

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 63/03/95

Distrib: PG/SC

Date: 3 March 1995

*MEDICAL CONCERN*

**Dr Bajram Red\_epagi\_  
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**

Bajram Red\_epagi\_ is a kidney specialist working in the former military hospital in Sarajevo. On the afternoon of Monday 27 February he was reportedly taken from his workplace. Another doctor was reportedly taken from the hospital the same afternoon, but no details are available. The same afternoon Bosnian Army soldiers came to Bajram Red\_epagi\_'s apartment and carried out a search, ostensibly looking for arms or documents. The soldier in charge of the search allegedly acknowledged that he had been taken into detention and produced forged documents relating to Bajram Red\_epagi\_'s military obligations. Uniformed soldiers and a civilian also reportedly carried out a further search of the apartment on Thursday 2 March.

His family have addressed the authorities, but have not been given any official confirmation of his detention. There are reports that he is being held in an army barracks in the town.

Before the break-up of the former Yugoslavia, Bajram Red\_epagi\_, a Muslim, was employed as a doctor in the military hospital in Sarajevo. In late 1991 he was reportedly detained for several months by the authorities for criticizing the role of the Yugoslav National Army in the war in Croatia in a newspaper interview. He also has a parallel career as a novelist. Although reportedly not a member of any opposition party, he has expressed criticism of the policies of the Bosnian authorities. His political opinions may be the motive for his detention.

Amnesty International is concerned that the relatives of Bajram Red\_epagi\_ have not been given confirmation of his whereabouts or of the reasons for his detention. The organization is calling upon the Bosnian authorities to inform his relatives of his whereabouts and to clarify the reasons for his detention. It also calls upon the authorities to ensure that important safeguards such as the right of access to a legal representative are adhered to.

If there is no substantial evidence that he has committed a criminal act (one which is not based on the expression of his political opinions and not involving the advocacy of violence) then Amnesty International would consider him to be a prisoner of conscience and call for his immediate and unconditional release.

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To: Medical professionals  
From: Medical Office / Europe Regional Program  
Date: 3 March 1995

### *MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION*

**Bajram Red\_epagi\_**  
**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**

#### **Keywords**

Theme: arbitrary arrest

Profession/association: doctor/nephrologist

#### **Summary**

AI is urging the Bosnian authorities to disclose the reasons for the arrest of Dr Bajram Red\_epagi\_, a kidney specialist arrested 27 February 1995 in Sarajevo. It is seeking assurances that his family will be informed of his whereabouts and that he will have access to a legal representative of his choice. AI would consider that, unless he is to be prosecuted for a recognisably criminal offence, Dr Red\_epagi\_ would be a prisoner of conscience and the organization would call for his release.

#### **Recommended Actions**

Send faxes in English, French or German, to the President of the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina calling on him to ensure that the circumstances of Bajram Red\_epagi\_'s probable detention are immediately investigated and if it is confirmed that he is in detention:

- ◆ to make public the basis for his detention and to ensure that members of his family are notified of this and the circumstances and place of his detention;
- ◆ to ensure that he is given immediate access to a lawyer of his choice;

If Bajram Red\_epagi\_ is not found to be in detention then call upon him to:

- ◆ initiate immediately a thorough, independent and impartial investigation into his current situation.

Faxes to:

Alija Izetbegović  
President of the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina  
Sarajevo

Satellite fax: +387 144 62 65 or +387 144 62 55  
(Cost is \$7 US to \$10 US per page)

Connections may be easier to be obtained using delayed transmission overnight.

Terrestrial fax line: +387 71 472 491

If there is an embassy of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in your country then please send a copy to the embassy, particularly if you are unable to obtain a fax connection.

Please contact medical associations in your country and ask them to send faxes. In countries with diplomatic representation in Sarajevo, please ask your medical association to contact your foreign ministry and ask for diplomatic representatives to inquire about Bajram Redžepagić.