

**PUBLIC**

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To: Health professionals  
From: Medical office / East Adriatic & Aegean team  
Date: 12 June 2000

Further information on  
***MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION***

**Dr Flora Brovina**  
**Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**  
**(Kosovo)**

[see previous update AI index: EUR 70/134/99, 10 December 1999; original action EUR 70/47/99, 28 April 1999]

**Key words** physician / prisoner of conscience

**Summary**

**Updated information**

On 6 June 2000 the Supreme Court of the Republic of Serbia reportedly annulled the conviction and 12-year prison sentence imposed on Dr Flora Brovina in December 1999. The Supreme Court reportedly ruled that there was no basis for her conviction and returned the case to the District Court. The District Court can either order a new trial or dismiss the case.

**Background information**

On 22 April 1999 a group of men, most in civilian clothing, broke down the front door of Dr Brovina's apartment, forced her into one of their cars, and drove away. Dr Brovina was detained in Lipljan prison in Kosovo prison and subsequently was moved to Pozarevac prison in eastern Serbia.

Dr Brovina was accused of assisting the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), by supplying medicine, treating wounded KLA fighters, and helping to supply them with uniforms. The activities were allegedly carried out in Pristina from her clinic and the office of the League of Albanian Women, an association she helped found in 1992. In court she denied any connection with the KLA. On 9 December 1999 a court in Nis, Serbia, found Dr Brovina guilty of "association for the purposes of hostile activity" in connection with "terrorism" and sentenced her to 12 years' imprisonment.

A specialist in paediatric medicine, Dr Brovina has been working as a doctor in a rehabilitation centre for displaced women and children that she set up in Pristina.

**Recommended actions**

Please write letters to the addresses below:

- welcoming the reports of the quashing of the conviction and sentence of Dr Flora Brovina by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Serbia;
- noting that the Supreme Court has ordered that the case be returned to the District Court and that Dr Brovina remains in prison;
- calling for her immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience.

If you receive no reply from the government or other recipients within two months of dispatch of your letter, please send a follow up letter seeking a response. Please check with the medical team if you are sending appeals after 15 August 2000, and send copies of any replies you do receive to the International Secretariat (att: medical team).

### **Addresses**

#### *President of the FRY*

Slobodan Milosevic  
 Predsednik SRJ  
 Bulevar Mihaila Pupina 2  
 11070 Beograd,  
 FR Yugoslavia  
 Fax: + 381 11 636 775  
 email: slobodan.milosevic@gov.yu  
 Salutation: Dear President

#### *Prime Minister of the FRY*

Predsednik Savezne Vlade  
 Dr Momir Bulatovic  
 Bulevar Mihaila Pupina 2  
 11070 Beograd, FR Yugoslavia  
 Fax: + 381 11 636 775 or + 381 11 659 682  
 email: momir.bulatovic@gov.yu  
 Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

#### *Minister of Justice of the Republic of Serbia*

Dragoljub Jankovic  
 Ministar pravde  
 Republicko Ministarstvo za pravosudje i opstu upravu  
 Nemanjina 26, 11000 Beograd  
 FR Yugoslavia  
 Salutation: Dear Minister  
 Fax: +381 11 685 672

#### *Director of the prison*

Upravnik (Director)  
 KPD Zabela  
 12000 Pozarevac  
 Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

and to diplomatic representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia accredited to your country.