

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: EUR 63/17/93**

**Distr: UA/SC**

**5 August 1993**

**Further information on EXTRA 47/93 (EUR 63/12/93, 14 May 1993) - and follow-ups: EUR 63/14/92 of 28 May 1993, EUR 63/15/93 of 20 July 1993 and EUR 63/16/93 of 23 July 1993 - Deliberate and arbitrary detention of civilians/deliberate and arbitrary killings/fear of torture and ill-treatment**

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: Civilian population in Mostar and in villages in central Bosnia-Herzegovina**

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Amnesty International has received further information concerning the detention of thousands of Muslim male civilians and prisoners of war in the Mostar area. The Supreme Commander of the Croatian Defence Council (HVO) claimed in a letter to the Croatian Foreign Minister, Mate Grani\_, that the HVO had been gradually releasing the captured Muslims in large groups. However the release of all those detained has not been confirmed. On 30 July 1993 a British newspaper, the Guardian, reported that about 500 of the detainees had been released and deported to Croatia. They are now in refugee camps on Obonjan island. Amnesty International remains concerned about the fate of the remaining people detained, who reportedly include civilians, and for the safety of the Muslim population in Mostar and the surrounding area.

Amnesty International is also concerned at reports of atrocities that have been carried out against Bosnian Croats in central Bosnia; most recently the deliberate and arbitrary killing of some 22 people in the village of Doljani, near Jablanica, on 28 July 1993. These killings reportedly occurred as people were fleeing from smaller villages around Doljani in order to escape the fighting between the Muslim and Croat forces which had just recently reached the area. According to survivors, "Muslim forces" from Jablanica opened fire on them in an ambush as they were trying to cross the woods surrounding Doljani. Several people were wounded and the Muslim soldiers then approached and ill-treated them. Those not wounded were detained but later managed to escape and reported this incident to local physicians and human rights workers in Medjugorje, near Mostar. On 1 August a team of these physicians and survivors went to the site of the ambush and reportedly found the bodies of at least 22 people. At least five of those killed were civilians and one was a woman. Several of the bodies bore the signs of ill-treatment and mutilation. A Reuters cameraman, who went along with them, also saw and filmed the bodies. The remains of the bodies were taken to Tomislavgrad on 2 August where they were identified in the presence of United Nations Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) representatives.

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

- expressing concern about continuing reports of grave human rights abuses, such as those described above, which include deliberate and arbitrary killings, detentions and ill-treatment of civilians and captured combatants;

- urging again both sides to abide by fundamental human rights standards and humanitarian law standards;

- urging again both authorities to strengthen the chain of command and exercise effective control to prevent further human rights abuses occurring;
- stressing that no one - whether detained or not - should be tortured or subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- stressing that Amnesty International is concerned for victims of all nationalities and is appealing to both sides;
- stating that Amnesty International believes that abuses committed by one side can never be used as justification for acts carried out by the other.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Leader of the Croatian Defence council (HVO) (Bosnian Croat forces):

Mate Boban

Kod Glavnog Ureda Hrvatskog Vijeća Obrane

Trg Rondo BB

88000 Mostar

Bosnia-Herzegovina, via Croatia

**Telegrams: Mr Mate Boban, Mostar Bosnia-Herzegovina**

**Faxes: + 38 58 366 019**

**Salutation: Dear Mr Boban**

2) President of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina:

His Excellency Dr Alija Izetbegović

Predsjednik Republike Bosne i Hercegovine

Ambasada Bosne i Hercegovine

Pantovak 96

41000 Zagreb

Croatia

**Telegrams: President of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Zagreb, Croatia**

**Faxes: + 38 41 441 899**

**Salutation: Dear President**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:** Croatian and Bosnian diplomatic representatives in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 September 1993.