

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on EXTRA 49/93 (EUR 59/01/93, 24 May 1993) - and follow-up:
EUR 59/03/93, 15 October 1993

- Legal Concern/Death Penalty

MOLDOVA: Ilie ILASCU

Alexandru LESCO
Tudor PETROV-POPOV
Andrei IVANTOC
Petre GODIAC
Vladimir (Viaceslav) GARBUZ

On 9 December 1993 the Supreme Court of the self-proclaimed Dnestr-Moldovan Republic (DMR) sentenced Ilie Ilascu to death, and his five co-defendants to terms of imprisonment ranging from two to 15 years'. The six men had been accused of terrorist acts, including the murder of two DMR officials, in a trial which opened in April 1993. According to initial reports, the sentences were passed without right of appeal, and Amnesty International fears that Ilie Ilascu may therefore face imminent execution.

Amnesty International is also concerned that the six men may not have received a fair trial in line with international standards, amid allegations that some were initially denied access to a defence lawyer and were beaten or otherwise ill-treated in order to extract confessions. All except Vladimir Garbuz pleaded not guilty and withdrew any confessions made on the grounds that they had been made under duress.

An area in the east of the former Soviet republic of Moldova, the DMR is not recognized internationally and does not itself recognize the authority of the Moldovan court system on the territory it controls. Amnesty International takes no position on territorial disputes and is approaching the DMR officials solely in their position as *de facto* authority over the area of Moldova under their control. It is urging the DMR authorities not to carry out the death sentence on Ilie Ilascu.

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

- urging the DMR authorities to commute the death sentence passed on Ilie Ilascu;
- expressing concern that Ilie Ilascu appears to have been denied the right to appeal against his death sentence to a court of higher jurisdiction, in accordance with internationally-agreed human rights standards;
- urging a comprehensive investigation into allegations that the confessions of Alexandru Lesco, Tudor Petrov-Popa, Andrei Ivantoc and Petre Godiac were extracted under duress.

APPEALS TO:

1) Igor Nikolayevich Smirnov
President
Dom sovetov
ul. 25 oktyabrya, 101
278000 Tiraspol
Moldova

Telegrams: Moldova, 278000 Tiraspol, ul. 25 oktyabrya, Prezidentu Smirnovu I.N.

Salutation: Dear President

2) Boris Luchik
Procurator
ul. 25 oktyabrya, 101
278000 Tiraspol
Moldova

Telegrams: Moldova, 278000 Tiraspol, ul. 25 oktyabrya, Prokuroru Luchiku B.

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Dumitru Postovan
Procurator General
Procuratura Republicii Moldova
str. Mitropolit Banulescu-Bodoni, 26
277612 or. Chisinau, Moldova

Ion Podnaru
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Moldova
Piata Marii Advnari Nationale 1
277033 Chisinau
Moldova

Faxes: +0422 232302

and to diplomatic representatives, if any, of Moldova accredited to your country (usually to be found at the Russian Embassy, formally the Embassy of the USSR).

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 January 1993.