

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## GEORGIA: APPEAL CASES

2 April 2001<sup>1</sup>; AI Index: EUR 56/007/2001; public

### Death in custody of Mamuka Rizhamadze

Amnesty International is concerned at reports alleging that Mamuka Rizhamadze died as a result of ill-treatment in detention.

Mamuka Rizhamadze was detained by police on 24 May 2000 in the town of Tkibuli in the west of Georgia, and transferred the following day to preliminary detention facilities in the city of Kutaisi, some 30 kilometres away from Tkibuli. On 31 May he was found hanged in his cell by a noose made from a blanket.

A post mortem carried out by the state forensic service concluded that he had committed suicide. An independent forensic expert carried out a second post mortem at the request of the family on 5 June. She found two wounds to Mamuka Rizhamadze's head, caused in her opinion while he was still alive and by a blunt heavy object. She concluded that these injuries were the cause of death. Investigation of the skin on Mamuka Rizhamadze's neck also indicated to her that he was dead before the noose was applied.

Elene Tevdoradze, the chair of the parliamentary Committee for Human Rights of Georgia, told Amnesty International in February 2001 that she had received a letter from a prisoner who was in detention in Kutaisi at the time of Mamuka Rizhamadze's death stating that he saw Mamuka Rizhamadze being killed and subsequently hanged. The prisoner allegedly reported that the police had forced him to testify that Rizhamadze had committed suicide.

According to unofficial sources, a new investigation has been opened by the procuracy in Kutaisi at the end of last year.

#### Recommended action:

Please send politely worded

~~Written to English,~~ Russian,

Georgian or your own

<small>language</small> President of Georgia:	Procurator General:	Minister of the Interior:	Procurator of Kutaisi:
Eduard Shevardnadze	Gia Meparishvili	Maj.-Gen. Kakha Targamadze	
Gruziya; 380018 g. Tbilisi; pr. Rustaveli, 8; Apparat Prezidenta Gruzii; Prezidentu Shevardnadze, E.A.; GEORGIA	Gruziya; 380033 g. Tbilisi; ul. Gorgosali, 24; Prokuratura Gruzii; Generalnomu prokuroru; Meparishvili, G.;	Gruziya; 380014 g. Tbilisi; ul. Generala Gia Gulua, 10; Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del Gruzii; Ministru Maj.-Gen.	Gruziya; g. Kutaisi; Gorodskaya prokuratura; Prokuroru;

<sup>1</sup> Please use this "Appeal Case" sheet as the basis for your letter-writing until further notice.

	GEORGIA	Targamadze, K.; GEORGIA	GEORGIA
Fax: + 995 32 - 99 96 30 / 99 08 79 / 98 23 54 E-mail: office@presidpress.gov.ge	Fax: + 995 32 - 98 21 70	Fax: + 995 32 - 99 95 24 e-mail: jashi@iberiapac.ge	

Send copies of your letters to:

- the Ambassador of Georgia to your country (if there is one)