

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 50/12/96

7 November 1996

Further information on EXTRA 124/95 (EUR 50/17/95, 24 October 1995) and follow-up (EUR 50/19/95, 5 December; EUR 50/02/96, 2 February 1996, EUR 50/03/96, 26 February; EUR 50/09/96, 17 July) - Death penalty

UKRAINE Sergey TEKUCHEV, aged 27

Amnesty international fears that Sergey Tekuchev may be facing imminent execution following his transferral to prison SIZO 308/1 in Dniepropetrovsk, where executions are known to take place, on 15 October 1996. Sergey Tekuchev's mother believes her son is still alive. She will be travelling to Dniepropetrovsk on 11 November 1996. Sergey Tekuchev's petition for clemency was refused by the President of Ukraine on 8 July 1996.

Amnesty International is appalled that executions are continuing in Ukraine, a year after Ukraine joined the Council of Europe and committed itself to imposing an immediate moratorium on executions. Ukraine made the commitment on 26 September 1995 "to sign within one year and ratify within three years from the time of accession Protocol no. 6 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms on the abolition of the death penalty, and to put into place, with immediate effect from the day of accession, a moratorium on executions" (Parliamentary Assembly Opinion 190, 1995). On 9 November 1995 Ukraine undertook to impose a moratorium on executions and it is bound in good faith to implement this solemn commitment as a member of the Council of Europe. However, despite this people on death row in Ukraine continue to be executed to this day.

Vitaly Boyko, the chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Court, confirmed on 1 August that there is no moratorium on executions in place in Ukraine. He said that public opinion needed to change before such a moratorium could be imposed. He reported that in the first six months of 1996, 93 people were sentenced to death. He did not give official figures of the number of people executed in 1996, but Amnesty International knows that one prisoner, Vladimir Ogoltsov, was executed at the end of June 1996, and fears for the lives of another three men transferred to Dniepropetrovsk prison in June 1996.

Sergey Tekuchev's mother informed Amnesty International that the Head of the Presidential Clemency Commission, Pyotr Andreychenko, told her at the end of October that he was responsible only for carrying out the law, and that he had received no instructions concerning a moratorium on executions.

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

To the President:

- urging President Kuchma to reverse his decision and to grant clemency to Sergey Tekuchev;
- urging President Kuchma not to sign any more execution orders as to do so places Ukraine in violation of its commitment to the Council of Europe.

To the Head of the Clemency Commission, Peotr Andreychenko:

- urge him to recommend to the President to intervene to prevent Sergey Tekuchev's execution and to grant him clemency;

To the Head of the Central Directorate for the Execution of Punishment (GUIN) at the Ministry of Internal Affairs:

- urge I. V. Shtanko to intervene in the case of Sergey Tekuchev to prevent his execution taking place, thereby implementing Ukraine's commitment to a moratorium on executions. Ask him to issue an order to all prison directors and personnel telling them to stop all executions of prisoners in their prisons, and not to transfer prisoners to other prisons where executions take place.

To the Director of Dniepropetrovsk SIZO 308/1:

- ask him to provide further information about Sergey Tekuchev's whereabouts at the present time.

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

Chairman of the Presidential Clemency Commission, Pyotr ANDREYCHENKO

Ukraina

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

Head of the Central Directorate for the Execution of Punishment (GUIN) at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, I.V. SHTANKO

Ukraina

252024 g. Kiev

ul. Bogomoltsa, 10

Ministerstvo vnutrennikh

del Ukrainy

Glavnoye Upravleniye Iсполneniya Nakazanii

Nachalniku

Shtanku I.V

Fax: (380 44) 291 17 33

Telegrams: Ukraina, Kiev, GUIN, Nachalniku

Salutation: Dear I.V. Shtanko

The Director of Dniepropetrovsk SIZO 308/1, name not known

UKRAINE

Dniepropetrovskaya oblast

Dniepropetrovsk

SIZO 308/01

Direktory

Telegrams: Ukraina, Dniepropetrovsk, SIZO 308/1, Direktory

Salutation: Dear Director

COPIES TO:

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

The Procurator of Dniepropetrovsk region, name not known

UKRAINE

Dniepropetrovskaya oblast

Dniepropetrovsk

Oblastnaya prokuratory

Prokuroru

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 12 December 1996.