

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Imminent Execution

25 March 1992

AZERBAYDZHANI REPUBLIC:

Grachik PETROSYAN

Gagik ARUTYUNYAN

Arno MKRTCHYAN

Arvid MANGASARYAN

Garnik ARUSTAMYAM

(in cyrillic

_____)

_____)

Amnesty International fears that Grachik Petrosyan, Gagik Arutyunyan, Arno Mkrtchyan, Arvid Mangasaryan and Garnik Arustamyan may face imminent execution after being sentenced to death in the Azerbaydzhani Republic. All five are ethnic Armenians convicted of murdering an Azerbaydzhani journalist in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh in 1991. They were tried last week, exact date not known, by the Azerbaydzhani Supreme Court. A sixth man was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

The Azerbaydzhani Supreme Court is the court of highest instance in the republic, and death sentences passed at this level need not be confirmed by any other authority before being carried out. The five men may not appeal, and although they may lodge a petition for clemency with the acting President, carrying out of the sentence is not automatically suspended while such petitions are under consideration.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases and without reservation, on the grounds that it is a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Amnesty International is appealing to the Acting President of the Azerbaydzhani Republic to commute the death sentences passed on these five men.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express and airmail letters:

- urging that the death sentences passed on Grachik Petrosyan, Gagik Arutyunyan, Arno Mkrtchyan, Arvid Mangasaryan and Garnik Arustamyan be commuted;
- urging that all other pending death sentences be commuted;

- urging that everyone sentenced to death in Azerbaydzhani Republic be granted the opportunity to appeal to a court of higher jurisdiction, in accordance with internationally agreed human rights standards;

- pointing out that Amnesty International takes no position on territorial disputes, and in these cases is concerned solely with the issue of the death penalty.

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APPEALS TO:

1) Acting President of the Azerbaydzhani Republic - Yakub Dzhavad ogly Mamedov:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika
370066 g. Baku

ul. Kommunisticheskaya 19
I.O. Prezidenta Mamedovu Ya.

Telegrams: Azerbaydzhan, 370066 Baku, I.O. Prezidenta Mamedovu Ya.D.

Dear Acting President

2) Head of the Presidential Department of Citizenship and Clemency questions - T. Aslanov:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika
370066 g. Baku

ul. Kommunisticheskaya, 19
Otdel po voprosam grazhdanstva i pomilovaniya
pri apparate prezidenta Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki
Zaveduyushchemu otdela Aslanovu T.

Telegrams: Azerbaydzhan, 370066 Baku, Otdel po pomilovaniya pri prezidente, Aslanovu T.

Dear T. Aslanov

COPIES TO:

1) Procurator General of the Azerbaydzhani Republic - Murat Babayev:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika
g. Baku

Prokuratura Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki
Generalnomu prokuroru Babayevu M.

2) Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Azerbaydzhani Republic - Ibragim Isa ogly Ismailov:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika
g. Baku

Verkhovny sud Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki
Predsedatelyu Ismailovu I.I.

3) Minister of Justice of the Azerbaydzhani Republic - Alisaad Saftar ogly Orudzhev:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika
370601 g. Baku

pr. Kirova, 13
Ministerstvo yustitsii Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki
Ministru Orudzhevu A.S.

4) Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaydzhani Republic

- Guseynaga Sadykhov:

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika

g. Baku

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki

Ministru Sadykhovu G.

and to diplomatic representatives of the Azerbaydzhani Republic in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 6 May 1992.