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Legal Concern/ill-treatment

2 June 1993

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA:

Vuk DRAŠKOVI_, President of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO)

Danica DRAŠKOVI_ (female)

Dragan MILI_i_

Liljana LASI_ and about 30 others

Amnesty International is concerned at the arrest of some 30 people, including Vuk Draškovi_, the President of Serbia's largest opposition party, on 1 June 1993 following an anti-government demonstration in the capital, Belgrade. The organization is further concerned at reports that the police have seriously ill-treated Vuk Draškovi_, his wife Danica, and others.

At about 10.30 pm on 1 June 1993, some 30 armed and masked policemen, belonging to special police units, burst into the SPO's headquarters and ordered Vuk Draškovi_, his wife Danica, Liljana Lasi_ (the Vice-President of the party), Dragan Mili_i_ (a parliament deputy for the party) and about 30 others, reportedly other deputies and some journalists, to leave the building. The policemen did not have court permission to enter the building nor a court order to make arrests.

According to eye-witnesses, both Draškovi_ and his wife were beaten on the way out of the office, in the street and in the cars that took them off in an unknown direction. The next day, 2 June, a hospital doctor who had treated Vuk Draškovi_ the night before for his injuries, was interviewed on the independent Studio B television. He stated that Draškovi_ had very serious injuries, including a broken jaw and possible internal injuries.

The arrests followed a demonstration of some 4,000 people, led by Draškovi_, protesting against the government of Serbian President Slobodan Miloševi_ and the ousting of Federal Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosi_ through a no-confidence vote in Parliament. In the aftermath of the vote against the President an SPO deputy, Mihailo Markovi_, was assaulted outside the debating chamber by Branislav Vaki_, a member of the extreme nationalist Serbian Radical Party. According to press reports demonstrators approached the Parliament building with Vuk Draškovi_ at their head. When they attempted to enter the parliament they clashed with police, who reportedly used truncheons and later teargas and rubber bullets to disperse them.

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

- noting reports of the arrest on 1 June 1993 of some 30 people, among them

Vuk and Danica Draškovi_, Liljana Lasi_, Dragan Mili_i_, by special police units, apparently in connection with demonstrations earlier that day;

- expressing concern at reports that Vuk Draškovi_, his wife and others have been ill-treated by the police;

- urging the authorities to disclose their whereabouts, to ensure that they are not further ill-treated in detention and to allow them access to lawyers and their families;

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- calling for their immediate and unconditional release if they are not charged promptly with recognizably criminal offences.

APPEALS TO

1) President of the Republic of Serbia:

Slobodan Miloševi_
Predsednik Republike Srbije
Srpskih vladara 14
11000 Beograd
Yugoslavia

Telegrams: Serbia President Miloševi_, BELgrade, Yugoslavia
Faxes: + 38 11 682 167

Salutation: Dear President

2) Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia:

Mr Zoran Sokolovi_
Ministar unutrašnjih poslova Republike Srbije
Kneza Miloša 101
11000 Beograd
Yugoslavia

Telegrams: Serbia Minister Sokolovi_, Belgrade, Yugoslavia
Faxes: + 38 11 683 041

Salutation : Dear President

3) Premier - President of the Serbian Government:

Mr Nikola Šainovi_
Predsednik Vlade Republike Srbije
Nemanjina 11
11000 Beograd
Yugoslavia

Telegrams: Serbia Prime Minister Šainovi_, Belgrade, Yugoslavia
Faxes: + 38 11 682 167

Salutation: Dear Premier

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Federal Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs:

Dr Mom_ilo Gruba_
Bulevar Lenjina 2

11000 Beograd
Yugoslavia

Humanitarian Law Fund:

Terazije 6/III
11000 Beograd
Yugoslavia

and to diplomatic representatives of Yugoslavia accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 July 1993.