

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 46/53/96

16 December 1996

Further information on UA 33/96 (EUR 46/09/96, 9 February 1996) and follow-ups (EUR 46/22/96, 18 April; EUR 46/39/96, 22 August; EUR 46/48/96, 28 October) - Possible Prisoner of Conscience / Fear of death penalty / Health concern / Prisoner of conscience

RUSSIAN FEDERATION Alexandr Nikitin, aged 44, retired naval officer

Alexandr Nikitin was released from detention on 14 December 1996 pending trial.

Under Russian law his procedural pre-trial detention term came to an end on 13 December, and the authorities had to release him or review his case to decide if his detention should be extended.

By that time the Federal Security Service (FSB) had also finished the preliminary investigation into the case. On 13 December the Deputy Procurator General of the Russian Federation, M. B. Katyshev, ruled that Nikitin should be released, and has returned the case to the FSB for additional investigation. The Office of the Procurator General considered that the case is not yet ready to go to trial, therefore no trial date has yet been set.

The charges against Nikitin have not been dropped and he is not allowed to travel outside St. Petersburg while awaiting trial. The Bellona Foundation is still being denied visas to St. Petersburg by the authorities (see previous update).

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Participants are asked to send letters in Russian or your own language:**

- welcoming the authorities' decision to release Alexandr Nikitin, but restating that he was a prisoner of conscience, held solely for the peaceful expression of his right to freedom of expression as guaranteed under Russian and international law, and urging that his release be made unconditional and that all charges against him be dropped.

**APPEALS TO:**

Procurator General of St Petersburg, Vladimir Ivanovich Eremenko  
Rossiyskaya Federatsiya  
190000 g. St Petersburg  
ul. Uakubovicha, 4  
Gorodskaya prokuratura  
Prokuroru Eremenku V.I.  
**Faxes: +7812 312 9786**  
**Salutation: Dear Procurator**

Procurator General of the Russian Federation, Yuriy Skuratov  
Rossiyskaya Federatsiya  
103793 g.Moskva K-31  
ul. Dimitrovka, 15a  
Prokuratura Rossiyskoy Federatsii  
Generalnogo prokurora Skuratovu Yu.  
**Faxes: (7095) 925 1879; (7095) 292 88 48**  
**Salutation: Dear Procurator General**

President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin  
Rossiyskaya Federatsiya

2

g. Moskva  
Kreml  
Prezidentu Rossiyskoy Federatsii  
Yeltsinu B.N

**Faxes: +7095 206 51 73**

**Salutation: Dear President**

**COPIES TO:**

Director General of the Russian Federal Security Service, Nikolay Kovalyov  
Rossiyskaya Federatsiya

g. Moskva  
Federalnaya Sluzhba bezopasnosti  
Rossiyskoy Federatsii  
Generalnomu direktoru KOVALYOVU N

Director of the Federal Security Service for St Petersburg and the Leningrad  
Region, Viktor Cherkasov  
Rossiyskaya Federatsiya  
191194 St Petersburg  
Liteyny Prospekt, 4  
Federalnaya Sluzhba Bezopasnosti  
Polkovniku Cherkasovu V.

Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Yevgeny Primakov  
Rossiyskaya Federatsiya  
g. Moskva 121200  
Smolenskaya-Sennaya pl., 32/34  
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del RF  
Ministru Primakovu Ye.  
**Faxes: + 7095 230 21 30**

and to diplomatic representatives of Russian Federation accredited to your  
country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 January 1997.