

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 283/94 Fear of imminent execution

22 July 1994

BELARUS Sergey Vladimirovich KUTYAVIN, aged 32
(_____ in Russian)

Amnesty International fears that Sergey Vladimirovich Kutyavin faces imminent execution unless Aleksandr Lukashenko, the President of Belarus, exercises his constitutional authority to commute his death sentence.

Sergey Kutyavin was sentenced to death for murder by Mogilev Regional Court on 19 July 1993. His appeal against his death sentence was rejected by the Supreme Court of Belarus on 11 March 1994. A petition for clemency is pending with the newly-elected President of Belarus. A decision could be taken any time now.

It is impossible to determine exactly how much time elapses between the Supreme Court of Belarus upholding a death sentence and execution taking place, but death penalty statistics known to Amnesty International indicate that, on average, execution takes place within six months of the Supreme Court turning down an appeal if the President does not exercise his constitutional authority to commute the death sentence.

According to statistics on the application of the death penalty for 1993 released by the Department for Clemency at the Supreme Soviet (parliament) of Belarus at the beginning of 1994, 16 men were executed after their petitions for clemency were turned down. Only one death sentence was commuted.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases and 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Russian, English or in your own language:

- stating Amnesty International's opposition to the death penalty in all cases;
- urging President Lukashenko to grant clemency to Sergey Kutyavin and to commute his death sentence;
- urging President Lukashenko to commute all other death sentences that come before him.

APPEALS TO

1. The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko

Respublika Belarus

220010 Minsk

Dom pravitelstva

ul. Internatsionalnaya

Prezidentu Respubliki Belarus LUKASHENKO A.

Telegrams: Belarus, 220010 Minsk, ul. Internatsionalnaya, Prezidentu Lukashenko A.

Faxes: + 7 017 2 27 25 14

Salutation: Dear President

2. The Head of the Department for Applications for Clemency and Citizenship

at the Belarus Supreme Soviet, name not known

Respublika Belarus

Minsk

Sekretariat Verkhovnogo Soveta

Otdel po voprosam pomilovaniya i grazhdanstva

Zaveduyushchemu otdelom

(i.e. to the Head of department)

Telegrams: Belarus, Minsk, Sekretariat VS, Otdel pomilovaniya, Zav.

Faxes: + 7 017 2 27 25 14

Salutation: Dear Head of Department

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

The Chairman of the Supreme Court of Belarus, Vladimir S. Karavay

Respublika Belarus

220681 Minsk

ul. Internatsionalnaya, 18

Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Belarus

Predsedatelyu KARAVAYU V.S.

The Procurator General of Belarus, V.I. Shaladonov

Respublika Belarus

220849 Minsk

ul. Internatsionalnaya, 24

Prokuratura Respubliki Belarus

Generalnomu prokuroru SHALADONOVU V.I.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Pyotr K. Kravchenko

Respublika Belarus

g. Minsk

Leninsky pr., 8

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Ministry KRAVCHENKO P.K.

and to diplomatic representatives of Belarus accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 September 1994.