

Public

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To: Health professionals
From: Medical Office / East Adriatic/Aegean Team
Date: 5 November 1999

Further information on
MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

Dr Flora Brovina (f)

**Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
(Province of Kosovo)**

[see AI Index: EUR 70/97/99, 18 June 1999; AI Index: EUR 70/92/99, 9 June 1999; AI Index: EUR 70/47/99, 28 April 1999 and AI Index: EUR 70/115/99, 13 October 1999]

Theme: "disappearance" / reported detention / physician

Summary

Since it was confirmed in June 1999 that Dr Flora Brovina was being detained in Po_arevac prison in eastern Serbia, Amnesty International has had confirmation that her family and lawyer have been able to make regular visits to her. However, there is continuing concern about her health and the nature of the judicial process. The most recent news is that she will be brought to trial next week.

Her family and defence lawyer have reportedly been denied the right to speak in private with her during recent visits. Family members also complain that they have had to speak at a distance of several metres and have been forbidden conversation in their native Albanian and have had to use Serbian, apparently so that the guards can monitor the conversations.

Flora Brovina has been seen by a doctor and is receiving some medication and has been given warmer clothes. However, she is reported to be suffering from angina and concern for her health remains.

She is expected to be brought to trial on 11 November 1999. Amnesty International fears that she may not receive a fair trial. For example, her right to prepare an adequate defence may have been violated as she has reportedly not been able to communicate with defence counsel in private.

Background

Dr Flora Brovina, a 48-year-old ethnic Albanian paediatrician from Kosovo province, "disappeared" on the afternoon of 20 April 1999 - initially reported as 22 April 1999 - after reportedly having been forcefully abducted from her home by a group of about eight men.

On 17 May 1999 the district court in Priština, Kosovo province, opened an investigation into her case. The court stated that Dr Brovina was accused of "association for the purpose of hostile activity under article 136 paragraph 1, damaging the territorial integrity of the FRY article 116 paragraph 1", and of "terrorism under article 136 paragraph 1 of the Federal Criminal Code".

According to the documents of 17 May, Dr Brovina is accused of organizing, in her capacity as the president of the *Lidhje e Gruas Shqiptare*, League of Albanian Women, the provision of food, clothing, medical supplies and medical treatment to members of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), and of being present at meetings held at the premises of the League of Albanian Women. Allegedly, "terrorist actions" were planned at these meetings.

Although Dr Brovina has been reported as "sympathising with" the KLA (*Washington Post*, 10 July 1999), she has denied any involvement with the organization. Amnesty International is not aware of any statements she has made advocating the use of violence, or of any evidence of her involvement in violent acts.

Recommended Actions

All network groups [including groups in the UK and the USA] are welcome to send appeals.

Further appeals from health professionals should be sent to the addresses listed below and should:

- refer to your earlier letters if applicable, or introduce yourself as a member of Amnesty International's health professional network;
- note that Amnesty International is not aware of any statements Dr Brovina has made advocating the use of violence or of any evidence of her involvement in violent acts;
- note also that Dr Brovina is reported to have health problems and urge the authorities to ensure that she continues to have access to medical treatment;
- urge the authorities to ensure that in her trial Dr Brovina is granted legal safeguards in accordance with international standards for fair trials.

ADDRESSES

[Please note that postal services have now resumed in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.]

President of the Federal Republic of
Yugoslavia
Slobodan Milošević_
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
Predsednik Savezne Vlade
Dr Momir Bulatović_
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 Internal Affairs
Vlajko Stojiljković_
Ministar unutrašnjih poslova Republike Srbije
Kneza Miloša 101
11000 Beograd, FR Yugoslavia
Salutation: Dear Minister
Fax: +381 11 361 7508

Upravnik (Prison Director)
KPD Zabela
12000 Po_arevac
FR Yugoslavia
Salutation: Dear Director

**Please send copies of your letters to
diplomatic representatives of the Federal
Republic of Yugoslavia accredited to your
country.**