

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 50/10/96

14 August 1996

Further information on EXTRA 06/96 (EUR 50/01/96, 15 January 1996) and follow-ups (EUR 50/04/96, 27 February, EUR 50/05/96, 10 April, EUR 50/06/96, 24 April and EUR 50/07/96, 11 July) - Fear of imminent execution

UKRAINE Vitaly GUMENYUK, aged 24

Amnesty International remains deeply concerned for Vitaly Gumenyuk. The organization has received no further information on his situation since 30 June 1996 when he was reported to have been taken from the investigation isolation prison in Zhitomir to Lukyanov prison in Kiev where it is believed that executions are carried out.

Vitaly Gumenyuk's clemency petition was turned down by the President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma earlier this year despite the fact that Ukraine, by having joined the Council of Europe on 9 November 1995 committed itself to impose an immediate moratorium on executions and to abolish the death penalty within three years.

Fears that Vitaly Gumenyuk, and others, may still be facing execution in Ukraine have been further heightened by reports that on 1 August 1996 Vitaly Boyko, the Chief Justice of the Ukrainian Supreme Court, confirmed that there was no moratorium on capital punishment in Ukraine, saying that public opinion needed to change before such a moratorium could be put in place.

In response to previous Urgent Actions, Senator Imanol Bolinaga of the Basque Nationalist Party intervened on behalf of Vitaly Gumenyuk during the Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe of 23 April 1996 and urged President Kuchma to do everything in his power to stop his execution. President Kuchma confirmed that he would look into the case. Amnesty International has no further information as to what intervention, if any, the President has made.

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

- expressing alarm at reports that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has stated that there is no moratorium on executions, despite the fact that Ukraine, by having joined the Council of Europe on 9 November 1995 committed itself to such a moratorium;
- expressing serious concern for Vitaly Gumenyuk, and calling for his family to be informed of his current situation as a matter of urgency;
- urging President Kuchma to reverse his decision to refuse clemency to Vitaly Gumenyuk, to stop the execution and to commute all other death sentences that come before him;
- 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.

APPEALS TO:

President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma

Ukraina

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 September 1996.