



## ***YUGOSLAVIA: RED CROSS ASSISTANCE IN BELGRADE***

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### ***The Situation***

From the very first moment of the demonstration in Belgrade on 5 October, the Yugoslav Red Cross (YRC) deployed three first aid teams in key locations of the city. The teams, including many youth volunteers, provided medical assistance to dozens of people, most of whom were suffering from tear gas inhalation, cuts and bruises or simply exhaustion. Some were treated for rubber bullet wounds. Yugoslav Red Cross ambulances transported the most serious cases to Belgrade's emergency hospital, which received basic medicines, bandages, gloves, blankets and bed linen from the YRC. Following an appeal from five Belgrade Red Cross branches, members and volunteers donated blood.

During the night the YRC volunteers distributed about 20,000 meals and canned meat from their stocks. About 6,000 loafs of bread and water were also distributed to people in the streets. The YRC has established a crisis cell to organise emergency assistance and has been in permanent contact with the ICRC and Federation delegations. On Friday, 6 October as thousands of people remained in the streets of Belgrade, YRC first aid teams and volunteers plan to be operational as long as necessary.

Currently, the Yugoslav Red Cross, with support from the Federation and the ICRC, is implementing aid programmes for one million people. The YRC and the Federation together provide food to 475,000 refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with funding from ECHO. The YRC with support from the ICRC and a number of sister National Societies, provides one hot meal a day to 70,000 people in 90 municipalities in Serbia, while 5,000 beneficiaries in Montenegro receive lunch parcels. A further 32,000 people in both Serbia and Montenegro receive dry food rations. The YRC social welfare programme provides essential psychological assistance and occupational training for refugees, displaced people as well as social cases, and includes 15 mobile teams which assist isolated populations.

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