

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Serbia: Slavko Curuvija, a step towards justice

Amnesty International welcomes the arrest on Tuesday 14 January of two former state security officials, Ratko Romić and Milan Radonić, for the murder in 1999 of independent journalist and publisher Slavko Curuvija. Radomir Marković, former head of state security under Slobodan Milošević, currently serving a 40 year sentence for five murders, is also indicted for the crime.

The investigation, which led to the arrests, follows the establishment of a Serbian government commission in January 2013, to investigate unsolved killings of prominent Serbian journalists, including Slavko Curuvija, Dada Vujanović and Milan Pantić.

Slavko Curuvija was shot in the back 17 times, outside his home in Belgrade, on 11 April 1999. In March 1999, he had been convicted of "spreading false information", but remained free on appeal. Amnesty International had considered him to be a potential prisoner of conscience. Amnesty International described the killing at the time as an extra-judicial execution.

Just before his death, Serbian state television and pro-government press had accused Slavko Curuvija of welcoming the NATO air strikes on Serbia, whose friends say he opposed. Slavko Curuvija resigned as editor of the independent Belgrade daily, Borba, when it was taken over by the authorities in 1994. The same year he founded the weekly Nedeljni Telegraf, and later the daily Dnevni Telegraf and the magazine Evropljanin. He wrote for a number of foreign newspapers, including the British Guardian and Independent.

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