

UA 413/91

Fear of Imminent Execution

27 November 1991

USSR

Vyacheslav Nikolaevich SHARAYEVSKY

Amnesty International is concerned that 32-year-old Vyacheslav Sharayevsky, who is under sentence of death in the Russian Federation (RSFSR), may face imminent execution.

Vyacheslav Sharayevsky, who is a procurator and has two young children, was sentenced to death without right of appeal on 21 September 1990 by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation after being convicted of murdering two women in 1989. His brother, Vitaly Sharayevsky, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for his part in the murders. In an interview with the Russian newspaper Smolenskiye Novosti on 3 January 1991, Vyacheslav Sharayevsky claims that he admitted responsibility for the crimes at the preliminary investigation in order to save the life of his younger brother, who was in fact responsible for them. During the year-long investigation the two brothers changed their evidence a number of times, each in turn claiming their guilt.

Vyacheslav Sharayevsky lodged a petition for clemency to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation on 19 October 1990, but has not received any response to date.

Although clemency hearings are not an automatic right, in the past death sentences passed by republics normally went to the USSR Clemency Commission for final consideration. With the changing political situation in the USSR, however, it appears that the last recourse may now rest at republican rather than federal level. If the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR turns down Vyacheslav Sharayevsky's petition for clemency, Amnesty International fears that he may face imminent execution.

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 Russian Federation to commute the death sentence passed on Vyacheslav Sharayevsky.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telephone calls/express letters:**

- appealing for the death sentence on Vyacheslav Nikolaevich Sharayevsky to be commuted;
- urging a moratorium on all death sentences and executions in the RSFSR.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. President of the RSFSR, Boris Yeltsin  
SSSR, RSFSR  
103274 Moskva  
Krasnopresnenskaya nab. 2  
Prezidentu RSFSR  
YELTSINU B.N.

**Dear President Yeltsin****Telegrams: SSSR, 103274 Moskva, Prezidentu RSFSR Yeltsinu B.N.**

2. Chairman of Clemency Commission at RSFSR Supreme Soviet Nikolay Trofimovich Vedernikov

SSSR, RSFSR

Moskva

Dom sovetov RSFSR

Predsedatelyu Komissii Prezidiuma

VS RSFSR po voprosam pomilovaniya

Vedernikovu N.T.

**Dear Chairman Vedernikov**

**Telegrams: SSSR, Moskva, Dom sovetov RSFSR, Presedatelyu komissii po pomilovaniya, Vedernikovu N.T.**

**Telephone: + 7 095 205 99 85**

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

SSSR, RSFSR

g. Moskva

Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya

Prezidiuma Verkhovnogo Soveta SSSR

Predsedatelyu GLAZKOVU N.S.

**Dear Chairman Glazkov**

**Telegrams: SSSR, Moskva Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya prezidiuma VS SSSR, Predsedatelyu GLAZKOVU N.S.**

**Telephone: + 7 095 291 73 55**

**COPIES TO:**

1. Chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Court, Vyacheslav LEBEDEV

SSSR, RSFSR

103289 Moskva

ul. Ilyinka, 7/3

Verkhovny Sud RSFSR

Predsedatelyu LEBEDEVU V.M.

2. Procurator General of the RSFSR, General Valentin STEPANKOV

SSSR, RSFSR

103760 Moskva K-31

Kuznetsky most, 13

Prokuratura RSFSR

Prokuroru Gen. STEPANKOVU V.G

3. Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, Sergey KOVALYOV

SSSR, RSFSR

103274 Moskva

Krasnopresnenskaya nab., 2

Komitet po pravam cheloveka pri

Verkhovnom Sovete RSFSR

Predsedatelyu KOVALYOVU S.A.

4. Editor-in-chief of Smolenksiye Novosti (Smolensk News), Sergey NOVIKOV

SSSR, RSFSR

214018 g. Smolensk

ul. Kirova, 49

Glavnomu redaktoru NOVIKOVU S.

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 10 January 1992.