

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 50/07/97

12 February 1997

Further information on UA 271/96 (EUR 50/14/96, 21 November 1996) - Death penalty / Legal concern

UKRAINE Vladimir Yureyvich CHERNITSA, aged 23

Amnesty International has learned that Vladimir Chernitsa's petition for clemency has still not been considered by the Clemency Commission or the President. The petition was sent to President Kuchma on 11 September 1996.

The clemency petition is the final possibility for appeal against the death sentence and is therefore Vladimir Chernitsa's last chance of avoiding execution.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 29 January the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe passed Resolution 1112 (1997) in which it condemns Ukraine's failure to honour the commitment made on her accession to the Council to put in place a moratorium on the use of the death penalty and deploring the executions which took place in 1996. The resolution continued, "*The Assembly warns the Ukrainian authorities that it will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with commitments entered into. In particular, should any more executions of the death penalty be carried out following the adoption of this resolution, the Assembly may consider the non-ratification of the credentials of the Ukrainian parliamentary delegation at its next session.*"

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send a further round of appeals by telegram/fax/express or airmail letter in Ukrainian, Russian or English or in your own language:

To President Kuchma:

- urging him to immediately take the political decision not to sign any more execution orders, in keeping with the solemn commitment made by Ukraine to impose a moratorium on executions from the day of her accession to the Council of Europe;
- urging him to commute to Vladimir Chernitsa's death sentence and all others which come before him.

To the Head of the Clemency Commission:

- urging that the Clemency Commission recommends clemency for Vladimir Chernitsa.

APPEALS TO:

President of Ukraine, Leonid KUCHMA

Ukraina

252601 Kiev

ul. Bankovaya, 7

Prezidentu Ukrainy Kuchma L.

Faxes: (380 44) 291 61 61 (checked working 21/11/96)

Telegrams: Ukraina, Kiev, Prezidentu Kuchma

Salutation: Dear President

Chairman of the Presidential Clemency Commission, Pyotr ANDREYCHENKO

Ukraina

2

252220 g. Kiev

ul. Bankovaya, 7

Kommissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya pri Prezidenta

Predsedatelyu Andreychenko P.

Telegrams: Ukraina, Kiev, Kommissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya, Predsedatelyu

Fax: (380 44) 291 61 61

Salutation: Dear Chairman

COPIES TO:

Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Hennady UDOVENKO

Ukraina

252501 g. Kiev 24

ul. Karla Liebknecht 15/1

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Ukrainy

Ministru UDOVENKO H.Y

Procurator General of Ukraine, Grigory VORSINOV

Ukraina

252601 g. Kiev II

ul. Reznitskaya, 13/15

Prokuratura Ukrainy

Generalnomu prokuroru VORSINOVU G.

Fax: (380 44) 290 26 03

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 27 March 1997.