

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 63/16/94  
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UA 278/94 Fear of ill-treatment / Fear of deliberate  
and arbitrary killings

19 July 1994

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA Sulejman Skoki\_  
Kemal Skoki\_,  
Halid Adanali\_  
Esad Adanali\_  
Avdo Adanali\_

and other Muslims in the Serbian-controlled areas of north-eastern  
Bosnia-Herzegovina (Janja, Bijeljina and Br\_ko).

Some 50 Muslim men from the town of Janja and the surrounding area were reportedly arrested by the Bosnian Serb authorities on 15 July 1994 and taken to an unknown destination. Among them were two brothers, Sulejman and Kemal Skoki\_, and also three men named as Halid Adanali\_, Esad Adanali\_ and Avdo Adanali\_. There have also been reports that several hundred Muslim men of military age in the nearby towns of Bijeljina and Br\_ko were rounded up and taken away on 15 July. It is feared that they may be deliberately and arbitrarily killed, or held in detention and ill-treated. It is also possible that they may have been forcibly mobilized to fight with Bosnian Serb forces or forced to dig trenches on the front-lines where they risk death or injury from sniper fire from Bosnian Government forces.

Representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Bosnian Government-held Tuzla have reported that 135 people, mainly women and children, but also some older men, arrived there on 16 and 17 July after having been expelled from Bijeljina.

On 18 July a spokesman for UNHCR said that the agency feared a new wave of "ethnic cleansing" by Serbs against Muslims was under way in north-eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is deeply concerned that members of minorities, in particular Muslims and Croats, in areas of Serb-controlled Bosnia-Herzegovina continue to be victims of serious human rights abuses - including violent evictions, violent robbery, shooting and bombing of houses, torture and ill-treatment, deliberate and arbitrary killings and arbitrary detention. Other abuses, such as forcing men to perform work close to front lines, also reportedly continue. In the past two months hundreds of Muslims and Croats have reportedly been drafted for front-line work in the Ozren region of north-central Bosnia-Herzegovina, the scene of continued fighting between Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Government forces. (Similarly, there have been reports that Bosnian Government forces in the Zenica and Tuzla areas have forcibly drafted Serbs and Croats to fight or dig trenches on the front lines). Janja, Bijeljina and Br\_ko (in north-eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina), which until the outbreak of conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina had large Muslim populations, have been under the control of Bosnian Serb forces since 1992. Since then many of their Muslim inhabitants have left the area, intimidated by violence and threats against them.

There have been similar reports recently from elsewhere in Bosnian Serb-held territory. On 18 July more than a dozen Muslim refugees from Rogatica, east

of Sarajevo, arrived in Sarajevo. Most were women who said that two weeks previously they had been ordered out of their homes and held for two weeks in Kula prison while their husbands and brothers were among some 35 men reportedly taken to a Serb-run work camp in Rudo.

For further information, see Amnesty International's report:

*Bosnia-Herzegovina: "You have no place here": Abuses in Bosnian Serb-controlled areas* (EUR 63/11/94, June 1994 and its update issued in July 1994 (EUR 63/15/94).

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English, French or in your own language:**

- expressing concern about reports of the arrests of Muslims from Bijeljina, Br\_ko and Janja on 15 July, among them the above-named men from Janja.
- requesting information about their present whereabouts and situation;
- urging the release of any who have been detained and have not committed a recognizably criminal offence;
- also expressing concern at reports that some 130 Muslim women, children and older men were expelled from Bijeljina on 16 and 17 July to Bosnian-Government held territory;
- urging immediate action to ensure an end to all attempts to make non-Serbs leave their homes, whether by force or intimidation;

**APPEALS TO**

**Commander of Serbian forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina**

General Ratko Mladi\_

c/o Vila "Bosanka"

Dedinje, Beograd, Yugoslavia.

**Faxes: Belgrade +381 11 669 867 or +381 11 235 1213**

**Faxes: Pale, near Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina: +381 71 783 442\***

**Telegrams: General Mladi\_, Dedinje, Belgrade, Yugoslavia**

**Salutation: Dear General Mladi\_**

**Vice-President of the de facto Bosnian Serb Government (understood to be responsible for human rights questions)**

Vitomir Popovi\_

c/o Vila "Bosanka"

Dedinje, Beograd, Yugoslavia.

**Faxes : Belgrade +381 11 669 867 or +381 11 235 1213**

**Faxes: Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina: +381 78 30 314\***

**Telegrams: Vitomir Popovi\_, Dedinje, Belgrade, Yugoslavia**

**(\* it may not easy to get a connection)**

**Salutation: Dear Mr Popovi\_**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

**The representative of the Bosnian Serbs**

Dr Radovan Karad\_i\_

c/o Vila "Bosanka"

Dedinje, Beograd, Yugoslavia.

**Faxes: Belgrade - +381 11 669 867**

**The president of Janja municipal assembly**

Predsednik

Skupština opštine

76316 Janja

Republika Srpska

**The president of Bijeljina municipal assembly**

Predsednik  
Skupština opštine  
76300 Bijeljina  
Republika Srpska

and to diplomatic representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia  
accredited to your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 31 August 1994.