

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 70/05/97

6 February 1997

Further information on UA 38/97 (EUR 70/04/97, 3 February 1997) -
Fear of ill-treatment / Possible extrajudicial executions

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA Ethnic Albanians including:

Avni Klinaku
Dulah Sallahu
Bejtullah Sallahu
Emin Sallahu
Shukrije Rexha (f), political activist
Majlinda Sinani (f), school teacher and actress
Sinan Azemi, human rights activist
Zahir Pajaziti (killed)
Hakif Zejnulahu (killed)

new names: Edmond Hoxha (killed)
Naip Hasani

On 3 February the Yugoslav authorities announced that "66 members of terrorist organizations" had been arrested in Kosovo province. An ethnic Albanian lawyer, however, whose clients include some of those arrested, has denied that her clients were involved in political violence. She also alleged that many of those arrested had been ill-treated by police with the aim of obtaining self-incriminating statements from them, and that lawyers had not been allowed to meet their clients while they were detained in police custody. She said that two of those arrested had been so severely ill-treated that they had been admitted to hospital.

It appears that one of these was Naip Hasani, from Prizren, who was detained on 28 or 29 January, and on 29 January was reportedly taken to Priština hospital by police, allegedly in a coma after being beaten and suffering severe injuries. His family has reportedly complained that early on the morning of 31 January he was transferred from the hospital to an unknown destination and that police have refused to answer their questions as to his whereabouts.

It is reported that the third ethnic Albanian who was shot dead by police on 31 January was Edmond Hoxha, aged 21.

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

- noting reports of the arrest and detention since 26 January of more than 60 ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province;
- acknowledging the duty of the authorities to bring to justice any person who has committed violent crimes, but stressing that such investigations must be carried out in conformity with national and international law;
- expressing concern at allegations that some of those detained have been tortured or ill-treated by police;
- referring specifically to the case of Naip Hasani, urging that his family be immediately informed as to his whereabouts;
- seeking assurances that those detained are not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment and that they are granted full legal safeguards, including the right to be brought promptly before a judge and to challenge their detention in a court of law, and access to their lawyers and families;

- noting the incident on 31 January in which three ethnic Albanians were shot dead by police allegedly acting in self-defence;
- urging that this incident be promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigated so as to establish whether or not police acted within the law.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic of Serbia

Predsednik Republike Srbije

Slobodan Milošević

Andrijevica 1

11000 Beograd, FR Yugoslavia

Fax: + 381 11 682 167 or 656 862

Telegrams: Predsednik Srbije, Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear President

Minister of Internal Affairs

Zoran Sokolović

Ministar unutrašnjih poslova Republike Srbije

Kneza Miloša 101

11000 Beograd, FR Yugoslavia

Fax: +381 11 641 867 or 11 685 937

Telegrams: Ministar unutrašnjih poslova Srbije, Beograd, Yugoslavia

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Committee for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms

Xhavit Mitrovica 15, 38000, Priština, Yugoslavia

NGO Information Centre

Avalska 9,

11000 Beograd, 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 20 March 1997.