

5 December 1995

Further information on EXTRA 124/95 (EUR 50/17/95, 24 October 1995) - Death Penalty**UKRAINE Fears of continuing executions despite announced moratorium**

new name: Sergey Nikolaevich DRAGUNOV, aged 21
(in Russian)

Despite the fact that Ukraine, by having joined the Council of Europe, has committed itself to an immediate moratorium on executions, there are fears that the Ukrainian authorities may be continuing to execute prisoners on death row. Amnesty International has learned of another such individual, Sergey Nikolaevich Dragunov, who may be facing imminent execution unless his death sentence is commuted by President Leonid Kuchma.

Ukraine became a member of the Council of Europe on 9 November 1995. At the ceremony in Strasbourg, the Ukrainian foreign minister, Gennady Udovenko, signed the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights). As a member of the Council of Europe, Ukraine has committed itself to impose an immediate moratorium on executions and to abolish the death penalty within three years.

However, Amnesty International remains extremely concerned that executions may be continuing in Ukraine. The organization is seeking an absolute and unequivocal assurance from the Ukrainian government that no more death sentences will be carried out until the death penalty is abolished, and that all relevant government and judicial bodies will be informed that a moratorium is in force.

Amnesty International has yet to receive a satisfactory response to its earlier appeals following the reported claim on 18 October by Grigory Vorsinov, the General Procurator of Ukraine, that executions were continuing.

A meeting of Ukrainian Government representatives with members of the Committee of Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Council of Europe is scheduled for 11 December 1995. This is the first meeting to review Ukraine's commitments given to the Council of Europe since Ukraine became a member of the Council of Europe.

The case of Sergey Dragunov is the latest to have come to Amnesty International's attention. Accused of being an accomplice in the killing of a taxi driver on 29 October 1993, Sergey Dragunov was sentenced to death for premeditated murder (Article 93 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code) by the Donetsk Regional Court on 29 March 1995. His appeal was turned down by the Ukrainian Supreme Court on 8 June.

Urgent Action participants are also currently appealing on the cases of Zaur Zilfugarov and Danilo Krasnov, sentenced to death in early 1994 for murder.

Amnesty International fears that the two may also be facing imminent execution (see further information on UA 424/94, EUR 50/18/95, 30 November 1995).

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

- urging the Ukrainian authorities to ensure that, as a member of the Council of Europe, they fully respect all commitments undertaken to impose an immediate moratorium on executions, and to abolish the death penalty within three years;

- expressing serious concern that Sergey Nikolaevich Dragunov may be facing imminent execution despite the moratorium;
- urging the Ukrainian authorities to ensure that his and all executions are immediately stopped, and that all local authorities are aware that a moratorium on executions is in force;
- urging the Ukrainian authorities to commute all pending death sentences.

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

Minister of Justice of Ukraine, Serhiy Holovatiy

Ukraine

252030 g. Kiev

Ul. Kotsyubinskogo, d.12

Ministerstvo yustitsii Ukrainy

Ministru HOLOVATOMU S.

Telegrams: Ukraine, Kiev, Ministru Yustititsii

Salutation: Dear Minister

Procurator General of Ukraine, Grigory Vorsinov

Ukraine

252601 g. Kiev II

ul. Reznitskaya, 13/15

Prokuratura Ukriany

Generalnomu Prokuroru Vorsinovu.G

Faxes: (380 44) 290 26 03

Telegrams: Ukraine, Kiev, Prokuroru Vorsinovu

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

Copies to the Council of Europe would be particularly useful before the meeting on 11 December 1995 (but can also be sent afterwards)

Council of Europe

Members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Council of Europe

F - 67075 Strasbourg Cedex

FRANCE

Faxes: +33 88 41 27 81

Minister of the Interior, Ukraine, Yuri Kravchenko

Ukraine

252024 g. Kiev

ul. Bogomoltsa, 10

Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del Ukrainy

Ministru KRAVCHENKO Yu.

Faxes: (380 44) 220 19 05

Acting Prime Minister of Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, Yevhen Marchuk.

Ukraina

G. Kiev

Ul, M. Gruchevskogo, 23

Kabinet Ministrov Ukrainy

I.o Premyer-ministra Marchuk Ye.

Procurator of Dnepropetrovsk Region (copies of your letters to the
Procurator-General)

Ukraina

320001 Dnepropetrovsk

Oblastnaya Prokuratora, Prokuroru

and to diplomatic representatives of Ukraine accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,

or
you
r
sec
tio
n
off
ice
,
if
sen
din
g
app
eal
s
aft
er
10
Jan
uar
y
199
6.