Further information on UA 11/91 (EUR 46/03/91, 14 January)

USSR : Killings in Lithuania

On 14 January 1991 Lithuanian authorities released information on 14 people, including one Soviet soldier, said to have died the day before when Soviet troops moved against demonstrators outside the television centre in the republican capital of Vilnius. One is said to have suffered a heart attack, one to have died from injuries inflicted by an explosion, and one was crushed by a tank. The Soviet soldier and the remaining ten demonstrators died of gunshot wounds. Over 160 people were reportedly injured in the operation, 26 seriously.

The Lithuanian dead were named as Alvydas Kanapinskas (born 1952), Alvydas Makulka (aged around 60), Loreta Asanaviciute (b. 1966), Vidas Maciulevicius (b. 1966), Algimantas Kavaliukas (b. 1939), Titas Masiulis (b. 1962), Ignas Simulionis (b. 1973), Vytautas Vaitkus (b. 1966), Darius Gerbutavicius (b. 1973), Virginijus Druskis (b. 1973), Apolinaras Povilaitis (b. 1937), Rolandas Jankauskas (b. 1969) and Rimantas Juknevicius. The Soviet soldier was named as Viktor Sakich, born in 1969.

According to eyewitness accounts from journalists and demonstrators, tanks and soldiers using tear gas and live ammunition moved against the unarmed crowd who had gathered in an attempt to forestall moves by troops to take control of the television tower. The USSR Minister of Interior Affairs, Boris Pugo, claimed that members of the crowd fired on the soldiers first. He also insisted that the order to launch the operation was issued by the garrison commander in Vilnius, not by any of the central USSR authorities.

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that 13 peaceful, unarmed demonstrators were killed by Soviet troops in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius on 13 January 1990 and is seeking further information on the circumstances of these deaths. The organization urges the Soviet government to initiate a full investigation and make the findings public.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/express and airmail letters:

- expressing continued concern at the killings of 13 unarmed, peaceful demonstrators by Soviet soldiers in Vilnius on 13 January 1991;

- urging a full and impartial investigation into the circumstances of these deaths, and that the findings be made public;

- calling on the authorities to ensure that law enforcement officials are aware of, and conform to, international standards regarding the use of force.

APPEALS TO:

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachov, president of the USSR:
SSSR, RSFSR
Moskva
Kreml
Prezidentu Gorbachovu M.S.

Telegrams: SSSR, Moskva, Kreml, Prezidentu Gorbachovu

**Marshal Dmitry Timofeyevich Yazov, Minister of Defence of the USSR:**

SSSR, RSFSR
103160 Moskva
ul. Kirova, 37
Ministerstvo oborony SSSR
Ministru marshalu Yazovu D.T.

Telegrams: SSSR, Moskva, ul. Kirova 37, Ministerstvo oborony, Ministru Yazovu

**Boris Pugo, Minister of Internal Affairs of the USSR:**

SSSR, RSFSR
103009 Moskva
ul. Ogaryova, 6
Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del SSSR
Ministru Pugo B.K.

Telegrams: SSSR, Moskva, ul. Ogaryova, 6, MVD SSSR, Ministru Pugo

**Nikolay Semyonovich Trubin, Procurator-General of the USSR:**

SSSR, RSFSR
103793 Moskva
ul. Pushkinskaya, 15a
Prokuratura SSSR
Generalnomu prokuroru Trubinu N.S.

Telegrams: SSSR, Moskva, ul. Pushkinskaya 15a, Prokuratura SSSR, Generalnomu prokuroru Trubinu

**COPIES TO:**

**Vytautas Landsbergis, president of Lithuania:**

Vytautas Landsbergis
President of the Supreme Council of Lithuania
Janonisa 4
232008 Vilnius
Lithuanian Republic
USSR

Yury A. Reshetov, Head of the Human Rights Department at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
and to the Soviet diplomatic representation in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 March 1991.