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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **The tragedy continues --**

#### **\*New report on the “disappeared” and abducted in Kosovo province\***

The plight of the “disappeared” and those abducted, and their families, should not be allowed to slip off the international agenda in the aftermath of other human rights tragedies, Amnesty International urged today as it released a report campaigning for investigations into their fate.

In the aftermath of the conflict in Kosovo the whereabouts of thousands of people remain unknown. Thousands of ethnic Albanians detained during the conflict have “disappeared”; some may be held in unacknowledged detention in Serbia. Hundreds of Serbs and Roma, who have been abducted by armed Albanian groups, are still unaccounted for.

The report, drawing on numerous testimonies revealed to Amnesty International delegates who were in Kosovo province, describes killings, torture, ill-treatment and forced displacement, not only of ethnic Albanians, but also of Serbs and Roma.

In its report Amnesty International is calling on:

**The Yugoslav authorities** to release all information about prisoners from Kosovo held in Serbia and urges the authorities to clarify all reported cases of “disappearance” by conducting independent and impartial investigations and by bringing those responsible to justice.

**Representatives of the Kosovo Albanian community** to cooperate fully with members of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in investigating cases of persons reportedly abducted by ethnic Albanians, whatever their ethnic origin, and bringing those responsible to justice.

**Former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)** to use their influence to stop unlawful killings, ill-treatment, abduction and unauthorized detention being perpetrated against persons of all ethnicities.

**The international community** to undertake a program to clarify the fate or whereabouts of all persons who have “disappeared” or been abducted in Kosovo. ENDS.../

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**For more information please see report: *A Broken Circle: “Disappeared” and abducted in Kosovo province, October 1999* (AI Index: EUR 70/106/99) or call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on 44 171 413 5566.**

**You can also visit our website at <http://www.amnesty.org>**