

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 46/04/98

27 February 1998

Further information on UA 223/97 (EUR 46/20/97, 21 July 1997) - Incommunicado Detention / Fear of ill-treatment / Health concern

RUSSIAN FEDERATION Larisa KHARCHENKO, 50

---

Amnesty International has learned that Larisa Kharchenko was released from pre-trial detention on 19 December 1997, pending her trial.

Larisa Kharchenko, who was arrested on 8 July 1997, was reportedly being denied visits by her husband, a lawyer of her choice and a doctor. She apparently suffers from a serious form of high blood pressure and heart disease for which she requires daily medication and attention from a doctor.

Larisa Kharchenko has allegedly been charged under Article 170 of the old Russian Criminal Code (abuse of power and misuse of office) and Article 290, part 2 of the current Criminal Code (receiving bribes) in connection with allegations of misuse of office by the former mayor of St Petersburg, Anatoly Sobchak, for whom she previously worked as consultant on real estate matters in the city administration.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals. No further action by the UA network is required.