

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 11/08/97

6 March 1997

Further information (5) on EXTRA 16/97 (EUR 11/02/97, 6 February 1997) and follow-ups (EUR 11/03/97, 11 February, EUR 11/04/97, 14 February, EUR 11/05/97, 28 February and EUR 11/07/097, 5 March) - Fear of ill-treatment / Prisoners of conscience / Fear of extrajudicial execution

ALBANIA Alfred Peza - journalist (released)

Amnesty International has learned that Alfred Peza has been released by police in Fier and has returned to Tirana. During his detention he was reportedly questioned about *Koha Jone*, the newspaper he works for, and its sources of funding. He was allegedly severely beaten by police in Fier as a result of which he lost consciousness several times.

Amnesty International is concerned about the safety of other journalists, including journalists working for *Koha Jone* and for other newspapers critical of the government. Many have received threats, including threats of death, among them reportedly Frrok Çupi, a leading journalist for *Koha Jone*. Since the offices of this newspaper were set on fire on the night of 2/3 March, he is said to be among a number of journalists who have gone into hiding.

Please continue action as specified in previous follow-up;

In the case of Alfred Peza - expressing grave concern about allegations that Alfred Peza, legal correspondent for the newspaper *Koha Jone*, was severely ill-treated during his recent detention in Fier police station, and urging these allegations be promptly investigated and any officers responsible be brought to justice;

and also: - referring to reports of threats made against journalists, among them the journalist Frrok Çupi, strongly urging the authorities to ensure that journalists are able to carry out their duties without fear of attack or intimidation from any quarter.

APPEALS TO:

President of Albania

Dr Sali Berisha

Presidenti i Republikës së Shqipërisë

Zyra e Presidencës, Tirana

Republic of Albania

Fax: +355 42 33761 or 355 42 28 420 (Fax/Tel)

Telegrams: President, Tirana, Albania

Salutation: Dear President

COPIES TO:

The Albanian Helsinki Committee

Komiteti Shqiptar i Helsinkit

Rr Ali Demi, Pall 2, Shk 2, ap 12,

Tirana, Republic of Albania

and to diplomatic representatives of Albania accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 April 1997.