

URGENT ACTION

CLEMENCY STATUS OF BELARUSIAN MEN PROBABLY STILL PENDING

Aleg Gryshkautsou, aged 29, and Andrei Burdyka, aged 28, were sentenced to death by shooting on 14 May 2010 for crimes committed during an armed robbery. Following the rejection of their appeals to the Supreme Court, their families sought clemency from the President. The status of the clemency appeals has not been officially confirmed.

Aleg Gryshkautsou and Andrei Burdyka were sentenced to death on 14 May 2010 for crimes committed during an armed robbery on a flat in Grodno in October 2009. Both men were found guilty of premeditated murder, armed assault, arson, kidnapping of a minor, theft and robbery. On 17 September 2010, the Supreme Court in Minsk turned down their appeals after which time both men appealed for clemency from President Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

The families of the two men initially thought that President Lukashenka had refused their requests for clemency due to a statement made in a documentary programme called "*Несекретные материалы*" (*Unclassified Materials*) that was broadcast at 11.35pm on 22 February on the Belarusian television channel ONT. However, following the issuing of UA 46/11 (EUR 49/006/2011), it was subsequently reported on a state-owned news agency that the clemency applications had not yet been considered.

Amnesty International has sought clarification from the Belarusian authorities but has not received an official response confirming the clemency status.

There have been no subsequent media reports to suggest that clemency has been turned down, nor have Amnesty International's local contacts managed to get confirmation that clemency has been turned down. The lawyer working on the case believes that the clemency appeals are still pending.

No further appeals are requested from the UA network at present. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 46/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR49/006/2011/en>

