

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 46/24/99

23 July 1999

Further information on UA 11/99 (EUR 46/01/99, 18 January 1999) - Health concern/Prisoner of conscience

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION** Grigory Pasko

---

Grigory Pasko, military reporter for *Boyevaya Vakhta* (Battle Watch), the newspaper of the Russian Pacific Fleet, was released by the Russian Pacific Fleet military court on 20 July 1999, but was not fully acquitted. The military court found that the prosecution had been unable to produce evidence to support the charges of espionage and revealing state secrets (Article 275 of the Russian Criminal Code), and dropped these charges against him. However, the military court found Grigory Pasko guilty of "abuse of office" (Article 285 part 1 of the Criminal Code) and sentenced him to the maximum term of three years' imprisonment. The court then relieved Grigory Pasko from the obligation of serving this prison term under the provisions of a recently adopted amnesty law for prisoners and detainees.

In its verdict, the court noted irregularities committed during the investigation and gathering of evidence, and also noted that the negligence of officials at the Pacific Fleet had facilitated the "abuse of office" of which Grigory Pasko was convicted.

Amnesty International is calling for an independent review by a higher court of Grigory Pasko's conviction, and for all charges against him to be dropped.

**No further action is necessary from the Urgent Action network. Thank you to all who sent appeals on behalf of Grigory Pasko.**