

PUBLIC

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UA 171/05 **Fear of torture and other ill-treatment**

RUSSIA **Senyo Adzokpa (m), Ghanaian national**

Ghanaian national Senyo Adzokpa was arrested in Moscow on 28 April and is held at a prison in the city of Ivanovo. He has reportedly been beaten repeatedly, and Amnesty International believes he is at risk of further cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and possibly torture.

Senyo Adzokpa was reportedly accused, under article 327 of the Russian Criminal Code, of preparing or distributing forged official documents. He had received a call on his mobile phone on the evening of 27 April, from someone who arranged to meet him the following morning. He left for the meeting, but did not return. On 30 April officials who appeared to be from the regional branch of the Federal Security Services (FSB) searched the apartment Senyo Adzokpa shared with his Russian girlfriend, as well as his girlfriend's parents and grandparents' apartment. The officials reportedly said that Senyo Adzokpa had been arrested on 28 April for forging documents, and was also suspected of terrorism. His girlfriend asked what evidence they had, and they reportedly replied that they would find something and would also find out who he had associated with.

Senyo Adzokpa's girlfriend tried to visit him in prison on 3 June to give him food, but was told that he was in the isolation block as punishment for an unspecified offence, and was not allowed to receive anything. After this she hired a lawyer to represent him. On 10 June she returned to the prison with the lawyer and managed to meet with Senyo Adzokpa. He described how he had been beaten at least twice. The first time was on 16 May, when a prison warder allegedly hit him in the eyes with his elbow and said that if the proceedings against him went badly it would be bad for Senyo Adzokpa.

On 2 June he was beaten by two warders. He had been asked to collect his things and carry them to a metal detector. When it responded they searched his belongings and found a razor blade in a toilet roll. The deputy head of the prison allegedly held the razor to Senyo Adzokpa's face and asked if he wanted to kill him with it. Together with another warder, he then allegedly began to beat Senyo Adzokpa on his face and about his liver and kidneys. Senyo Adzokpa was then reportedly made to walk on his knees 30 meters to the deputy head of the prison's office. At this point, Senyo Adzokpa could not walk properly and was seeing double. He was then reportedly put into the isolation block and told to write a 10-page confession, and told that if he didn't write the confession he would be raped. He did so, and on the morning of 3 June the deputy head of the prison came to the isolation ward and ordered him to sign each page. He also allegedly told Senyo Adzokpa that if he told anyone about what had happened he would have big problems. Senyo Adzokpa has told his girlfriend and lawyer about his situation, and so believes he is in danger.

Senyo Adzokpa has reportedly been subjected to racial abuse in prison. He says that while he was held in the isolation block some of the guards called him names such as "black monkey". When he asked them why they spoke to him this way, they allegedly answered, "How else should we talk to a nigger?"

Senyo Adzokpa's detention is currently sanctioned to end on 30 June. According to his lawyer, there will be a court hearing on 22 June to consider a petition by the procuracy to extend his detention for a further two months.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Improvements have been made in Russia's criminal justice system, but Amnesty International receives regular reports that torture and ill-treatment are routinely used to extract confessions. Investigations into these allegations are rare and often inadequate, contributing to a climate of impunity.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Russian, English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to ensure that Senyo Adzokpa is protected from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment while he is in custody, in line with Russia's obligations as a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), of which article 7 states, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment";
- expressing concern that Senyo Adzokpa's confession was obtained under duress, and reminding the authorities of their obligations as a state party to the Convention against Torture (CAT), of which Article 15 states, "Each Party shall ensure that any statement which is established to have been made as a result of torture shall not be invoked as evidence in any proceedings, except against a person accused of torture as evidence that the statement was made";
- urging the authorities to order a thorough, impartial and independent investigation into his alleged ill-treatment, as required by article 12 of the CAT;
- urging the authorities to ensure that anyone accused of torture or ill-treatment is brought to justice, as required by Article 13 of the CAT.

APPEALS TO:

Vladimir USTINOV
Procurator General of the Russian Federation
103793 Moskva
Ul. Bolshaya Dimitrovka 15a
Russian Federation

Fax: + 7 0959 214 186 (if someone answers say "fax please")

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

Kabaloev AZRAILOVICH
Procurator of Ivanovo Region
153325 Ivanovo
Pr. Lenina, d. 25

Fax: + 7 0932 329 301 (if someone answers say "fax please")

Salutation: Dear Procurator

Yuri CHAIKA
Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation
109830 Moskva
Ul. Vorontsovo Pole 4
Russian Federation

Fax: + 7 0959 162 903 (if someone answers say "fax please")

Salutation: Dear Minister Chaika

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 August 2005.