

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 11/01/97

16 January 1997

Further information (7) on UA 50/96 (EUR 11/03/96, 28 February 1996) and follow-ups EUR 11/04/96, 11 March; EUR 11/07/96, 21 March; EUR 11/11/96, 9 May; EUR 11/19/96, 12 September; EUR 11/20/96, 17 September; EUR 11/25/96, 25 October - Possible Prisoners of Conscience

ALBANIASami Meta, Timoshenko Pekmezi, Kristaq Mosko and Tare Isufi

Sami Meta and Timoshenko Pekmezi were released on 29 December 1996 when President Berisha issued a decree releasing or reducing the sentences of 102 prisoners. Apart from Sami Meta and Timoshenko Pekmezi and two or three others, almost all of the prisoners who benefited by the decree were ordinary convicted criminals.

On 16 September, the Tirana District Court had sentenced Sami Meta to two and a half years' and Timoshenko Pekmezi to two years' imprisonment. Amnesty International has since learned that Kristaq Mosko, sentenced to one year's imprisonment, was released on 5 November 1996, since under Albanian law every day spent in pre-trial prison (he and his co-defendants were arrested on 1 March 1996) is calculated as the equivalent of a day and a half of a prison sentence. The current situation of Tare Isufi is not known to Amnesty International, but it appears that as he was detained in house arrest (rather than in prison) before his trial, he may have to serve the full year's sentence, which means that he is due for release at the latest by the end of February 1997.

PLEASE SEND ONE FINAL LETTER:

- welcoming the release of Sami Meta and Timoshenko Pekmezi under the presidential decree of 29 December 1996.

TO:

President of Albania

Dr Sali Berisha

Presidenti i Republikës së Shqipërisë

Zyra e Presidencës, Tirana

Republic of Albania

Tel/Fax: +355 42 33761 or +355 42 28420 (if voice, ask for fax)

Salutation: Dear President

Minister of Justice

Mr Kristofor Peçi

Ministër i Drejtësisë, Tirana, Republic of Albania

Tel/Fax: +355 42 28359 (if voice, ask for fax)

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPY TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr Tritan Shehu

Ministër i Punëve të Jashtme, Tirana

Fax: +355 42 62084 or +355 42 62085

and to diplomatic representatives of Albania accredited to your country.

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THANK YOU.