

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 11/05/97

28 February 1997

Further information on EXTRA 16/97 (EUR 11/02/97, 6 February 1997) and follow-up (EUR 11/03/97, 11 February; EUR 11/04/97, 14 February) - Fear of ill-treatment / Prisoners of conscience / Possible POCs

ALBANIA **Tirana students**

It is reported that on 28 February 1997 police officers in Tirana kicked and punched a group of high-school students to prevent them from joining university students taking part in an anti-government protest. Police turned back without the use of force other groups of high-school students seeking to join the protest.

Students in Tirana have boycotted classes at faculties and schools in solidarity with some 80 students in the southern town of Vlora who have been on hunger-strike since 20 February calling for the government's resignation and for the reimbursement of money which many thousands of Albanian citizens have lost in failed pyramid investment schemes (see original EXTRA and previous updates).

On 27 February police reportedly prevented Tirana students from entering a university building to start their own hunger-strike, and two student leaders, one of them named Premton Gogo, were arrested by plainclothes police. The two have reportedly since been released.

Students have also gone on hunger-strike in the southern town of Gjirokastër and are reported to have claimed that doctors at the town's hospital had refused to treat them.

APPEALS AS OUTLINED IN PREVIOUS FOLLOW-UP, EUR 11/03/97, MAY CONTINUE, adding expressions of concern about reports that on 28 February police punched and kicked some high-school students in Tirana who were attempting to exercise, non-violently, their right to peaceful protest.

APPEALS TO:

President of Albania

Dr Sali Berisha

Presidenti i Republikës së Shqipërisë

Zyra e Presidencës, Tirana

Republic of Albania

Fax: +355 42 33761 or 355 42 28 420 (Fax/Tel)

Telegrams: President, Tirana, Albania

Salutation: Dear President

Minister of Public Order

Mr Halit Shamata

Minister i Rendit Publik, Tirana,

Republic of Albania

Telegrams: Minister i Rendit Publik, Tirana, Republic of Albania

Fax: +355 42 63607 (direct)

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

The Albanian Helsinki Committee

Komiteti Shqiptar i Helsinkit
Rr Ali Demi, Pall 2, Shk 2, ap 12,
Tirana, Republic of Albania

and to diplomatic representatives of Albania accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 March 1997.