

URGENT ACTION

DETAINEE DENIED MEDICAL CARE, AT RISK OF DEATH

Tamaz Kardava has been detained in the Ukrainian capital, **Kyiv**, since **August 2008** on charges of burglary. He has **Hepatitis C** and **severe cirrhosis of the liver**. For the last two months he has been denied vital medical treatment and is now **critically ill**.



Tamaz Kardava, who is a Georgian citizen and a refugee from the conflict in Abkhazia, was already suffering from Hepatitis C when he was detained in Ukraine in August 2008. He was allegedly tortured in Shevchenkivskiy district police station in Kyiv to force him to confess to a burglary. Medical reports confirm that he was badly beaten and raped with a police baton.

Tamaz Kardava has been kept in detention since August 2008. For the last two months he has been denied any specialized medical treatment for his condition, and his health has worsened dramatically. He complains that he has a permanent ache in the area of his liver, his legs are swollen and he can neither sit nor walk.

His lawyer reported that on 30 March he spent six hours lying on the floor in the court room on a stretcher in Shevchenkivskiy Court in Kyiv (see picture above). According to the lawyer, his suffering was visible to all those present. He was examined by emergency doctors in the courtroom, who reported that he was at risk of death because of liquid on the lungs. His lawyer requested that he should be immediately transferred to hospital, but the request was refused by the judge. The trial continues today.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Ukrainian, Russian or your own language:

- urging the authorities to ensure that Tamaz Kardava is immediately hospitalized and receives adequate medical treatment;
- calling on the authorities to investigate the allegations that Tamaz Kardava was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment when he was arrested in 2008.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 13 MAY 2010 TO:

General Prosecutor
Alexander Medvedko
Riznitska Str.13/15
01601 Kyiv, Ukraine
Fax: +380 44 280 26 03

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Director of State Department for the
Execution of Sentences

Vasil Koshchinets
State Department for the Execution of
Sentences

Fax: +380 44 461 8600

Email: reception@kvs.gov.ua

Salutation: Dear Vasil Koshchints

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has previously raised concerns about access to medical care for prisoners in Ukraine. Local NGOs and lawyers report that poor medical care for prisoners is a widespread problem and that there are no effective legal remedies in the country.

In July 2009 Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action on behalf of Andriy Snigoviy (UA: 177/09 Index: EUR 50/001/2009) who was dying of AIDS and denied specialist medical treatment and pain killers. Andriy Snigoviy's lawyer applied to the European Court of Human Rights to grant interim measures asking for him to be transferred to a hospital, but the European Court of Human Rights did not grant them. In a meeting with the State Department for the Execution of Sentences in January 2010, Amnesty International delegates were informed that prisons and prison hospitals are supplied with basic necessary drugs to deal with most illnesses, but that the budget is limited, and the only pain killers available are analgesics.

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