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# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 78/93

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## NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Annual Report - 0600 hrs gmt, 8 July - SEE WEEKLY UPDATE 76/93

### FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Indonesia (Aceh) - 28 July - SEE WEEKLY UPDATE 76/93

### TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - enclosed

Please draw the item enclosed to the attention of Home Government Lobbyists and IGO Coordinators, EC contact persons and Campaigners. The item is about the refusal by the Yugoslav Government to allow CSCE and UN human rights monitors into the country. Western governments have put some pressure on Belgrade to cooperate with the CSCE, but have been silent about the Special Rapporteur on the former Yugoslavia. AI's aim is to push governments and IGOs to fight for access for both the CSCE and the UN Special Rapporteur. At this stage sections are asked to try and stimulate debate in the media about the issue. If possible, please use the enclosed item to attract quality newspapers to do features on the subject. The IS and EC project office will lobby at the EC, CSCE and UN levels. Depending on the success of moves being made by the EC and CSCE over the next few days, the IS may step up the action by asking sections to lobby their governments.

AI INDEX: EUR 70/WU 01/93

12 JULY 1993

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA: INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST ACT IN FACE OF YUGOSLAV OBSTRUCTION TO UN AND CSCE HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS**

Three times in the last 10 days the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (comprising Serbia and Montenegro) has blocked international initiatives to investigate human rights abuses in the former Yugoslavia.

The government has said it will expel the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) monitoring mission in Kosovo province, Sand\_ak and Vojvodina; appears to have barred a CSCE mission from entering the country to investigate the cases of Vuk and Danica Draškovi\_; and has refused to allow Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the former Yugoslavia, to base staff in the country.

Amnesty International is calling on the Yugoslav Government immediately to reverse these decisions. It is urging the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, the CSCE and the European Community to act in close cooperation and take all necessary steps to ensure that the work of the CSCE missions and the Special Rapporteur on the former Yugoslavia is unhindered in Yugoslavia.

Amnesty International is also calling on governments to honour commitments to supplement the CSCE mission in Kosovo province, Sand\_ak and Vojvodina with UN monitors.

Said the organization: "The Yugoslav Government claims that it respects human rights. If this is the case it should show the world that it has nothing to hide. We are very concerned that if the CSCE is not present in Kosovo province, Sand\_ak and Vojvodina to assess what is really happening, tensions will only get worse."

Amnesty International has repeatedly documented the apparent impunity enjoyed by members of Serbia's police force who have beaten and ill-treated citizens, during arrest or later in police stations. In the great majority of cases known to Amnesty International, the victims have been ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province. However, among the most recent victims of police brutality in Belgrade are Vuk Draškovi\_, leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO) and his wife, Danica.

Amnesty International considers that access for the UN Special Rapporteur on the former Yugoslavia is as essential as the continued presence of the CSCE mission. "If the UN Special Rapporteur is barred from Yugoslavia he will be prevented from fulfilling his mandate given by the UN Commission on Human Rights and supported by both the Security Council and the General Assembly."

The obstruction to international monitors comes at a time of greater harassment of ethnic Albanian human rights activists by Serbian police in Kosovo province. On 7 July the offices of the Council for Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms in Priština were searched, documents taken and one member reportedly arrested and beaten (see AI Urgent Action, AI Index: EUR 70/15/93).

Amnesty International considers that because of the seriousness of the abuses and tensions, particularly in Kosovo province, the CSCE mission should be supplemented by UN monitors who are properly trained, have adequate financial and logistical support and issue reports which should be made public. It is disappointing that the UN has failed to send monitors despite the fact that such an expanded international monitoring presence in Kosovo province was expressly called for by: the 12 EC heads of state in Edinburgh last December; the 53 CSCE foreign ministers in Stockholm three days later; and the foreign ministers of France, Spain, Russia, UK and USA in their joint statement made on 22 May this year.

The Yugoslav government has said that the refusals are in response to the continued suspension of Yugoslavia from CSCE and UN bodies and that it will not cooperate until the suspensions are lifted. It has also accused the UN Special Rapporteur of biased reporting against Serbs and the CSCE of making unfounded accusations against the government.

So far pressure on Yugoslavia from the G7 meeting in Tokyo, the CSCE, EC diplomats in Belgrade and the EC envoy David Owen has failed to make the government change its mind. Officials from the Yugoslav Ministry of Foreign Affairs are reported to be meeting today in Stockholm with the CSCE Troika led by Sweden which holds the CSCE Chair.

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**Background:**

Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the former Polish Prime Minister, was appointed the UN Special Rapporteur on the former Yugoslavia by an emergency session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in August last year. Both the UN General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights have emphasised that periodic visits to the area are not enough and the Special Rapporteur must have staff based in the

region to be able to report on the human rights situation rapidly and first-hand. His staff already work out of Zagreb and Amnesty International believes the same presence must be established in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. These monitors would not only investigate the human rights situation in Yugoslavia, but would also be able to interview refugees in the country about abuses in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Up to 20 CSCE observers have been working in Kosovo province, Sand\_ak and Vojvodina since last October on the basis of an agreement signed by the Yugoslav Government which expired on 28 June. The mission's mandate is to monitor the human rights and political situation and to promote dialogue between government authorities and communities in these areas, particularly the Albanian community in Kosovo province, Muslim minority in Sand\_ak and Hungarian minority in Vojvodina.

On 30 June the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials reaffirmed that "any attempt to hamper the (CSCE) operation or the missions or to limit their presence would constitute a serious setback" and that the extension of the mission's mandate would be an "important test of the willingness of [the Yugoslav government] to contribute to the long term goal of peace and stability in the region". The CSCE had intended to expand the size and activities of the mission.

The CSCE also decided on 30 June urgently to send a group of experts, including a physician, to investigate reports of human rights violations in Serbia and Montenegro, particularly the imprisonment and alleged beatings of Vuk and Danica Draškovi\_.