

PUBLIC

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12 December 2006

Further Information on 154/06 (EUR 46/027/2006, 31 May 2006) Health concern, denial of medical treatment

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mikhail Trepashkin (m), lawyer

Amnesty International continues to receive information that Mikhail Trepashkin, who is imprisoned at IK 13, an open prison colony located in Sverdlovsk Region, is being denied access to adequate medical treatment for chronic, life-threatening asthma. Mikhail Trepashkin's lawyers informed Amnesty International that Mikhail Trepashkin has asthma attacks nearly every day and that earlier in October an ambulance had to be called from outside the prison because medical staff in the prison colony were unable to provide adequate treatment during an especially serious attack, during which he lost consciousness and stopped breathing.

In May and October 2006 Mikhail Trepashkin was reportedly preliminarily diagnosed with a level of asthma which, under Russian law, allows him to be transferred to a hospital for treatment and to be considered for early release. However, according to Mikhail Trepashkin's lawyers, prison authorities refuse to allow for a full and thorough independent medical examination and will not give his lawyers a copy of an initial medical diagnosis done in May and October 2006, which hinders his lawyers from contesting the refusal to transfer him.

According to Mikhail Trepashkin's lawyers, the head of the health department of the prison has stated repeatedly that Mikhail Trepashkin needs to be transferred to a hospital since the prison is unable to provide adequate treatment. However, the head of the prison reportedly continues to object to such a transfer.

Mikhail Trepashkin has also been placed in a punishment cell repeatedly, apparently for demanding to be treated according to the law. He reportedly developed further health problems due to the harsh conditions. According to his lawyers, hygienic conditions are bad even in normal cells, and they are infested with cockroaches and rats. In punishment cells prisoners are not allowed to sit down during the day and the cells are not heated or ventilated, even when temperatures are below zero or above 30 degrees Celsius.

In recent letters to Amnesty International Mikhail Trepashkin claims that his health has deteriorated. He also informed Amnesty International that other detainees told him they had been asked to start a fight with him and to beat him up in exchange for some privileges. An official from the prison colony reportedly "jokingly" told one of Mikhail Trepashkin's lawyers that Mikhail Trepashkin would be buried in the colony.

The procuracy in Sverdlovsk Region informed Amnesty International in a letter received in June this year that Mikhail Trepashkin was treated according to his needs and that they did not find any violations of his rights while in detention.

In response to Amnesty International's campaigning, Mikhail Trepashkin thanks Amnesty International's Urgent Action members.

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

- recognizing the regional procuracy's investigation into allegations of inadequate medical treatment for Mikhail Trepashkin;

- expressing concern about continuous reports regarding the poor conditions of detention in IK 13 and especially about the deteriorating health of Mikhail Trepashkin;
- continuing to urge the Russian authorities to provide Mikhail Trepashkin with necessary medical treatment immediately by transferring him to the hospital in Nizhnii Tagil;
- asking for an investigation into allegations that Mikhail Trepashkin is deliberately denied access to necessary medical treatment and that other detainees have been asked to harm him;
- reiterating Amnesty International's concerns that Mikhail Trepashkin may have been convicted following an unfair trial;
- calling on the authorities to release Mikhail Trepashkin from detention immediately pending a full review of the case

APPEALS TO:

Head of the Federal Service for the Execution of Punishments of the Russian Federation

Yury Ivanovich KALININ

Director

Federal Service for the Execution of Punishments

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Salutation: Dear Director

Yuri CHAIKA, Procurator General of the Russian Federation

103793 Moskva, Ul. Bolshaya Dimitrovka 15a, Generalnomu Prokuroru Rossiyskoy Federatsii, Yurii Chaika, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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

<http://www.genproc.gov.ru/>

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

Procuracy of Sverdlovsk region

Ul. Moskovskaia 21

GSP 1036

620219 g. Yekaterinburg

Russian Federation

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 23 January 2007.