

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 70/109/99

UA 256/99 Ill-treatment/

possible

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (FRY)

Beaten: Goran Mili\_evi\_, professor at School of Economics  
Aleksandra Gaji\_ (f), Democratic Party (SD) member  
Pavi\_ Obradovi\_, SD vice-president

Arrested: Slobodan Orli\_, SD vice-president  
Dragan Kop\_ali\_, SD leader  
Nataša Zujovi\_ (f), SD leader  
Velimir Gavari\_, New Serbia party vice-president

Other demonstrators and media workers

Some 50 people are believed to have been injured when riot police violently dispersed a peaceful anti-government protest using truncheons and water cannon, on the night of 29 September 1999. According to Belgrade media, opposition activists and supporters, including those named above, were beaten and detained.

Belgrade media said that five reporters and cameramen with CNN and Sky News were beaten and had their cameras destroyed. Hospital officials are reported to have said that most of the injuries sustained by demonstrators were to the chest, back and hands and that there were several women among those injured.

The police action came after some 25,000 supporters of the opposition umbrella group *Savez za promene* (SZP), Alliance for Change, had gathered in the capital, Belgrade for a ninth consecutive evening of peaceful protests, during which opposition supporters tried to march on the home of the Yugoslav President Slobodan Miloševi\_.

On 30 September opposition leaders called for the release of at least 10 people reportedly still under arrest. Further protests are planned in Belgrade, which Amnesty International fears may result in further ill-treatment by police.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since the end of the NATO air strikes in June this year tens of thousands of people have taken part in anti-government demonstrations across Serbia, calling on FRY President Slobodan Miloševi\_, indicted for war crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, to resign. Previous demonstrations in several Serbian towns were violently broken up by police and an unknown number of demonstrators were detained.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, German, French, Russian or your own language: (please note that at present no mail is being delivered from the UK)**

- expressing deep concern at reports that police beat demonstrators in the city of Belgrade on 29 September 1999 and at reports of the beatings of media workers;
- emphasising that Articles 19 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (to which Yugoslavia is a state party) guarantee the rights of freedom of expression and assembly respectively;
- calling for a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into all reports of police ill-treatment;

- urging the immediate and unconditional release of anyone who remains in detention for the non-violent exercise of their right to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression.

**APPEALS TO:**

**President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**

Slobodan Milošević\_

Predsednik SRJ

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**Salutation: Dear President**

**Fax: + 381 11 636 775**

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**e-mail: slobodan.milosevic@gov.yu**

**Federal Minister of Internal Affairs**

Zoran Sokolović\_

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Savezno ministarstvo za unutrašnje poslove

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**COPIES TO:**

**Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs**

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\_ivadin Jovanović\_

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**Salutation: Dear Minister**

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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 4 November 1999.