

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 55/02/92
Distr: UA/SC

27 March 1992

Further information on EXTRA 33/92 (EUR 55/01/92, 25 March 1992) - Fear of Imminent Execution

AZERBAYDZHANI REPUBLIC: Grachik PETROSYAN
 Gagik ARUTYUNYAN
 Arno MKRTCHYAN
 Arvid MANGASARYAN
 Garnik ARUSTAMYAM

names in cyrillic:

_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____

Amnesty International has now received further details from unofficial sources on the five men named above, who are under sentence of death in the Azerbaydzhani Republic. The trial took place on 19 March 1992 before the Supreme Court of Azerbaydzhani, and the accused were convicted of murdering Ms Salatin Askerova, an Azerbaydzhani correspondent of the newspaper "Youth of Azerbaydzhani". Other charges against them are said to have included "inciting ethnic hatred", "banditism" and "illegal possession of arms".

All five men come from the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh: Arno Mikhaylovich Mkrtchyan, born in 1953 and a father of five, is a physics teacher from the village of Kirov; Arvid Ashotovich Mangasaryan, born in 1959, is postmaster of the village of Mets Shen; Gagik Mayorovich Arutyunyan, born in 1959, is a tractor driver from Ekhtsaog; Grachik Arminakovich Petrosyan, also from Ekhtsaog, is a teacher; and Garnik Gurgunovich Arustamyan, born in 1964, is from Khin Shen.

Amnesty International fears that these five men may face imminent execution, and is appealing to the Acting President of the Azerbaydzhani Republic to commute the death sentences passed on them.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express and airmail letters:

- urging that the death sentences passed on Grachik Petrosyan, Gagik Arutyunyan, Arno Mkrtchyan, Arvid Mangasaryan and Garnik Arustamyan be commuted;

- urging that all other pending death sentences be commuted;
- urging that everyone sentenced to death in the Azerbaydzhani Republic be granted the opportunity to appeal to a court of higher jurisdiction, in accordance with internationally agreed human rights standards;
- pointing out that Amnesty International takes no position on territorial disputes, and in these cases is concerned solely with the issue of the death penalty.

Page 2 of FU EXTRA 33/92

APPEALS TO:

1) Acting President of the Azerbaydzhani Republic - Yakub Dzhavad ogly Mamedov:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika
370066 g. Baku
ul. Kommunisticheskaya 19
I.O. Prezidenta Mamedovu Ya.

Dear Acting President

Telegrams: Azerbaydzhani, 370066 Baku, I.O. Prezidenta Mamedovu Ya.D.

2) Head of the Presidential Department of Citizenship and Clemency questions - T. Aslanov:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika
370066 g. Baku
ul. Kommunisticheskaya, 19
Otdel po voprosam grazhdanstva i pomilovaniya
pri apparate prezidenta Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki
Zaveduyushchemu otdela Aslanovu T.

Dear T. Aslanov

Telegrams: Azerbaydzhani, 370066 Baku, Otdel po pomilovaniya pri prezidente, Aslanovu T.

COPIES TO:

1) Procurator General of the Azerbaydzhani Republic - Murat Babayev:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika
g. Baku
Prokuratura Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki
Generalnomu prokuroru Babayevu M.

2) Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Azerbaydzhani Republic - Ibragim Isa ogly Ismailov:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika
g. Baku
Verkhovny sud Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki
Predsedatelyu Ismailovu I.I.

3) Minister of Justice of the Azerbaydzhani Republic - Alisaad Saftar ogly Orudzhev:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika
370601 g. Baku

pr. Kirova, 13
Ministerstvo yustitsii Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki
Ministru Orudzhevu A.S.

4) Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaydzhani Republic - Guseynaga Sadykhov:
Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika
g. Baku
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki
Ministru Sadykhovu G.

and to diplomatic representatives of the Azerbaydzhani Republic in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 May 1992.