

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 70/28/96

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 20 per Section.

1 October 1996

Further information on EXTRA 150/96 (EUR 70/21/96, 25 September 1996) - Ill-treatment / Possible refoulement

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Xhafer Bardiqi

new names:

Florim Hoxha, aged 24
Amir Brugzahi (possibly incorrect spelling)

Amnesty International has received further reports that ethnic Albanians who have been forcibly returned from Germany to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), or have returned voluntarily after their requests for asylum were refused, have been ill-treated by police.

Amnesty International has no further information about Xhafer Bardiqi, who was returned to Kosovo province from Frankfurt, Germany, on 16 September 1996 after being denied asylum there (see original EXTRA), but the organization has learned of another possibly similar case. Florim Hoxha, from Belanica village, was reportedly ill-treated by police in Kosovo province after being forcibly returned to the FRY by the German authorities who had refused his request for asylum. According to a report in the local Albanian press, Florim Hoxha was arrested by the German police, without prior warning, at home on 14 September 1996 in Stuttgart and together with several other young ethnic Albanians was deported to the FRY. At Priština airport they were reportedly ill-treated by police who confiscated 400 DM from Florim Hoxha. He was ordered to report to the police station in his birthplace, but due to a death in the family, failed to do so. Two days later, police from Suva Reka came to his home and took him to the police station for questioning. He was again detained for questioning on 19 September and on this occasion was physically ill-treated. He was questioned about the political activities of ethnic Albanians in Germany. He has since been ordered to report to the police on two further occasions.

In another case, Amir Brugzahi from Slatina (Vitina commune) in Kosovo province, whose request for asylum had been refused by the German authorities, reportedly decided voluntarily to return to Kosovo on 15 September. He had allegedly been told that the German authorities had received guarantees from the Serbian authorities that he would not be ill-treated on return. According to his account, he was held from 1.30pm to 9pm at Belgrade airport by police who beat him and threatened him with "liquidation". He subsequently boarded a plane to Priština where he was held by police at the airport till 5am the next day and interrogated about alleged military training he had undergone. He stated that five other ethnic Albanians who had travelled with him had been similarly ill-treated.

The ill-treatment of these men has heightened Amnesty International's concern about a reported imminent agreement between the German and Yugoslav authorities on the repatriation from Germany of 120,000 citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the majority of the ethnic Albanians, to be carried out over a period of two to three years.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, French, German, Russian or your own language:

- expressing concern about reports that Xhafer Bardiqi, Florim Hoxha and Amir Brugzahi, ethnic Albanians whose requests for asylum had been refused by Germany, were physically ill-treated by police after being deported, or returning voluntarily, from Germany. These incidents are reported to have taken place between 14 and 23 September, at Belgrade and Priština airports, and at local police stations in Kosovo province;
- urging a prompt and impartial investigation into these reports and that any police officer found to be responsible be brought to justice;
- urging that appropriate steps be taken to ensure that these men do not suffer further ill-treatment;
- noting the reported imminent return from Germany of many asylum-seekers, urging the Yugoslav authorities to guarantee all those who return the full enjoyment of their fundamental human rights in conformity with international human rights treaties ratified by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including protection from torture, or any other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of the Republic of Serbia

Mr Slobodan Milošević
Predsednik Republike Srbije
Andrijevićev venac 1
11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Faxes: +381 11 682 167

Telegrams: President Milosevic, Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear President

2) Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia

Mr Zoran Sokolović
Ministar Unutrasnjih Poslova Republike Srbije
Kneza Miloša 101, 11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Faxes: +381 11 683 041 or 685 937

Telegrams: MUP Srbije, Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Premier - President of the Serbian Government

Mr Mirko Marjanović
Predsednik Vlade Republike Srbije
Nemanjina 11, 11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Faxes: + 381 11 659 682

Telegrams: Predsednik Vlade Srbije, Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear President

COPIES TO:

Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs

Milan Milutinović
Ministar za inostrane poslove
Savezno ministarstvo za inostrane poslove
Kneza Miloša 24
11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Fax: + 381 11 682 668

Humanitarian Law Centre

Terazijske 14

11000 Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Committee for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms, Pristina

Xhavit Mitrovica 15, 38000 Pristina, Yugoslavia

and to diplomatic representatives of 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 1 November 1996.