

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: EUR 70/021/2004**

**13 August 2004**

**Further Information on UA 241/04 (EUR 70/020/2004, 6 August 2004) - Fear for safety/forcible displacement**

**KOSOVO Up to 47 Ashkali displaced persons  
(SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO)**

---

The threat that 47 members of the Ashkali ethnic minority group might be forcibly evicted from a French peace-keepers base has been lifted, following a wave of international protest. The Ashkali will now be allowed to stay in the base while arrangements are made for them to leave the country.

The UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) told Amnesty International that all members of the Ashkali community at the French KFOR peace-keepers camp would now be issued with official travel documents and Serbian passports. This means they will be able to travel to Serbia and settle there, or, if they wish, leave the country. This process is expected to take up to 10 days; in the meantime, French KFOR has agreed that the Ashkali may stay at the camp.

The people housed in the French KFOR base at Selo Madjunsko/Maxhunaj are among some 260 Ashkali who were forced to flee the Kosovar town of Vucitrn (in Serbian; in Albanian it is called Vushtrri) when Albanian demonstrators burned down their houses, on 18 March. Amnesty International believes that, if forcibly evicted, their lives could have been put in danger.

**Many thanks to everyone who participated in this Urgent Action.**