

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 234/94 Ill-treatment / Fear of further ill-treatment

16 June 1994

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (KOSOVO)

**Nebih Zogaj, teacher
and other ethnic Albanians**

On three occasions since 1 June 1994, Nebih Zogaj has been arrested by police, and severely beaten in custody at Suva Reka police station. Amnesty International fears that he may be rearrested and further ill-treated, and that other ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province are at risk of being subjected to the same abuse.

Nebih Zogaj is an ethnic Albanian from Kosovo province in southern Serbia. Headmaster of a primary school in Belanica, near Mališevo, he is also chairman of the Belanica local branch of the Democratic League of Kosovo, the main ethnic Albanian opposition party in Kosovo. He was first arrested and beaten on 1 June, when police reportedly also searched his offices at the school. After his second beating by police on 9 June, he had to be hospitalized in Djakovica, to be treated for injuries. He was discharged on 13 June and the same day was summoned to the police station in Suva Reka, where he was again beaten, allegedly losing consciousness.

Bajram Samadraxha, another primary school headmaster (in Banja, near Mališevo) was also reportedly beaten in Suva Reka police station on 13 June and ordered to report again to police the following day.

Amnesty International has also received other reports of ethnic Albanians being ill-treated by police at Suva Reka police station, among them Asllan Shala, who was reportedly beaten on 30 April; Bashkim Krasniqi, who was beaten on 24 May and reportedly suffered severe injuries and Qazim Sallauka, who was beaten on 9 June.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since early 1994, police violence has escalated in the predominantly ethnic Albanian-populated province of Kosovo. Amnesty International daily learns of cases in which officers of the largely Serbian police force have beaten ethnic Albanians in police stations or while carrying out arms searches in their homes. Since 1990, when Serbia adopted a new constitution which deprived Kosovo province of most of its autonomy, most ethnic Albanians have refused to recognize Serbian authority in the province. The majority of teaching staff at secondary schools and Priština University have been dismissed from their posts after refusing to teach according to curricula set by the Serbian authorities. Teachers and academics as well as members of ethnic Albanian political parties have been among the most frequent targets of police violence. (See *Yugoslavia: Police violence against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province*, EUR 70/06/94, April 1994).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams, faxes and airmail letters in English, French or German or in your own language:

- expressing deep concern about allegations that Nebih Zogaj, a primary school headmaster from Belanica, Mališevo has been beaten by police at Suva Reka police station three times in the first two weeks of June (state dates); note that on the second occasion he apparently received injuries for which he was admitted

for treatment to Djakovica hospital and that he was beaten for the third time only shortly after being discharged from hospital;

- expressing concern about other recent allegations of beatings by police at Suva Reka police station;
- urging the authorities to initiate a prompt, independent and impartial inquiry into the allegations of ill-treatment made in this case and in many other recent cases involving ethnic Albanians charged with political offences;
- urging that any persons found to be responsible for ill-treatment be brought to justice;
- urging that police officers be informed of, and required to uphold, international standards for law enforcement.

APPEALS TO

1. Chief of police, Suva Reka

Komandantu stanice milicije
Suva Reka
AP Kosovo i Metohija
Yugoslavia

Telegrams: Komandantu stanice milicije, Suva Reka, APKM, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear Commander

2. Minister of Justice of the Republic of Serbia

Arandjel Marki_evi_
Ministar pravde
Republi_ko Ministarstvo za pravosudje i opštu upravu
Nemanjina 26
11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Telegrams: Ministar pravde, Ministarstvo za pravosudje, Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Faxes: +381 11 683 041

Salutation: Dear Minister

3. Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia

Zoran Sokolovi_
Ministar Unutrašnjih Poslova Republike Srbije
Kneza Miloša 101
11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Faxes: +381 11 683 041

Telegrams: Ministar Sokolovi_, Kneza Miloša, Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1. Federal Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs

Ms Margit Savovi_
Bulevar Lenjina 2
11070 Beograd
Yugoslavia

2. Committee for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms, Priština:

Xhavit Mitrovica 15
38000 Priština, Yugoslavia.

3. Humanitarian Law Fund

Terazije 6/111
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 30 July 1994.