

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 50/09/97

29 April 1997

Further information on EXTRA 197/96 (EUR 50/20/96, 23 December 1996) - Fear of imminent execution

UKRAINE Andrey Yevtemy, aged 21

Amnesty International has learned from Andrey Yevtemy's mother that her son's death sentence has been repealed, and he will now instead serve a 20-year term of imprisonment.

Andrey Yevtemy was sentenced to death from premeditated aggravated murder (Article 93 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code) by Zhitomir Regional Court on 19 March 1996. His appeal against his death sentence was turned down by the Supreme Court of Ukraine on 16 May 1996, and therefore it is probable that the Clemency Commission of Ukraine was responsible for ruling to commute his sentence to 20 years' imprisonment.

Andrey Yevtemy's mother wrote to Amnesty International:

"I want to thank you so much for your support, for suffering along with me and for your help in getting Andrey's death sentence commuted. Although he was given a very long prison sentence - 20 years, we are delighted that he will live. From now on it is up to us, to Andrey and me. I believe that Andrey will behave himself in prison... I will try to help him by working to earn money, this is my aim. I am very grateful for your help and thank you from my heart."

This is the first time, to Amnesty International's knowledge, that a person on death row has had a death sentence commuted since the beginning of 1996. On 9 November 1995 Ukraine undertook to impose a moratorium on executions and is bound in good faith to implement this commitment as a member of the Council of Europe. Despite this, however, Ukraine executed 167 people in 1996.

Participants are asked to send letters:

- welcoming the commutation of Andrey Yevtemy's death sentence;
- urging that all other prisoners on death row in Ukraine are granted clemency;
- urging President Kuchma to take the necessary steps for Ukraine to honour its commitment to the Council of Europe and to sign Protocol 6 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

APPEALS TO:

President of Ukraine, Leonid KUCHMA

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Prezidentu Ukrainy Kuchma L.

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Salutation: Dear President

Chairman of the Presidential Clemency Commission, Pyotr ANDREYCHENKO

Ukraina

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Kommissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya pri Prezidenta

Predsedatelyu Andreychenko P.

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Salutation: Dear Chairman

COPIES TO:

Head of the Central Directorate for the Execution of Punishment (GUIN) at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, I.V. SHTANKO

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Hachalniku

Shtanku I.V.

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Procurator General of Ukraine, Grigory VORSINOV

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Head of the Regional Court in Zhitomir Region, name not known

Ukraina

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and to diplomatic representatives of Ukraine accredited to your country.