

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 70/15/93

Distr: UA/SC

EXTRA 66/93

Ill-treatment/legal concern

9 July 1993

~~FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (Kosovo province):~~

---

**Sami KURTESHI, an ethnic Albanian, human rights activist**

Amnesty International is concerned about the arrest and ill-treatment of Sami Kurteshi, a member of the Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms in Priština. On 7 July 1993, at about 3.30 pm, police officers searched the offices of the Council and reportedly beat and arrested Sami Kurteshi, a former political prisoner, who was in the offices at that time.

In the course of their search, police officers reportedly confiscated a large amount of materials documenting human rights abuses, including video cassettes, photographs and written materials. When the Chairman of the Council, the former prisoner of conscience Adem Demaçi, asked to be shown a search warrant, the police officers reportedly replied that their uniforms were a sufficient warrant and threatened him and ethnic Albanians generally: "You should be shot!" The Council is composed of ethnic Albanian human right activists who regularly document and distribute information about human rights abuses committed against ethnic Albanians by the police force, which is largely Serbian, in the province.

Amnesty International fears that the ill-treatment and arrest of a member of the Council, and the confiscation of the Council's documentation may herald a further deterioration of the human rights situation of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province. It endangers the activities of an organization that has consistently sought to safeguard the human rights of ethnic Albanians by documenting and publicizing abuses. This fear is increased by the recent decision of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to expel the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) human rights monitoring mission in Kosovo province (and also in the Sandzak and Vojvodina regions). The hostility of the Yugoslav Government to human rights monitoring has been additionally shown in its refusal, on 29 June, to allow Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the former Yugoslavia, to base staff in Yugoslavia. This refusal was justified by allegations that in earlier missions Tadeusz Mazowiecki had written "one-sided and malicious" reports about the human rights situation in Yugoslavia.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Kosovo province in southern Serbia is inhabited by a largely ethnic Albanian population (accounting for up to 90 per cent of its population). In July 1990 the Serbian parliament suspended the Kosovo parliament after ethnic Albanian members of the Kosovo parliament declared Kosovo independent of the Republic of Serbia. In September 1990 the Republic of Serbia adopted a new constitution which deprived Kosovo province

of most of its autonomy. Since then most ethnic Albanians refuse to recognize the legitimacy of Serbian authority in the province. (See also UA 323/92, EUR 70/01/92, 19 October 1992, UA 406/92, EUR 70/03/92, 22 December 1992 and UA 40/93, EUR 70/02/93, 17 February 1993.)

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

- expressing concern about reports that Sami Kurteshi, a member of the Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms in Priština, was arrested and beaten during searches conducted by police, apparently without a warrant, in the offices of the Council on 7 June 1993;

**Page 2 of EXTRA 66/93**

- asking for the release of Sami Kurteshi if he is not charged with a recognizable crime;

- urging that an impartial investigation be instituted into this and the many other reported cases of ill-treatment of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province and that those responsible be brought to justice;

- urging that measures be taken to ensure that police officers are informed of and required to implement international standards for law enforcement, in particular those laid down in the United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia:

Mr Zoran Sokolovi\_

Ministar unutrašnjih poslova Republike Srbije

Kneza Miloša 101

11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

**Telegrams: Serbian Minister of Internal Affairs, Beograd, Yugoslavia**

**Faxes: + 38 11 683 041**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

2) President of the Republic of Serbia:

Mr Slobodan Miloševi\_

Predsednik Republike Srbije

Srpskih vladara 14

11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

**Telegrams: President of the Republic of Serbia, Beograd, Yugoslavia**

**Faxes: + 38 11 682 167**

**Salutation: Dear President**

3) Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mr Vladislav Jovanovi\_

Savezni ministar za inostrane poslove

Kneza Miloša 24

11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

**Telegrams: Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, Beograd, Yugoslavia**

**Faxes: + 38 11 682 668**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Federal Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs:

Ms Margit Savovi\_

Bulevar Lenjina 2

11070 Beograd, Yugoslavia

**Faxes: + 38 11 636 775 or + 38 11 195 244**

Committee for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms, Pristina:

Khavit Mitrovica 15

38000 Pristina, Yugoslavia

and to diplomatic representatives of Yugoslavia accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 August 1993.