

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 50/04/96

27 February 1996

Further information on EXTRA 06/96 (EUR 50/01/96, 15 January 1996) - Fear of imminent execution

UKRAINE Vitaly GUMENYUK, aged 24

---

Amnesty International has learned that the Supreme Court of Ukraine upheld Vitaly Gumenyuk's death sentence at the appeal hearing of 18 January 1996. Vitaly Gumenyuk is now facing imminent execution unless his death sentence is commuted by the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma. This is despite the fact that Ukraine, by having joined the Council of Europe on 9 November 1995, has committed itself to impose an immediate moratorium on executions and to abolish the death penalty within three years.

Amnesty International is extremely concerned by the ambiguity in Ukraine's position on the introduction of a moratorium on executions. The Procurator General of Ukraine claimed on 18 October 1995 that executions were still continuing, and in a telephone conversation with a representative of Amnesty International, he stated that no official government decree or written statement concerning this matter had been issued, and no instructions given to local authorities.

It has also become increasingly difficult to obtain information about the use of the death penalty in Ukraine since Ukraine acceded to the Council of Europe. Families of those on death row continue not to be informed promptly of the fate of their relatives.

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

- expressing serious concern that Vitaly Gumenyuk may face imminent execution following the Supreme Court's decision to uphold his death sentence despite the moratorium;
- urging President Kuchma to grant clemency to Vitaly Gumenyuk, and to commute his death sentence, and all others that come before him;
- urging the authorities to put an end to the agonizing uncertainty the families of death row prisoners are experiencing by keeping them fully and promptly informed about each stage of the prisoner's case.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma

Ukraine

252601 Kiev

ul. Bankovaya, 7

Prezidentu Ukrainy Kuchma L.

**Faxes: (380 44) 291 61 61**

**Telegrams: Ukraine, Kiev, Prezidentu Kuchma**

**Salutation: Dear President**

**COPIES TO:**

Chairman of the Presidential Clemency Commission, Pyotr Andreychenko

Ukraine

252220 g. Kiev

ul. Bankovaya, 7

Kommissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya pri Prezidente  
Predsedatelyu ANDREYCHENKO P.

**Fax: (380 44) 291 61 61**

Procurator General of Ukraine, Grigory Vorsinov

Ukraina

252601 g. Kiev II

ul. Reznitskaya, 13/15

Prokuratura Ukrainy

Generalnomu prokuroru VORSINOVU G.

**Fax: (380 44) 290 26 03**

Chairman of the Supreme Court of Ukraine, Vitaly BOYKO

Ukraina

252601 g. Kiev 24 GSP

ul. M. Grushevskogo

Verkhovny Sud Ukrainy

Predsedatelyu BOYKO V.

and to diplomatic representatives of Ukraine accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 April 1996.