

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: EUR 56/06/92**

**Distr: UA/SC**

**EXTRA 101/92**

**Fear of Imminent Execution**

**19 November 1992**

**REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA:**

**Gia KHACHIRASHVILI**

---

Amnesty International fears that Gia Khachirashvili faces imminent execution after being sentenced to death for treason by a Georgian court martial in the disputed region of Abkhazia.

According to the Russian news agency Interfax, Gia Khachirashvili is an ethnic Georgian accused of siding with the Abkhazians in the current armed conflict with Georgian Government forces. He was sentenced to death in Sukhumi, the Abkhazian capital, which is in Georgian Government hands. In the same report an ethnic Russian, Vitaly Gladikh, is said to have been sentenced to death on 14 November 1992 by a Georgian court martial in Sukhumi, and shot the same day, after he was accused of being a mercenary for the Abkhazian side.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases and without reservation. It is calling on the Georgian authorities to commute the death sentence passed on Gia Khachirashvili, and on all others awaiting execution.

The organization is also urging that all those sentenced to death are granted the right to appeal to a court of higher jurisdiction, in line with internationally agreed human rights standards.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Abkhazia is a region in the north-west of Georgia whose Abkhaz-speaking minority have been seeking further autonomy. Tension between the authorities there and the Georgian Government came to a head in August 1992 when Georgian forces entered the region. Over 400 people are said to have died in fighting since then.

In February 1992 Georgia became the first republic of the former USSR to abolish the death penalty completely when it restored its 1922 Constitution. However in May the death penalty was reintroduced for a number of offences.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express and airmail letters either in Russian, English or in your own language:**

- urging the commutation of the death sentence passed on Gia Khachirashvili, and on all others awaiting execution;
- urging that all those sentenced to death are granted the right of appeal to a court of higher jurisdiction, in line with internationally agreed human rights standards;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**APPEALS TO**

1. Minister of Defence

Tengiz Kitovani

Tbilisi

Republic of Georgia

**Telegrams: Gruzija, Tbilisi, Minoborony, Kitovani T.**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

page 2 of EXTRA 101/92

2. Georgy Khaindrava (Georgian Government's special representative in Abkhazia)

Emergency Plenipotentiary of

Georgian Government in Abkhazia

Sukhumi

Abkhazia

Republic of Georgia

**Telegrams: Gruzija, Abkhaziya, Sukhumi, chrezpolnomoch. Khaindrava G.**

**Salutation: Dear Plenipotentiary**

3. Military Procurator of the Republic of Georgia

Tbilisi

Republic of Georgia

**Telegrams: Gruzija, Tbilisi, Prokuratura Gruzii, Voenprokuroru**

**Salutation: Dear Military Procurator**

4. Military Commandant of Sukhumi

Major Revaz Dalidze

Military Commandant of Sukhumi

Sukhumi

Abkhazia

Republic of Georgia

**Telegrams: Gruzija, Abkhaziya, Sukhumi, Voenkomendantu Dalidze R.**

**Salutation: Dear Military Commandant**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Chairman of the State Committee for Human Rights and Ethnic Relations:

Alexander Kavsadze

7 P. Ingorovka Street

Tbilisi 380034

Republic of Georgia

**Faxes: (78832) 997649**

Minister of Justice of the Republic of Georgia:

Johny Khetsuriani

Rustaveli 30

Tbilisi

Republic of Georgia

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia

Alexander Chikvaidze

Tbilisi

Republic of Georgia

**Faxes: (78832) 997242**

and to diplomatic representatives of Georgia accredited to your country (in most instances Georgia's diplomatic interests are being handled by embassies of the Russian Federation).

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 December 1992.