

2 February 1996

Further information EXTRA 124/95 (EUR 50/17/95, 24 October 1995) and follow-up (EUR 50/19/95, 5 December) - Death penalty

UKRAINEFears of continuing executions despite announced moratorium

	Sergey Nikolaevich DRAGUNOV, aged 21
	(_____ in Russian)
new name:	Anatoly Nikolaevich SKIBY, aged 25
	(_____ in Russian)

Despite the fact that Ukraine, by having joined the Council of Europe, has committed itself to an immediate moratorium on executions, there are continuing reports that the Ukrainian authorities may be continuing to execute prisoners on death row.

Amnesty International is alarmed that another man sentenced to death, Anatoly Nikolaevich Skiby, may be facing imminent execution unless his sentence is commuted by the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma. His appeal against his death sentence is believed to have been turned down by the Ukrainian supreme court, as he told his parents on 4 January 1996 that he had one-and-a-half months left to wait for the clemency from the president, if not then "that's it", implying that he has been told the date of his execution.

Anatoly Skiby was sentenced to death for premeditated murder (Article 93 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code) by the Simferopol Supreme Court on 17 April 1995.

The Director of the prison in Crimea where Anatoly Skiby is being held also reportedly told Anatoly's parents that he knew nothing about a moratorium, and that he has his own instructions to follow.

Amnesty International is extremely concerned by the ambiguity in Ukraine's position on the introduction of a moratorium on executions. The organization believes that despite official commitments to the Council of Europe to impose a moratorium on executions from 9 November 1995, the day of accession to the Council of Europe, Ukrainian authorities have not informed local officials and bodies that a moratorium is in force. People are therefore still at risk of execution.

Amnesty International has no further information on the case of Sergey Nikolaevich Dragunov (see EUR 50/19/95).

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

- urging the Ukrainian authorities to ensure that, as a member of the Council of Europe, they fully respect all commitments undertaken to impose an immediate moratorium on executions, and to abolish the death penalty within three years;
- expressing serious concern that Anatoly Skiby may face imminent execution despite the moratorium;
- urging President Kuchma to grant clemency to Anatoly Skiby, and to commute his death sentence, and all others that come before him;
- urging the Ukrainian authorities to ensure that his and all executions are immediately stopped, and that all local authorities are informed that a moratorium is in place;

- calling for official statistics to be published on executions carried out in 1995.

APPEALS TO:

- President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma
Ukraina
252601 Kiev
ul. Bankovaya, 7
Prezidentu Ukrainy Kuchma L.
Fax: (380 44) 291 61 61
Telegrams: Ukraina, Kiev, Prezidentu Kuchma
Salutation: Dear President

Procurator General of Ukraine, Grigory Vorsinov
Ukraina
252601 g. Kiev II
ul. Reznitskaya, 13/15
Prokuratura Ukrainy
Generalnomu Prokuroru Vorsinovu G.
Faxes: (380 44) 290 26 03
Telegrams: Ukraina, Kiev, Prokuroru Vorsinovu
Salutation: Dear Procurator General

- Minister of Justice of Ukraine, Serhiy Holovatiy
Ukraina
252030 g. Kiev
Ul. Kotsyubinskogo, d.12
Ministerstvo yustitsii Ukrainy
Ministru HOLOVATOMU S.
Telegrams: Ukraina, Kiev, Ministru Yustitisii
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Chairman of the Presidential Clemency Commission, Pyotr Andreychenko
Ukraina
252220 g. Kiev
ul. Bankovaya, 7
Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya pri Prezidente
Predsedatelyu Andrenchenku P.
Fax: (380 44) 291 61 61

Head of the Department for Citizenship and Clemency Issues at Ukraine's
Presidential Administration,
Ukraina
252220 Kiev
ul. Bankovaya, 11
Otdel po voprosam grazhdanstva i pomilovaniya
pri administratsii Prezidenta Ukrainy
Zaveduyushchemu otделom
Faxes: +380 44 291 61 61 (old code: +7 044 291 61 61)

Chairman of the Crimean Regional Court
Ukraina
Respublika Krym

g. Simferopol
Oblasnoy Sud Respubliki Krym
Predsedatelyu

and to diplomatic representatives of Ukraine accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 March 1996.