Further information on UA 11/91 (EUR 46/03/91, 14 January, and follow-up EUR 46/04/91, 22 January)

USSR: Killings in Lithuania

On 18 February the procuracy of the Lithuanian republic released further information on a man who died of a heart attack during the events of 13 January 1991 in Vilnius, in which reportedly peaceful unarmed demonstrators were killed by Soviet troops. It is now known that Alvidas Matulka suffered a heart attack outside the building of the Lithuanian parliament, rather than at the television tower as earlier reported. He had arrived in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius to help defend the parliament building and is said to have suffered a heart attack after learning of the deaths among demonstrators at the television tower.

It is also reported that another man seriously injured when Soviet troops moved against the television tower has now died. He was named by the Lithuanian parliamentary information bureau as 50-year-old Vytautas Kancevicius, who had been shot in the stomach. According to further details from the Lithuanian Ministry of Health eight other demonstrators, rather than nine as earlier reported, died of gunshot wounds. Three died of crush injuries and one as the result of injuries inflicted by an explosion. The name of the Soviet soldier who died is now given as Viktor Viktorovich Shatshkikh, who was a lieutenant in the USSR Committee for State Security (KGB).

Amnesty International is urging a comprehensive and impartial investigation into the deaths of the demonstrators, and that the findings be made public.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/express and airmail letters:

- expressing continued concern that 13 reportedly unarmed, peaceful demonstrators died after Soviet troops moved against the television tower 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  
Ministrov 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  
Ministro 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:**

SSSR, RSFSR  
g. Moskva  
pr. Kalinina, 9  
Upravlenie po gumanitarnomu
sotrudnichestvu i pravam cheloveka
Ministerstva inostrannykh del SSSR
Nachalniku Reshetovu Yu.A.

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 15 April 1991.