

UA 412/94

Fear of torture / ill-treatment

24 November 1994

YUGOSLAVIA (Kosovo)

Ramadan Ndrecaj, from Suva Reka
Rexhep Olluri, from Orahovac
Salih Sokoli, from Orahovac
Avdi Mehmedoviq, from Priština
Haki Mehmeti, from Priština
Ali Mehmeti, from Priština
Blerim Olloni, from Priština
Sejfullah Sahatçiu, from Djakovica
Shefqet Beqa, from Djakovica
Remzi Tertica, from Djakovica
Adem Shala, from Prizren
Halil Blakaj, from Mališevo
Reshat Maliqi, from Mališevo
Jonuz Loshi, from Kosovska Mitrovica
Selim Çitaku, from Kosovska Mitrovica
Ilmi Uka, from Kosovska Mitrovica
Abdullah Doroci, from Kosovska Mitrovica
Ramadan Ndreca, from Suva Reka
Shaip Mustafa, from Suva Reka
Murtez Jahaj, from Suva Reka
Fadil Hyseni, from Uroševac
Bajram Jakaj, from Uroševac
Isak Aliu, from Uroševac
Idriz Jashari, from Podujevo
Enver Ramizi, from Gnjilane
Esat Merovci, from Gnjilane

and other former police officers

Since 17 November 1994 over 30 former police officers and members of the Independent Trade Union of former Police Officers, all of them ethnic Albanians, have been arrested in Kosovo province. Fears that they may face torture or other ill-treatment in custody have been heightened by reports that one of them, Ramadan Ndrecaj, former chief of police in Suva Reka, arrested on 22 November, has been so severely ill-treated in Prizren police station that he has been admitted to Prizren hospital for treatment. Amnesty International so far has no information about any charges against the detainees.

Amnesty International receives daily reports of the beating and other ill-treatment of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province by members of the police force. Recently, Bilall Idrizi, a former police officer and trade union member from Priština, filed proceedings against state security officers who arrested him on 27 October and drove him blindfolded to an unknown destination. There they reportedly interrogated and beat him; they also tortured him with electric shocks. They finally abandoned him in a field after threatening to execute him.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to ethnic Albanian sources, some 4,000 ethnic Albanian police officers have been dismissed from their posts in the police force in Kosovo province since 1990 after refusing to accept and recognize measures introduced by the Serbian Government in 1990, which effectively abolished the province's autonomy. Since then, these officers have formed an Independent Trade Union

of (former) Employees of the Ministry of the Interior. The province is now policed by a force that is very largely Serbian and Montenegrin, recruited partly locally, but also from Serbia and Montenegro and Serbian-populated areas of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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

- requesting information about the charges against some 30 ethnic Albanian former police officers recently arrested in Kosovo province;
- expressing concern about reports that one of them, Ramadan Ndrecaj, was severely ill-treated in police custody in Prizren, as a result of which he has been admitted to hospital for treatment;
- urging that all those arrested be granted full legal safeguards, including protection against any ill-treatment or torture.

APPEALS TO

1. Federal Minister of Internal Affairs

Vukašin Jokanovi_
Ministar za unutrašnje poslove
Savezno ministarstvo za unutrašnje poslove
Kneza Miloša 92
Beograd, Yugoslavia

Faxes: +381 11 235 1005

Telexes: 11 448 siv yu or 11 185;

Telegrams: Savezno ministar unutrašnje poslove, Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear Minister

2. Head of police for Kosovo province

Na_elnik
Pokrajinski Sekretarijat za Unutrašnjih Poslova
Kragujeva_ka 4
38000 Priština, AP Kosovo i Metohija, Yugoslavia

Telegrams: Nacelnik, Pokrajinski SUP, Priština, APKM

Salutation: Dear Chief of Police

3. Federal Prime Minister

Dr Radoje Konti_
Predsednik Savezne Vlade
Bulevar Lenjina 2
11070 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Faxes: +381 11 636 775 or +381 11 195 244 or +381 11 600 446

Telexes: 11062 siv yu or 11448 siv yu

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1. Committee for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms, Priština:

Xhavit Mitrovica 15
38000 Priština, Yugoslavia.

2. Humanitarian Law Fund

Terazije 6/III
11000 Belgrade, 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 31 December 1994.