

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 55/04/93

Distr: UA/SC

EXTRA 12/93 Death Penalty

9 February 1993

AZERBAJDZHANI REPUBLIC: **Sergey Aleksandrovich GREBENKOV**

(in Russian

\_\_\_\_\_ )

---

Amnesty International has learned from unofficial sources that Sergey Grebenkov was sentenced to death in Azerbaydzhani on 29 January 1993. He has no right of appeal against his sentence and the organization fears he may face imminent execution. His relatives have reportedly been told that 25 February 1993 is the last date on which they may meet with him, as he could face execution any time after that.

Sergey Grebenkov, born in 1964, is half Armenian and half Russian. He was tried by the Military Collegium of the Azerbaydzhani Supreme Court, and sentenced to death after being convicted of premeditated, aggravated murder; large scale theft; illegal possession of arms and forging official documents.

No details of these charges are currently available, although it is possible that they relate to the current armed conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, a region of Azerbaydzhani populated mainly by Armenians.

The Azerbaydzhani Supreme Court is the court of highest instance and death sentences passed at this level need not be confirmed by any other authority before being carried out. Sergey Grebenkov therefore cannot appeal against his sentence. He may lodge a petition for clemency with the President but the carrying out of the sentence is not automatically suspended while such petitions are under consideration.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases and 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 or degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 1984 the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted a set of safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty; safeguard 6 guarantees: "Anyone sentenced to death shall have the right to appeal to a court of higher jurisdiction ...". Amnesty International is appealing to the President of the Azerbaydzhani Republic to commute the death sentence passed on Sergey Grebenkov.

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

- expressing concern that Sergey Grebenkov was sentenced to death on 29 January 1993;

- urging that the death sentence passed on him be commuted;
- urging that all other pending death sentences be commuted;
- urging that everyone sentenced to death in the Azerbaydzhani Republic be granted the opportunity to appeal to a court of higher jurisdiction, in accordance with internationally-agreed human rights standards;
- pointing out that Amnesty International takes no position on territorial disputes, and in this case is concerned solely with the issue of the death penalty.

Page 2 of EXTRA 12/93

**APPEALS TO**

1. President of the Azerbaydzhani Republic - Abulfaz Elchibey:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika  
370066 g. Baku  
ul. Kommunisticheskaya, 19  
Prezidentu Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki  
Elchibeyu A.

**Telegrams: Azerbaydzhani, 370066 Baku, Prezidentu Elchibeyu A.**

**Faxes: + 8 922 92 17 63**

**Salutation: Dear President**

2. Head of Presidential Department of Citizenship and Clemency Questions - T. Aslanov:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika  
370066 g. Baku  
ul. Kommunisticheskaya, 19  
Otdel po voprosam grazhdanstava i pomilovaniya  
pri apparate Prezidenta  
Zaveduyushchemu ot delom Aslanovu T.

**Telegrams: Azerbaydzhani, 370066 Baku, Otdel po pomilovaniyu pri Prezidente, Aslanovu T.**

**Salutation: Dear Chairman**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1. Procurator General of the Azerbaydzhani Republic - Ikhtiyar Shirinov:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika  
370201 g. Baku  
ul. Ezima Sarapostam, 9  
Generalnomu prokuroru  
Shirinovu I.

2. Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Azerbaydzhani Republic - Tair Zaidag ogly Kerimli:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika  
g. Baku  
Verkhovny sud Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki  
Predsedatelyu Kerimli T.Z.

3. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaydzhani Republic - Tofik Gasymov:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika  
g. Baku  
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Azerbaydzhanskoy respubliki

Ministru Gasymovu T.

**Faxes: + 8 922 93 56 43**

and to diplomatic representatives of the Azerbaydzhani Republic in your country (these are usually to be found at the Embassy of the Russian Federation, the former Soviet Embassy).

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 March 1993.