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Note to Editors

Kosovo province Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Amnesty International would like to point out that some recent statements made by Ms Bianca Jagger in her personal capacity in relation to armed intervention in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia -- and reported by the British media -- do not express the position of the organization. Ms Jagger, a member of the Executive Leadership Council of Amnesty International USA, is not a designated spokesperson of the organization.

Amnesty International takes no position on the question of military intervention in such conflicts. Our message to the international community has consistently been that effective, independent human rights monitoring is essential in any situation where human rights have been gravely violated and risk being violated further on a massive scale -- such as is the case in Kosovo today. We have therefore consistently called for a properly constituted human rights monitoring mission to be at the centre of the international community's presence on the ground.

By effective monitoring Amnesty International means:

- verification of the situation on the ground, carried out by independent and impartial human rights experts, free of any ongoing attempts to resolve the conflict politically;
- human rights monitors who are adequately resourced and have unhindered access to all parts of the territory, including to remote areas. Their presence in the field should not be *ad hoc* but supported institutionally, and their reporting should be impartial, consistent and regular;
- thorough investigations, aimed at taking remedial action. The human rights monitors should be able to raise human rights concerns with the appropriate authorities and parties until they are satisfactorily resolved. They should also be able to intervene immediately in urgent cases.

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Amnesty International has published in the past couple of months a series of reports providing detailed scrutiny of the long-standing patterns of abuses in Kosovo province. For copies of these reports or to speak to our country expert on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, please phone Amnesty International's press office on 0171 413 5562