

PRIORITY

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: EUR 46/72/91
Distr: UA/SC**

UA 365/91

Fear of imminent execution

31 October 1991

USSR

**V. DZYABURA
A. MAEVSKY
V. KOZACHKA**

Amnesty International is concerned that V. Dzyabura, A. Maevsky and V. Kozachka may face imminent execution. On 29 October the Soviet daily newspaper Izvestiya reported that these three men were sentenced to death on 11 June 1991 by a military tribunal in the Odessa military district in the Ukraine, after being convicted of the murder of seven soldiers. In late October the Military Cases Collegium of the USSR Supreme Court rejected their petitions for clemency. Their final petitions for clemency are due to be considered in the very near future by President Gorbachov, who has the ultimate authority to decide whether they should be granted. If not V. Dzyabura, A. Maevsky and V. Kozachka will face imminent execution.

According to the newspaper report, the murders took place on 9 October 1990, when V. Dzyabura, A. Maevsky and V. Kozachka, who were performing military service in the Odessa military district, attempted to desert from the army without being discovered. In attempting to do so they shot and beat to death seven other soldiers and officers who were on guard duty at the depot where the three men were also frequently posted. V. Dzyabura, A. Maevsky and V. Kozachka are awaiting the outcome of their clemency petitions in a prison in the Crimea.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Soviet parliament adopted legislation in July 1991 reducing the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty in peacetime from 18 to five. The figure of 445 death sentences passed in the USSR in 1990, however, showed a marked increase on the previous year's figure of 276. Amnesty International is opposed to the death penalty in all cases 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 President of the USSR to exercise his constitutional authority and commute the death sentence passed on V. Dzyabura, A. Maevsky and V. Kozachka.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telephone calls/express letters:

- appealing for clemency on behalf of V. Dzyabura, A. Maevsky and V. Kozachka;

-welcoming the reduction in the scope of crimes punishable by the death penalty and urging a further review of the death penalty, leading to its complete abolition.

APPEALS TO:

1. President of the USSR, Mikhail Sergeyevich GORBACHOV

SSSR, RSFSR

Dear President Gorbachov

Moskva

Kreml

Prezidentu GORBACHOVU M.S.

Telegrams: SSSR, RSFSR, Moskva, Kreml

Prezidentu GORBACHOVU M.S.

2. Chairman of the Clemency Commission at the USSR Supreme Soviet, Nikolay Semyonovich GLAZKOV

SSSR, RSFSR

Dear Chairman Glazkov

g. Moskva

Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya

Prezidiuma Verkhovnogo Soveta SSSR

Predsedatelyu GLAZKOVU N.S.

Telephone. 291 73 55

Telegrams: SSSR, RSFSR, Moskva, Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya

prezidiuma Verkhovnogo Soveta SSR, Predsedatelyu Glaskovu N.S.

COPIES TO:

1. Chief Military Procurator of the USSR, name not known

SSSR, RSFSR

103793 Moskva

ul. Myasnitskaya, 41

Voyennaya prokuratura SSSR

Glavnomu voyennomu prokuroru

2. Chairman of the Military Cases Collegium of the USSR Supreme Court, Nikolay Aleksandrovich PETUKHOV

SSSR, RSFSR

g. Moskva

ul. Vorovskogo, 15

Verkhovny Sud SSSR

Kollegiya po voyennym delam

Predsedatelyu PETUKHOVU N.A.

3. Military Procurator of Odessa Military District

SSSR, Ukraina

Odesskaya oblast

g. Odessa

Odessky voyenny okrug

Voyennomu prokuroru

4. Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, Sergey KOVALYOV

SSSR, RSFSR

103274 Moskva

Krasnopresnenskaya nab., 2

Komitet po pravam cheloveka pri

Verkhovnom Sovete RSFSR

Predsedatelyu KOVALYOVU S.A.

5. Editor-in-Chief of Izvestiya, Nikolay YEFIMOV

SSSR, RSFSR
103791 Mosvka K-6
Pushkinskaya pl., 5
Izvestiya
Glavnomu redaktoru YEFIMOVU N.

and to diplomatic representatives of the USSR in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 15 December 1991.