

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

2 April 2001

AI Index EUR 70/006/2001 - News Service Nr. 60

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: Send Milosevic to the Hague!

Amnesty International today urged that the arrest of former President Slobodan Milosevic on 1 April 2001 be followed by his immediate transfer to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (Tribunal).

"We call on the Yugoslav government to transfer him to the custody of the Tribunal which has indicted him under international law for crimes against humanity in Kosovo".

"As a member of the United Nations, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is obliged to surrender Slobodan Milosevic and all other suspects remaining on its territory who have been indicted by the Tribunal", the organization stressed. "The Tribunal has primacy over all domestic courts", Amnesty International added, reminding President Vojislav Kostunica of the gravity of the crimes for which former President Milosevic has been indicted.

Background

Slobodan Milosevic was indicted with four other former government officials on 24 May 1999 on charges of crimes against humanity and violations of the law and customs of war committed in Kosovo by Serbian and FRY forces acting under their command, with their encouragement and with their support. Co-indicted with the former president are Milan Milutinovic, President of Serbia until 25 January 2001, Nikola Sainovic, former Deputy Prime Minister, Dragoljub Odjanic, former

Yugoslav Army Chief of Staff and Vljako Stojilkovic, former Serbian Minister of Internal Affairs. Carla del Ponte, the Tribunal's Chief Prosecutor has stated that further charges against the former president for crimes allegedly committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina are currently being prepared.

\ENDS

public document