Amnesty International fears for the life of a 32-year-old man who was reported to have been sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of the Udmurt Autonomous Republic.

The report, which has just been received by Amnesty International and comes from an unofficial source, says that Sergey Sarapov was arrested on 15 October 1988 and sentenced to death after being convicted of robbery and murder. According to this source, he may be psychologically disturbed due to a background of childhood meningitis and a history of mental illness in the family.

The report also says that on 30 January 1990 the Supreme Court of the Russian Republic turned down Sergey Sarapov’s appeal against the death sentence. It is not known if the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Republic has yet considered a petition for clemency. The President of the USSR also has authority to commute a death sentence.

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. It is particularly concerned that death sentences continue to be handed down when the authorities are considering proposals to restrict greatly the scope of the death penalty.

Amnesty International welcomes reports that the President of the Russian Republic, Boris Yeltsin, is considering rehabilitating large numbers of prisoners of conscience who were sentenced by Russian courts, or who served their sentences in the Russian Republic. It urges him also to introduce an immediate moratorium on all death sentences and executions. Since January 1990 Amnesty International has learned of a further 3 death penalties in the Russian Republic. In February, the outgoing President of the Russian Republic, V. Vorotnikov, refused to give clemency to a 23-year-old man, Andrey Zapevalov, sentenced to death without right of appeal. His case is due to come before the USSR Supreme Soviet Clemency Commission within the next two weeks - his last chance for clemency (see follow-up to UA 464/90 EUR 46/34/90, 9 August).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams, express letters, airmail letters:
- appealing for clemency on behalf of Sergey Sarapov, Andrey Zapevalov, and all others currently awaiting execution in the RSFSR;
- urging the introduction of a moratorium on death sentences and executions, pending discussion of draft proposals by parliament to limit its application.

APPEALS TO:
Chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, Boris Yeltsin

SSSR, RSFSR
103274 Moskva
Krasnopresnenskaya nab., 2
Verkhovny Sovet RSFSR
Predsedatelyu
YELTSINU B.N.

Chair of Human Rights Committee of RSFSR Supreme Soviet, Sergey Kovalyov

SSSR, RSFSR
103274 Moskva
Krasnopresnenskaya nab., 2
Komitet po pravam cheloveka pri Verkhovnom Sovete RSFSR
Kovalyovu S.

Chairman of the Clemency Commission of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, (name not known)

SSSR, RSFSR
g. Moskva
Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya
Prezidiuma Verkhovnogo Soveta RSFSR

President of the USSR, Mikhail Sergeyevich GORBACHEV

SSSR, RSFSR
Moskva
Kreml
Prezidentu GORBACHOVU M.S.

COPIES TO:

Chairman of the Clemency Commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet, A.I.Golyakov

SSSR, RSFSR
g. Moskva
Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya
Prezidiuma Verkhovnogo Soveta SSSR

Chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Court, V.M. Lebedev

SSSR, RSFSR
103289 Moskva
ul. Kuybysheva, 7/3
Verkhovny Sud RSFSR

Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Udmurt ASSR
SSSR, RSFSR
Udmurtskaya ASSR
g. Izhevsk
Verkhovny Sud Udmurtskoy ASSR
Predsedatelyu

Journalist on "Komsomolskaya Pravda", Svetlana Orlyuk

SSSR, RSFSR
g. Moskva
ul. Pravdy 24
Orlyuku Svetlane
and to diplomatic representatives of the USSR in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 December 1990.