

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Penalty

6 April 1993

KYRGYZSTAN:

Grigory Abramov, 36

(_____ in cyrillic)

Amnesty International is concerned that Grigory Abramov, who was sentenced to death on 9 December 1992 for threatening the life of a police officer in Kyrgyzstan, faces imminent execution.

Grigory Abramov was initially sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment by Bishkek City Court under article 199-1 of the Kyrgyz Criminal Code for threatening the life of a police officer. Grigory Abramov and the procurator general protested against this sentence asking for it to be reduced. However on appeal, on 9 December 1992, he was sentenced to death under the same article 199-1.

The fact that Grigory Abramov is Russian and that his victim was of Kyrgyz nationality is alleged to have prejudiced the outcome of the appeal. Grigory Abramov's only remaining avenue of appeal was to lodge a petition for clemency with the President of Kyrgyzstan. From the information available to Amnesty International it appears that the petition for clemency may have been turned down and the sentence may be carried out at any time.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without reservation, on the grounds that it is a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The organization is appealing to the President of Kyrgyzstan, Askar Akayevich Akayev, to reverse his decision and commute the death sentence passed on Grigory Abramov.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In October 1992 Amnesty International received notification by the Chairman of the State Committee for National Security that the Kyrgyzstan Supreme Soviet had recently abolished the death penalty for 12 articles of the criminal code.

He did not specify which articles. The Kyrgyzstan Criminal Code therefore apparently retained the death penalty for six peacetime offences. Execution is by shooting. Previously people sentenced to death in Kyrgyzstan were executed in Alma-Ata, the capital of neighbouring Kazakhstan. This practice was discontinued by the Kazakhstan authorities after both republics gained full independence at the end of 1991. Since then, no one has yet been executed in Kyrgyzstan. In February 1993 Amnesty International learned that three men sentenced to death at the beginning of 1991 had had their sentenced commuted to 15 years' imprisonment. Amnesty International had called for commutation of their death sentences.

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

- expressing concern that Grigory Abramov, who was sentenced to death on 9 December 1992, faces imminent execution;
- urging President Akayev to grant clemency to Grigory Abramov, and to commute the death sentence;
- urging President Akayev to commute all other death sentences that come before him.

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APPEALS TO

The President of Kyrgyzstan, Askar Akayev:

Respublika Kyrgyzstan

720003 g. Bishkek

Dom pravitelstva

Prezidentu Akayevu A.

Telegrams: Kyrgyzstan, 720003 Bishkek, dom pravitelstva, Prezidentu Akayevu A.

Faxes: + 7 3312 21 86 27

Salutation: Dear President

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Head of the Department for Citizenship and Clemency Question's in the President's office, Aynabek Kachkynbayev:

Respublika Kyrgyzstan

720003 Bishkek

Dom pravitelstva

Apparat Prezidenta

Otdel po voprosam grazhdanstva i pomilovaniya

Zaveduyushchemu otделom Kachkybayevu A

Faxes: + 7 3312 21 86 27

2) Chairman of the Supreme Court of Kyrgyzstan, K. Boobekov:

Respublika Kyrgyzstan

720040 Bishkek

ul. Orozbekova

Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Kyrgyzstan

Predsedatelyu Boobekovu K.

3) Procurator General of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, (Ms) Cholpon Bayekova:

Respublika Kyrgyzstan

720300 Bishkek

ul. Orozbekova, 72

Prokuratura Respubliki Kyrgyzstan

Generalnomu prokuroru Bayekovoy Ch.

4) Ambassador of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to Russia, Chingiz Aytmatov:

Rossiyskaya Federatsiya

109017 Moskva

ul. Bolshaya Ordynka, 64

Posolstvo Respubliki Kyrgyzstan
Poslu Aytmatovu Ch.

Faxes: + 7 095 237 44 52

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 May 1993.