

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 70/37/96

Please limit appeals to 15 per Section.

9 December 1996

Further information on UA 281/96 (EUR 70/35/96, 3 December 1996) - Possible prisoners of conscience / Legal concern and new concerns: Ill-treatment / Health concern / Prisoner of conscience

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA Darko Pajko, Oliver Pajko, Saša Petrovi_, Ivan Uroševi_ and Branko Opa_i_ [all men] and others (names unknown)
new name: Dejan BULATOVI_

Darko Pajko, Oliver Pajko and Saša Petrovi_ were released on 7 December after serving their seven-day prison sentences (which had been confirmed by a higher court). They were convicted of disturbing the public peace, under Article 12 of the Law on Public Order. They had been found guilty of throwing some eggs and cartons of yoghurt at the offices of the pro-government media in Belgrade.

It has been reported that another demonstrator, Dejan Bulatovi_, was severely beaten and injured by police in Belgrade following his arrest on 6 December 1996. It appears at the time of his arrest he was carrying a two-metre high effigy of President Milosevic of Serbia wearing striped prison clothes and a ball and chain. A few hours earlier he had taken part in mass demonstrations in protest against the annulment of local election results which had given the opposition control of Belgrade and a number of other major towns.

According to his mother who later visited him in prison, Dejan Bulatovi_ had a broken nose, and had been beaten and kicked by police officers, and exposed, half-dressed, to the cold in a cell with a window that could not be shut. He reportedly suffers from a chronic bronchial complaint. During his detention in police custody, police allegedly put a gun barrel in his mouth, and threatened to shoot him. Dejan Bulatovi_ has been sentenced to 25 days' imprisonment for disturbing the public peace and is serving his sentence in Padinska Skela prison. The available information strongly indicates that he had not used or advocated violence and Amnesty International believes that he is a prisoner of conscience.

According to a statement on 8 December by lawyers representing the opposition coalition *Zajedno*, he had been denied contact with a lawyer, and the prison authorities were denying him appropriate medical aid.

Following their release, Darko Pajko, Oliver Pajko and Saša Petrovi_ reportedly claimed to have seen Dejan Bulatovi_ in prison and confirmed that he had been injured; they spoke of head and chest fractures and said that during his detention in police custody the police had themselves called a doctor because they were so alarmed about his state of health. *Zajedno* has called for Dejan Bulatovi_'s transfer to a clinic for treatment.

Between 30 to 50 demonstrators are reported to have been arrested over the past 10 days in Belgrade; at least 12 are reported to have been charged and sentenced to prison sentences of up to 25 days for disturbing the public peace; others have been questioned and released. Two men are reported to have been arrested during demonstrations in the town of Jagodina on 3 December and to have been sentenced to up to 20 days' imprisonment.

The demonstrations in Belgrade and in a number of other cities continue.

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Dejan Bulatovi_ as a prisoner of conscience, and urging that he be granted appropriate medical treatment;
- calling for a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the allegations that he was severely ill-treated by police after arrest and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- expressing concern about reports that at least 12 people have been convicted of disturbing the public peace in connection with demonstrations;
- urging a review of their cases, and calling for their release if it is found that they have been detained as a result of exercising, non-violently, their rights to freedom of assembly and expression;

if possible also:

- emphasise that Articles 19 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia recognizes as legally binding) guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly, and urging the authorities to uphold these rights.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic of Serbia

Predsednik Republike Srbije

Slobodan Miloševi_

Andri_ev venac 1

11000 Beograd, FR Yugoslavia

Fax: + 381 11 682 167 or 656 862

Telegrams: Predsednik Srbije, Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear President

Minister of Internal Affairs

Zoran Sokolovi_

Ministar unutrašnjih poslova Republike Srbije

Kneza Miloša 101

11000 Beograd, FR Yugoslavia

Fax: +381 11 641 867 or 11 685 937

Telegrams: Ministar unutrasnjih poslova Srbije, Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia

Zmaj Jovina 7/III

11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Tel/Fax: +381 11 639 481

Council for human rights

Centre for Anti-War Action

Gospodar Jovanova 44 (correct address)

11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Fax: +381 11 635 813

and to diplomatic representatives of 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 30 December 1996.