Amnesty International is concerned that 37-year-old Vadim Kuvshinov may face imminent execution. Vadim Kuvshinov, who is being held in Butyrka prison in Moscow, was sentenced to death on 1 December 1989. He was convicted of stabbing two people to death, after breaking into their apartments, but denies the murder charge.

Vadim Kuvshinov's final petition for clemency is reportedly due to be considered in the very near future by President Gorbachov, who has the ultimate authority to decide whether it should be granted. If Vadim Kuvshinov's petition for clemency is turned down then he will face imminent execution.

The Soviet parliament adopted legislation in July 1991 reducing the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty from 18 to five. The figure of 445 death sentences passed in the USSR in 1990, however, showed a marked increase on the previous year's figure of 276. Amnesty International is opposed to the death penalty in all cases 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. Amnesty International is appealing to the President of the USSR to exercise his constitutional authority and commute the death sentence passed on Vadim Kuvshinov.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telephone calls/express letters/airmail letters:
- appealing for clemency on behalf of Vadim Kuvshinov;
- welcoming the reduction in the scope of crimes punishable by the death penalty and urging a further review of the death penalty, leading to its complete abolition;

APPEALS TO:

1. President of the USSR, Mikhail Sergeyevich GORBACHOV

SSR, RSFSR
Moskva
Kreml
Prezidentu GORBACHOVO M.S.
Telegrams: SSSR, RSFSR, Moskva, Kreml
Prezidentu GORBACHOVO M.S.

2. Chairman of the Clemency Commission at the USSR Supreme Soviet, Nikolay Semyonovich GLAZKOV

SSR, RSFSR
g. Moskva

Dear President Gorbachov

Dear Chairman Glazkov
Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya
Prezidiuma Verkhovnogo Soveta SSSR
Prezidentulyu GLAZKOVU N.S.
Telephone. 291 73 55
Telegrams: SSSR, RSFSR, Moskva, Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya
prezidiuma Verkhovnogo Soveta SSR, Predsedatelyu Glaskovu N.S.

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Pushkinskaya pl., 5
Izvestiya
Glavnomu redaktoru YEFIMOVU N.

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 22 November 1991.