

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 50/08/96

EXTRA 107/96 Execution despite moratorium / Fear of imminent executions 16 July 1996

UKRAINE Sasha MARKITAN (_____ in Russian), aged 21
Vitaly ALKHIMOV (_____), aged 23
Sergey SKARABAGATOV (_____), aged 24
Aleksey VEDMEDENKO (_____), aged 20

Vladimir Yurevich Ogoltsov (_____), aged 20

Amnesty International is appalled at reports of the recent execution of Vladimir Yurevich Ogoltsov, despite the fact that Ukraine, by joining the Council of Europe on 9 November 1995, had committed itself to imposing an immediate moratorium on executions and to abolish the death penalty within three years. According to unofficial sources, Vladimir Ogoltsov was transferred three weeks ago to the Dnepropetrovsk prison where he was executed.

The same sources report that Sasha Markitan, Vitaly Alkhimov and Sergey Skarabagatov, all sentenced to death, were transferred to the prison in Dnepropetrovsk recently. Amnesty International believes them to be at imminent risk of execution.

Amnesty International has learned from information provided by the Supreme Court of Ukraine that the President of Ukraine has recently turned down at least one further appeal for clemency, that of Aleksey Vedmedenko, on 8 July 1996. Aleksey Vedmedenko has been on death row since October 1995 having been convicted of premeditated, aggravated murder. It is feared that Aleksey Vedmedenko could be facing imminent execution.

Ukraine has not published any statistics on the use of the death penalty since its accession to the Council of Europe, and Amnesty International fears that the number of executions is far higher than the few instances which come to light from unofficial sources. A local Ukrainian radio station recently reported that over 100 prisoners had been executed since Ukraine joined the Council of Europe.

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

- expressing alarm that Sasha Markitan, Vitaly Alkhimov, Sergey Skarabagatov and Aleksey Vedmedenko may face imminent execution despite the moratorium on executions;
- urging President Kuchma to reconsider and to grant clemency to Sasha Markitan, Vitaly Alkhimov, Sergey Skarabagatov and Aleksey Vedmedenko, and to commute all other death sentences that come before him;
- calling for an immediate investigation into the report of the execution of Vladimir Yurevich Ogoltsov and for the findings to be made public;
- 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 sympathy for the victims of crime and their families, but pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments, and is brutalizing to all involved in its application.

APPEALS TO:

President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma
Ukraina

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252601 Kiev
ul. Bankovaya, 7
Prezidentu Ukrainy Kuchma L.
Faxes: (380 44) 291 61 61
Telegrams: Ukraina, Kiev, Prezidentu Kuchma
Salutation: Dear President

COPIES TO:

Chairman of the Presidential Clemency Commission, Pyotr Andreychenko
Ukraina

252220 g. Kiev
ul. Bankovaya, 7
Kommissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya pri Prezidente
Predsedatelyu ANDREYCHENKO P.
Fax: (380 44) 291 61 61

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

Chairman of the Supreme Court of Ukraine, Vitaly BOYKO
Ukraina

252601 g. Kiev 24 GSP
ul. M. Grushevskogo
Verkhovny Sud Ukrainy
Predsedatelyu BOYKO V.

Head of the Regional Court in Zhitomir Region, name not known
Ukraina

g. Zhitomir
Oblastnoy Sud
Predsedatelu

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 20 August 1996.