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Further information on MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

Release Dr Flora Brovina Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Key words release of prisoner of conscience / physician

Summary

Amnesty International welcomed the release of Kosovar Dr Flora Brovina on Wednesday 1 November 2000 by President Kostunica.

A specialist in paediatric medicine, Dr Brovina had been working as a doctor in a rehabilitation centre for displaced women and children that she set up in Pristina. On 22 April 1999 Dr Brovina, a then 48-year-old paediatrician, was abducted from her home in Pristina by a group of unknown men. In the following months it emerged that Dr Brovina was being held in Lipljan prison in Kosovo province and was subsequently transferred to Pozarevac prison in eastern Serbia.

On 9 December 1999 she was found guilty of "association for the purposes of hostile activity" in connection with "terrorism" and sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment by a court in Nis, Serbia. Dr Brovina was accused of assisting the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) by supplying medicines, treating wounded KLA fighters and helping to supply them with uniforms. In court Dr Brovina denied any connection with the KLA.

The Supreme Court annulled Dr Brovina's conviction and 12-year prison sentence. The Supreme Court ruled that there was no basis for the conviction and returned the case to the District Court.

Thank you very much for your efforts on behalf of Dr Flora Brovina since the first medical action for her was issued on 28 April 1999. No further action is required on Dr Brovina's behalf.