

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 11/08/92

Distr: UA/SC

21 October 1992

Further information on EXTRA 21/92 (EUR 11/02/92, 26 February 1992) - Death Sentences

**ALBANIA:Zamir LOÇI
Hamit BITRI**

Amnesty International has recently learned of the execution of Zamir Loci. The President of the Republic approved his death sentence on 25 February 1992 and it is likely that the execution was carried out a few days later. He had been sentenced to death on 8 February 1992 by the district court of Tirana for the murder of his ex-wife and the sentence was confirmed on 22 February 1992 by the Supreme Court.

Amnesty International does not have any information as to the fate of Hamit Bitri who was sentenced to death in February 1992 at a separate trial.

Amnesty International has learned of 12 death sentences passed in Albania between February and early July 1992. They were all imposed for murder. Six men had been executed by July 1992, and three had their sentences commuted. The fate of Hamit Bitri and the two others under sentence of death - Petrit Mema (featured in EXTRA 66/92, EUR 11/07/92 of 17 July 1992 and follow-up EUR 11/12/92 of 21 October 1992) and Flamur Seferi, who was sentenced to death by the district court of Kavaja on 20 June 1992 - is not known to Amnesty International, but it must be assumed that the Presidential decision on their cases has by now been taken. Amnesty International has not learned of any death sentences passed since early July 1992, but it fears that this may be due to poor reporting.

In May 1992 the Secretary General of Amnesty International wrote to President Berisha urging him to commute those death sentences which had not already been carried out and calling for an immediate moratorium on the passing and carrying out of death sentences, with a view to the eventual abolition of the death penalty.

No further action is required from the Urgent Action network on these cases. Thank you to all those who sent appeals.