

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 70/123/99

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 25 per section.

UA 296/99

Ill-treatment / police brutality

11 November 1999

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (FRY)

Ivan Markovi_, student
Predrag Milosavljevi_, press photographer
Olivera Obradovi_ (f), student
other demonstrators and media workers

Amnesty International is concerned by a pattern of police brutality in response to peaceful anti-government protests taking place across Serbia. Over 50 people, including those named above and members of the press, were reportedly injured during a protest march in Belgrade on 9 November 1999, with some seeking medical attention as a result.

The march, organized by the students' movement *Otpor* (Resistance), was supporting the call by Serbian opposition parties for early elections and protesting against laws affecting the independence of academic institutions and the freedom of the press.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since the end of NATO air strikes in June 1999, tens of thousands of people across Serbia have demonstrated against the government. They are calling on President Slobodan Miloševi_ to resign following the Kosovo crisis, for which he has been indicted by the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action (see UA 256/99, EUR 70/109/99, 30 September 1999) after some 50 people were believed injured and a number detained after riot police violently dispersed a peaceful anti-government protest on 29 September. Other anti-government demonstrations have been similarly violently broken up by police.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, German, French, Russian or your own language: (postal services to the FRY have now been restored).

- expressing concern at reports that police beat demonstrators and media workers at a protest march in Belgrade on 9 November 1999;
- reminding the authorities of their commitment to uphold Articles 19 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (to which Yugoslavia is a state party), which guarantee the rights of freedom of expression and assembly;
- calling for a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into reports of police ill-treatment.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Slobodan Miloševi_

Predsednik SRJ

Bulevar Mihaila Pupina 2

11070 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Telegrams: President, Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Faxes: + 381 11 636 775

Telexes: 11062 siv yu

E-mails: slobodan.milosevic@gov.yu

Salutation: Dear President

Federal Minister of Internal Affairs

Zoran Sokolovi_

Ministar za unutrašnje poslove

Savezno ministarstvo za unutrašnje poslove

11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Telegrams: Federal Minister, Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Faxes: + 381 11 361 7730

E-mails: zoran.sokolovic@gov.yu

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ministar za inostrane poslove

ivadin Jovanovi

Savezno ministarstvo za inostrane poslove

Kneza Miloša 24-26

11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Faxes: + 381 11 367 2954

Telexes: 11173

E-mails: zivadin.jovanovic@gov.yu

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 23 December 1999.