilian lives and to give proper treatment to prisoners and others playing no active part in the hostilities, including wounded and captured combatants.

Amnesty International also called on all parties to take all measures to protect civilians, including not using them as human shields in any way and by refraining from any direct attacks on non-combatants, as well as from any indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks.

Amnesty International takes no position on the political issues surrounding the status of Kosovo and the threat of military intervention on the part of NATO.

To receive a copy of the letter, or to arrange an interview, please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on (44) (0) 171 413 5566.
