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EXTERNAL
25 February 1997

SLOVAK REPUBLIC
Prisoner of conscience : Martin BEDNÁR

UPDATE

Amnesty International has learned that Martin Bednár was imprisoned in Prešov prison on 24 February 1997 to serve a one year sentence for having refused to carry out military service. An appeal against his sentence which his lawyer filed with the Prešov Regional Military court was rejected on 13 February 1997. Amnesty International has adopted Martin Bednár as a prisoner of conscience and is demanding his immediate and unconditional release.

For further information on the case of Martin Bednár and Amnesty International's concerns regarding conscientious objection in the Slovak Republic please see the external background sheet *Slovak republic : Possible prisoner of conscience : Martin BEDNÁR* (AI Index : EUR 72/06/97, of 5 December 1996.