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**Public Statement**  
**Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**

**Amnesty International writes to NATO's Secretary General**

Amnesty International has written to NATO's Secretary General, Javier Solana, expressing deep concern about the attacks carried out on 7 and 8 May by aircraft under NATO command in which 18 civilians are reported to have been killed.

In relation to the 7 May attack -- apparently targeted at Niš' airport but which struck the city-centre market and a nearby civilian hospital, reportedly killing 15 people -- Amnesty International is concerned that insufficient consideration may have been given to the proximity of civilians in NATO's planning of the attack. The organization specifically would like to know whether the proximity of civilians was considered in determining what weapons to use in the attack on the airport, and the reason for attacking the airport at midday -- when many civilians were in the nearby market place.

In relation to the bombing on 8 May of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Belgrade, which killed three civilians, Amnesty International has pointed out to Mr Solana that NATO's acknowledgement that this attack was a mistake does not allay fears -- raised by Amnesty International in previous correspondence -- about whether NATO is undertaking sufficient safeguards in selecting and vetting targets for attack.

In the letter to Mr Solana, Amnesty International seeks assurances from him that a prompt inquiry is being initiated into these attacks. The letter concludes by stressing that specific concerns expressed by Amnesty International about previous incidents which may have constituted violations of international humanitarian law by NATO forces have not yet been addressed.

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