

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 70/14/94  
Distr: UA/SC

3 August 1994

Further information on EXTRA 21/94 (EUR 70/07/94, 12 April 1994) - Torture and ill-treatment/Trial concern

YUGOSLAVIA: Ismet MAHMUTI, Faik AJETI, Shemsi VESELI, Salih MUSTAFA, Ismet VELIQUI, Avdi BEHRAMI, Ilaz GASHI

Fehmi LESTRANI, Shkëlzen BAJRAMI, Nexhmedin SADRIU, Luan HETA, Beqir MULECI, Hysni FRANCI and (new name) Bajram GALLOPENI.

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The above men are ethnic Albanians from Kosovo province. Their trial before the district court of Priština began on 20 July 1994. They are charged with having undertaken military training in neighbouring Albania in 1992 and 1993 in preparation for using force to obtain the secession of Kosovo province from Yugoslavia. The trial continues.

The accused have denied the charges against them and stated that they went to Albania to avoid conscription into the Yugoslav Army. They said the camp at Labinot in Albania where they had spent some time was not a military training camp but a camp for refugees from Kosovo and from Bosnia-Herzegovina. Some had hoped to travel on to western Europe, but when they found they were not able to do this, they had returned to Kosovo. Nexhmedin Sadriu stated in court that he had visited Albania to attend a course for journalists held in Tirana. The defendants also told the court that during investigation proceedings they had been forced to make self-incriminating statements by police officers who beat and otherwise ill-treated them. Nexhmedin Sadriu alleged that police officers told him, "We know you did not go Labinot refugee camp" and apologized for torturing him, but made him sign a self-incriminating statement.

On 28 July, Shkëlzen Bajrami reportedly told the court that he had been tortured with electric shocks and that police officers had threatened him that if he changed his statements in court they would take him to the Albanian border and "liquidate" him.

At the opening of the trial, lawyers for the defendants requested that the statements made by the accused during investigation proceedings be withdrawn from the court file, on the grounds that they had been obtained by force. The court has refused this request.

Amnesty International has no further information at present about Ismet Mahmuti, Faik Ajeti, Shemsi Veseli, Salih Mustafa, Ismet Veliqi, Avdi Behrami, and Ilaz Gashi (name corrected).

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern about allegations that the above persons were tortured or otherwise ill-treated during investigation;
- urging that any statements they may have made as a result of torture or ill-treatment not be used against them as evidence;
- urging that these allegations be thoroughly and impartially investigated and that any police officer found to be responsible be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**Minister of Justice of the Republic of Serbia

Mr Arandjel Marki\_evi\_

Ministar pravde

Republi\_ko Ministarstvo za pravosudje i opštu upravu

Nemanjina 26, 11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

**Faxes: +381 11 683 041****Telegrams: Ministar Pravde Srbije, Belgrade, Yugoslavia.****Salutation: Dear Minister**Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia

Mr Zoran Sokolovi\_

Ministar unutrašnjih poslova Republike Srbije

Kneza Miloša 101, 11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

**Faxes: +381 11 683 041****Telegrams: Ministar Unutrašnjih Poslova Srbije, Belgrade, Yugoslavia****Salutation: Dear Minister**Public Prosecutor of Serbia

Mr Dragan Petkovi\_

Republi\_ki Javni Tu\_ilac

Javno Tu\_ilaštvo Republike Srbije

Nemanjina 26, 11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

**Telegrams: Republi\_ki Javni Tu\_ilac, Belgrade, Yugoslavia****Salutation: Dear Sir****COPIES OF APPEALS TO:**

President of the Republic of Serbia

Mr Slobodan Miloševi\_

Predsednik Republike Srbije

Andri\_ev Venac 1

11000 Belgrade, Yugoslavia

**Faxes: +381 11 636 775**

Committee for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms

Xhavit Mitrovica 15

38000 Priština, Yugoslavia

and to diplomatic representatives of the 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 August 1994.