

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 46/007/2007
13 March 2007

Further Information on UA 154/06 (EUR 46/027/2006, 31 May 2006), and follow-ups (EUR 46/067/2006, 12 December 2006 and EUR 46/006/2007, 8 February 2007) Health concern/Denial of Medical Treatment

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mikhail Trepashkin (m) lawyer

On 9 March, a district court in Nizhnii Tagil in the Sverdlovsk Region of the Russian Federation decided that Mikhail Trepashkin should be transferred to a standard prison colony, which has a stricter regime than the open prison colony he used to be in. After his transfer, Mikhail Trepashkin has restricted access to his family, friends, lawyers and supporters. In addition, he may be at risk of further violations of his human rights including the continuing denial of adequate medical treatment which may lead to a further decline of his health.

Amnesty International is concerned that the appeal by the prison authorities to the court to transfer Mikhail Trepashkin to a stricter prison colony for alleged violations of the prison rules is politically motivated and that it is an attempt to prevent him from having access to journalists and to the public.

Mikhail Trepashkin was sentenced in May 2005 to four years' imprisonment in an open prison colony for illegal possession of ammunition and divulging state secrets. During his imprisonment, he has on several occasions been ordered to spend days in a punishment cell for alleged violations of the prison rules.

On one occasion he was punished for allegedly bringing alcohol into the prison colony. According to his lawyer, Mikhail Trepashkin had bought a small bottle (7ml) of eau de toilette on a day when he was allowed to go into the town of Nizhnii Tagil. Upon his return to the colony he had shown the bottle to the guards in order to find out whether it was a permitted item.

On another occasion, he was accused of having sworn at a prison administration official. However, when later questioned in court by Mikhail Trepashkin's lawyers, the official allegedly said Mikhail Trepashkin had not addressed him and had not insulted him but may have murmured a swearword. According to his lawyers, it was these two incidents which formed the basis of the prison administration's appeal for Mikhail Trepashkin's transfer to a stricter prison colony.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Russian, English or your own language:

- expressing concern about the transfer of Mikhail Trepashkin to a standard prison colony;
- urging the prison authorities instead to send him to hospital immediately in order for him to undergo an exhaustive health check which would then form the basis of his medical treatment;
- reiterating Amnesty International's concerns that Mikhail Trepashkin may have been convicted following an unfair trial;
- reiterating Amnesty International's call to the authorities that Mikhail Trepashkin should be released from detention pending a full review of the case.

APPEALS TO:

Yuri CHAIKA

Procurator General of the Russian Federation
103793 Moskva, Ul. Bolshaya Dimitrovka 15a,

Fax: + 7 495 692 1725 (if someone answers say "fax please")

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

Pavel Pavlovich Kukushkin
Procurator
Procuracy of Sverdlovsk Region
Ul. Moskovskaia 21
620219 g. Yekaterinburg
Russian Federation

Fax: +7 343 377 0241

Salutation: Dear Procurator

COPIES TO:

Yury Ivanovich KALININ
Director
Federal Service for the Execution of Punishments
Ul. Zhitnaia 14
119991 g. Moskva
GSP - 1
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 982 1930
Salutation: Dear Director

and to diplomatic representatives of the Russian Federation accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 April 2007.
