

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 56/07/94
Distr: UA/SC

UA 277/94 Fear of torture / Legal concern / Medical concern 19 July 1994

GEORGIA **Zaza TSIKLAURI**

Amnesty International fears that Zaza Tsiklauri, one of a group of prisoners standing trial in Georgia on terrorism charges, may face torture or ill-treatment as a result of an unauthorized meeting with a human rights activist at the end of June 1994. It is alleged that after the meeting, which took place in hospital, Zaza Tsiklauri was transferred back to prison as a punishment rather than as a result of an improvement in his medical condition. Reports indicate that he and others in the group were earlier subjected to beatings in prison.

Zaza Tsiklauri was arrested on 7 August 1992 after a car-bomb attack aimed at a leading official killed five bystanders. Later that month the then head of the Georgian security service publicly announced his intention to resign after reports that officials from his agency were responsible for torturing Zaza Tsiklauri, inflicting injuries including multiple fractures and burns.

Zaza Tsiklauri's most recent stay in hospital, where the unauthorized meeting took place, followed a 30-day protest hunger-strike.

Eighteen other men are on trial with Zaza Tsiklauri. The proceedings began in 1993, and Amnesty International is concerned at reports that the defendants are not receiving a fair trial in line with international standards. Four men in the group who face charges carrying a possible death sentence - Irakli Dokvadze, Petre Gelbakhiani, Gedevan Gelbakhiani and Viktor Domukhovsky - claim their confessions were made under duress, including as a result of physical abuse, and others report problems in obtaining a defence lawyer of their own choice.

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

- urging the authorities to ensure that the physical safety of Zaza Tsiklauri and his co-defendants is guaranteed, and that they are granted appropriate medical treatment;
- urging that all allegations of beatings in custody are investigated swiftly and impartially, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- urging that the defendants receive a fair trial in line with international standards.

APPEALS TO

Eduard Shevardnadze
Chairman of the Parliament
of the Republic of Georgia
Rustaveli 8
380018 Tbilisi
Georgia

Telegrams: Georgia, 380018 Tbilisi, Predsedatelyu Shevardnadze

Faxes: + 8832 99 98 87

Salutation: Dear Chairman

Dzhomlet Babilishvili
Procurator General

Gorgosali, 24
380033 Tbilisi
Georgia

Telegrams: Georgia, 380033 Tbilisi, Generalnomu Prokuroru Babilishvili Dzh.
Faxes: + 8832 95 54 61
Salutation: Dear Chairman

Shota Kviraya
Minister of Internal Affairs
Bolshaya Alleya, 10
380014 Tbilisi
Georgia

Telegrams: Georgia, 380014 Tbilisi, MVD, Ministru Kviraya Sh.
Faxes: + 8832 99 62 33
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Aleksandr Chikvaidze
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Chitadze, 4
380018 Tbilisi
Georgia
Faxes: + 8832 99 72 49

and to diplomatic representatives of Georgia, if any, accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 August 1994.