

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE, D'AMATO PRESS FOR RELEASE OF AMERICAN
JAILED IN YUGOSLAVIA DURING SENATE VISIT;
CITE BRUTAL SERBIAN POLICE ACTIONS VIOLATING BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) AND SENATOR ALFONSE D'AMATO (R-NY) HAVE SENT A CABLE TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA INSISTING THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF A U.S. CITIZEN ARRESTED IN PRISTINA, YUGOSLAVIA BY SERBIAN AUTHORITIES ON AUGUST 29, 1990.

SHABAN KASTRATI WAS ARRESTED ON THE SAME DAY THAT A SENATE DELEGATION LED BY SENATOR DOLE VISITED PRISTINA TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ALBANIAN DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SERBIAN COMMUNITY IN KOSOVA. "I AM DEEPLY DISTURBED BY THE IMPRISONMENT OF MR. KASTRATI BY SERBIAN AUTHORITIES," DOLE SAID, "AND I AM DOUBLY DISTURBED BY THE FACT THAT THE ARREST TOOK PLACE IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR VISIT TO KOSOVA, WHEN POLICE OF THE RULING SERBIAN MINORITY BRUTALLY BROKE UP PEACEFUL CROWDS WHO HAD COME TO SEE US AND EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS."

DURING THEIR VISIT TO KOSOVA, THOUSANDS OF ALBANIANS WERE FORCIBLY DISPERSED BY POLICE WITH TRUNCHEONS AND TEAR GAS, AND THE DELEGATION REVIEWED COMPELLING EVIDENCE THAT SERBIAN AUTHORITIES HAD BEATEN AND IMPRISONED MANY ALBANIANS EARLIER IN THE DAY.

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE RIGHTS OF THE ETHNIC ALBANIAN MAJORITY IN KOSOVA ARE BEING VIOLATED -- THEY HAVE NO FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, FREEDOM OF SPEECH OR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. AND WHAT IS EQUALLY DISTURBING IS THAT THE RIGHTS OF U.S. CITIZENS ARE NOT BEING RESPECTED," DOLE ASSERTED.

"WHEN WE MET WITH THE SERBIAN PRIME MINISTER IN BELGRADE, WE GOT A FIRST HAND LOOK AT OLD STYLE COMMUNISM," DOLE ADDED. "WHEN WE GOT TO KOSOVA, WE GOT A FIRST HAND LOOK AT HARDLINE COMMUNIST OPPRESSION."

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE SENT TO WARREN ZIMMERMAN, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA:

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

WE ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT OF MR. SHABAN KASTRATI, A U.S. CITIZEN OF ALBANIAN AND CROATIAN DESCENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ARREST OCCURRED ON THE DAY THAT OUR SENATE DELEGATION VISITED PRISTINA, AND THAT MR. KASTRATI IS SERVING A 60-DAY SENTENCE. PLEASE ADVISE US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS TO THE MEASURES THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS TAKING TO ENSURE THAT HIS RIGHTS ARE BEING OBSERVED AND TO SECURE HIS RELEASE.

(SIGNED)
BOB DOLE
ALFONSE D'AMATO
UNITED STATES SENATE

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