

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 46/02/97

13 February 1997

Further information on UA 294/96 (EUR 46/54/96, 17 December 1996) - Prisoner of Conscience / Health concern

RUSSIAN FEDERATION Yury Shadrin, human rights defender

---

Yury Shadrin, the respected Russian human rights advocate and public defender arrested on 29 November 1996 in the Siberian city of Omsk, was released on 31 December. However the charges against him remain (see original action).

It was reported that on 1 December Yury Shadrin filed a complaint requesting a court review of the legality of his arrest. In response to his repeated requests, the prison authorities gave him a document stating that his complaint had been sent to the court on 4 December. In fact, Yury Shadrin's complaint was filed with the court only on 10 December, after his defence lawyer had visited him in detention. This was a clear violation of Article 17(7) and Article 18 of the 1995 federal law governing the detention of persons suspected or accused of having committed offences, and of Article 46 of the Russian Constitution.

A number of Russian human rights organizations and advocates came forward to protest the arrest and detention of Yury Shadrin. In an unprecedented move, a group of former prisoners of conscience and political prisoners from the Stalinist camps announced that they would give back their rehabilitation certificates as victims of the political persecution during the Soviet era and would return the monetary compensation given to them by the government if Yury Shadrin was not released from detention by 31 December. At the end of December members of various Russian human rights organizations held pickets and protest meetings in Moscow in defence of Yury Shadrin. He was released from detention pending trial on 31 December, on the alleged personal initiative of Anatoly Chubais, head of the Presidential administration, but Yury Shadrin was not allowed to leave Omsk and the charges against him were not dropped.

Amnesty International continues to call for Yury Shadrin's release to be made unconditional, for all criminal charges against him to be dropped and to urge that he not be subjected to any further persecution for his human rights activities. The organization is not aware of any steps taken by the authorities to investigate Yury Shadrin's allegations of violations of the judicial process by Omsk judges, and continues to call for a prompt and impartial investigation into these allegations, and for the appropriate disciplinary actions to be taken against anyone found guilty.

No further action by the UA Network is requested. Thank you to all who sent appeals.