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UA 436/91 Fear of Imminent Execution

12 December 1991

USSR (Russian Federation) Sergey A. BOLDYREV

Amnesty International is concerned that Sergey Boldyrev may face imminent execution. According to a report in the Soviet newspaper Sovetskaya Kuban in June 1990, Sergey Boldyrev was tried at the Krasnodar Territorial Court at an assize session in the city of Maykop as a leader of an armed gang which among many crimes committed 13 murders. He was convicted in May 1990 of personally committing seven murders and participating in three others. Amnesty International has now heard from an unofficial source that the sentence has been upheld by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (RSFSR). Sergey Boldyrev denies the murder charges, and alleges that the case against him was fabricated.

The case should be due for consideration by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The ultimate authority to decide whether clemency should be granted rests with President Gorbachov. If this is turned down then Sergey Boldyrev 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. However, in each of the republics of the USSR the provisions of the new USSR legislation have no force unless the republican parliament has incorporated them into republican legislation. On 5 December 1991 the death penalty was abolished in the Russian Federation for the crimes of large-scale theft, bribe-taking in especially aggravating circumstances, and foreign currency speculation.

The figure of 445 death sentences passed in the USSR in 1990 showed a marked increase on the 1989 figure of 276. Amnesty International opposes 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 Sergey Boldyrev.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telephone calls/express and airmail letters:

-appealing for clemency on behalf of Sergey Boldyrev;

- welcoming the reduction in the scope of crimes punishable by the death penalty in the USSR and the Russian Federation.

APPEALS TO:

1. President of the USSR, Mikhail Sergeyevich GORBACHOV

SSSR, RSFSR

Salutation: 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

Salutation: Dear Chairman Glazkov

g. Moskva

Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya

Prezidiuma Verkhovnogo Soveta SSSR

Predsedatelyu GLAZKOVU N.S.

Telegrams: SSSR, RSFSR, Moskva, Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya

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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 23 January 1992.