

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 11/29/96

11 November 1996

Further information on EXTRA 161/96 (EUR 11/24/96, 23 October 1996) - Legal concern/fear of ill-treatment

ALBANIAklement KOLANECI

According to a report published on 6 November 1996 in an independent Tirana daily newspaper *Koha Jone*, Klement Kolaneci was still in detention, in violation of Albanian law, which stipulates that a court must hear a detainee's appeal against detention within ten days of the appeal being filed. The same report stated that his access to his lawyers also continued to be severely restricted - he had only met them twice briefly.

The report also raised doubts about allegations by the Minister of Public Order that Klement Kolaneci, at the time of his arrest, was in possession of about one million US dollars. According to the Minister, this money had been stolen by a terrorist organization called "Albanian Revenge for Justice", said to be responsible for a series of bank robberies, political shootings and bombings which have taken place this year. According to *Koha Jone*, an inventory signed by two police officers and Klement Kolaneci reportedly showed that a safe found in Klement Kolaneci's office contained only the equivalent of around \$80 dollars in Albanian and Greek currency.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Italian, English, French, German or in your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that as of 5 November - and possibly since then - Klement Kolaneci continued to be detained, in violation of Albanian national law, which specifies that a court must hear an appeal against detention within 10 days of the appeal being filed;
- expressing further concern at reports that he was still being denied free access to his defence lawyers, in violation of Albanian law and international standards;
- recognizing the seriousness of the alleged crimes of the group with which Klement Kolaneci is alleged to have been involved, but urging that he and all others detained in this regard be granted full legal safeguards under national and international law, including the right to challenge their detention in a court of law and the right to free access to legal representatives while in detention;
- seeking assurances that Klement Kolaneci and the others will be treated humanely while in detention.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Public Order

Mr Halit Shamata

Minister i Rendit Publik, Tirana, Republic of Albania

Telegrams: Mr Shamata, Ministria e Rendit Publik, Tirana, Albania

Faxes: +355 42 63607

Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Justice

Mr Kristofor Peçi

Ministër i Drejtësisë, Tirana, Republic of Albania

Tel/Fax: +355 42 28359 (if voice, ask for fax)

Telegrams: Mr Peçi, Ministria e Drejtësisë, Tirana, Albania

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr Tritan Shehu

Minister i Punëve të Jashtme, Tirana, Republic of Albania

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 9 December 1996.