

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**Fear of imminent execution**

**11 October 1991**

**USSR:**

**Vadim KUVSHINOV**

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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 Sergeevich GORBACHOV

SSSR, RSFSR

**Dear President Gorbachov**

Moskva

Kreml

Prezidentu GORBACHOVU M.S.

**Telegrams: SSSR, RSFSR, Moskva, Kreml**

**Prezidentu GORBACHOVU M.S.**

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

SSSR, RSFSR

**Dear Chairman Glazkov**

g. Moskva

Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya  
Prezidiuma Verkhovnogo Soveta SSSR  
Predsedatelyu GLAZKOVU N.S.

**Telephone. 291 73 55**

**Telegrams: SSSR, RSFSR, Moskva, Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya  
prezidiuma Verkhovnogo Soveta SSR, Predsedatelyu Glaskovu N.S.**

**COPIES TO:**

1. Procurator General of the USSR, Nikolay Semyonovich TRUBIN  
SSSR, RSFSR

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2. Chairman of the USSR Supreme Court, Yevgeny Alekseyevich SMOLENTSEV  
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3. USSR Minister of Justice, Sergey Gennadyevich LUSHCHIKOV  
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Ministerstvo yustitsii SSSR

Ministru LUSHCHIKOVU S.G.

4. Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet,  
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Verkhovnom Sovete RSFSR

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5. Editor-in-Chief of Izvestiya, Nikolay YEFIMOV  
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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.