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NOTE: THE U.S. PRESS OFFICE WILL SEND AN EIGHT-PAGE REPORT ON MALI, WEST AFRICA, TARGETED TO MALIAN MEDIA AND A TWO OR THREE SELECTED NEWS AGENCIES. THERE WILL BE NO NEWS ITEM, BUT THE REPORT WILL GO OUT IN THE WEEKLY MAILING OF SEPTEMBER 14. THIS IS JUST FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Brazil - 14 September - PLEASE NOTE THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL RELEASE. SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

Kosovo - 19 September - INCLUDED IN THIS NEWS SERVICE

Indonesia - 28 September - LAUNCH OF CAMPAIGN.

Algeria - first week of October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

France - 12 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

** Thailand - 8 September** - The news release enclosed is being sent to Asian media only. We are swiftairing the report to you today. SEE NEWS SERVICE 184/94

Togo - 15 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 168/94

Turkey - 14 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 181/94

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EMBARGOED FOR 19 SEPTEMBER 1994

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo): Police violence against ethnic Albanians must end

A 90 year-old man is beaten unconscious in his home by police who claim to be looking for weapons. An 18-year-old student is ordered off a bus on his way home from school and taken to a police station. There, police officers hold him down and cut a Serbian nationalist cross on his chest.*

These are just two of the many victims of widespread police violence and intimidation against members of the ethnic Albanian community in the Kosovo province of Serbia. Photographic evidence and personal testimonies of some of these attacks are published in an Amnesty International report released today.

"While the photographs show the injuries inflicted on ethnic Albanians by police officers, they cannot describe the humiliation, pain and anger experienced by the victims or their families and many others like them," Amnesty International said. "We receive reports of such attacks almost daily".

Ethnic Albanians make up about 85 per cent of Kosovo's two million population. Police violence plays a major role in the exodus of hundreds of thousands of young Albanian men who have fled, primarily to Western Europe.

Those targeted by the police include political activists, teachers, human rights activists, trade unionists, even local sports leaders: anyone, it seems, who is active in the "parallel" society which ethnic Albanians have created in response to years of persecution and the dismantling of the political and cultural institutions of their previously semi-autonomous province.

Beatings are often carried out in the context of a "search for weapons": furniture is broken up, families are threatened and the men of the household are beaten up, often resulting in severe injuries. Sometimes women, children and the elderly are also attacked.

Amnesty International believes such ill-treatment is part of an official policy to retain control of the province by extreme intimidation, and notes the impunity enjoyed by officers. Some 4,000 ethnic Albanian police officers in Kosovo have been dismissed since 1990 to be replaced by Serbian and Montenegrin officers.

Since mid-1993, the Yugoslav Government has refused to allow long-term human rights monitoring missions to be based in Kosovo, or to grant visas to several human rights organizations, including Amnesty International. The organization is calling on the authorities to put a stop to torture and ill-treatment immediately; to bring those responsible to justice; and to ensure that all police officers uphold international standards for law enforcement.

*Ali Murati, aged 90, was beaten by police who carried out an arms search at his home near Podujevo in February 1994. In his testimony, he says: "I told [the police officers] repeatedly that I did not possess any arms and they could carry out a detailed search. The began to beat me in the most violent way, one after another, five or six of them, without stopping, until...I lost consciousness."

Arian Curri, aged 18, was assaulted after he was taken off a bus by police officers on the outskirts of Pec in April 1994 as he was on his way home from school. He told Amnesty International: "...they tied me to a radiator and three police officers sat on me; one of them pulled out a knife and after he had pulled up my shirt he cut a cross..."

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