

PUBLIC

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Ill-treatment/medical concern/prisoner

of consci

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA Miroslav Filipovi\_ , journalist

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Journalist Miroslav Filipovi\_ was jailed for seven years on 26 July, convicted of "espionage" and "spreading false information". Amnesty International believes that he is a prisoner of conscience and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

Miroslav Filipovi\_ , who writes for the Serbian independent newspaper *Danas*, was arrested at his home in Kraljevo on 8 May. He is a correspondent for the London based Institute of War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), and Kraljevo correspondent for *Agence France Presse* (AFP).

He appears to have been imprisoned because of articles he wrote for the IWPR about the conflict in Kosovo, one of which contained eyewitness accounts of human rights violations committed by Serbian and FRY forces. Since the case involved "state secrets", the authorities did not reveal any details of the charges or the trial, before Niš Military Court, part of which was held in secret.

His lawyer is due to lodge an appeal with the Supreme Military Court on 18 August. The court is expected to respond within 90 days.

Filipovi\_ has a history of minor heart problems, and became unwell on 3 August, after a week in Niš Military prison. He was taken to Niš Military hospital, where his heart function was monitored on an electrocardiograph (ECG) for several hours. Against the advice of the doctor, he was returned to the prison on the orders of the hospital manager, and connected to an ECG there.

On 8 August his condition deteriorated and he was taken to the cardiology unit at Belgrade Military Hospital. According to sources at the hospital, he is suffering from severe chronic arrhythmia (an irregular heart-beat).

He was moved back to Niš prison today. The hospital source said such a move would be "very dangerous." Filipovi\_ requires constant care, and medication which can only be administered under medical supervision. At the prison he shares a cell with two other inmates, and such treatment would be next to impossible, the source said. According to his family he has received excellent medical care at the Belgrade hospital, which is better equipped than the military hospital at Niš.

Filipovi\_ has lost 20 kilograms since he was detained in May.

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

- expressing concern for Miroslav Filipovi\_ , and asking that he be allowed to receive treatment at Belgrade Military Hospital for his heart condition;
- emphasising that a patient with arrhythmia should not be subject to stress, as may be the case in prison where he shares a cell with two others;
- pointing out that without proper medical care, the condition can contribute to the development of other health problems;
- reminding the authorities that Amnesty International considers Miroslav Filipovi\_ a prisoner of conscience, who should be immediately and unconditionally released.

**APPEALS TO:**

Prime Minister

Predsednik Savezne Vlade  
Dr Momir Bulatovi\_  
Bulevar Mihaila Pupina 2  
11070 Beograd, Yugoslavia

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

**Fax: + 381 11 636 775 or + 381 11 659 682**

**E-mail: momir.bulatovic@gov.yu**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Federal Minister of Defence

Dragoljub Ojdani\_  
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Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

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**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ministar za inostrane poslove  
\_ivadin Jovanovi\_  
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11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

**Telegram: Foreign Minister, Belgrade, Yugoslavia**

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**Salutation: Dear Minister**

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 22 September 2000.