

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 50/06/97

EXTRA 17/97

Death penalty

11 February 1997

UKRAINERuslan Nikolaevich DOLUDA, aged 21

Amnesty International has learned that a petition for clemency filed on behalf of Ruslan Doluda is soon to be considered by the Clemency Commission and the President of Ukraine. This is the final stage of appeal against the death sentence, and therefore Ruslan Doluda's last hope of avoiding execution.

Ruslan Doluda was sentenced to death on 20 September 1996 by Kharkov Regional Court after having been found guilty of the murder of a taxi driver (Article 93 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine). The Supreme Court of Ukraine upheld the sentence on 24 December 1996.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In spite of Ukraine's pledge to impose a moratorium on executions on its accession to the Council of Europe in November 1995, Amnesty International received information from a department of the Ministry of Justice that Ukraine executed 167 people in 1996, in direct violation of this undertaking. On 29 January 1997, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe passed resolution 1112 (1997) condemning Ukraine for violating its commitment to put in place a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, and deploring the executions which took place in 1996. The resolution continued in paragraph 6, "*The Assembly warns the Ukrainian authorities that it will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with commitments entered into. In particular, should any more executions of the death penalty be carried out following the adoption of this resolution, the Assembly may consider the non-ratification of the credentials of the Ukrainian parliamentary delegation at its next session*".

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

To the President:

- urging him to grant clemency to Ruslan Doluda;
- expressing outrage at the high number of executions which were carried out in 1996 in direct violation of commitments Ukraine made to the Council of Europe;
- urging that an immediate moratorium on executions be announced publicly, and to ensure that all relevant officials are made aware of this.

To the Head of the Clemency Commission:

- urging the clemency commission to recommend clemency for Ruslan Doluda.

APPEALS TO:

President of Ukraine, Leonid KUCHMA

Ukraina

252601 Kiev

ul. Bankovaya, 7

Prezidentu Ukrainy Kuchma L.

Faxes: (380 44) 291 61 61

Telegrams: Ukraina, Kiev, Prezidentu Kuchma

Salutation: Dear President

Chairman of the Presidential Clemency Commission, Pyotr ANDREYCHENKO

Ukraina

252220 g. Kiev
ul. Bankovaya, 7

Kommissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya pri Prezidenta
Predsedatelyu Andreychenko P.

Telegrams: Ukraina, Kiev, Kommissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya, Predsedatelyu

Fax: (380 44) 291 61 61

Salutation: Dear Chairman

COPIES TO:

Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Hennady UDOVENKO

Ukraina

252501 g. Kiev 24

ul. Karla Liebknecht 15/1

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Ukrainy

Ministru UDOVENKO H.Y

Procurator General of Ukraine, Grigory VORSINOV

Ukraina

252601 g. Kiev II

ul. Reznitskaya, 13/15

Prokuratura Ukrainy

Generalnomu prokuroru VORSINOVU G.

Fax: (380 44) 290 26 03

Minister of Justice of Ukraine, Serhiy Holovatiy

Ukraina

252030 g. Kiev

Ul. Kotsyubinskogo, d. 12

Ministerstvo yustitsii Ukrainy

Ministru HOLOVATOMU S.

Telegrams: Ukraina, Kiev, Ministry yustitsii

Salutation: Dear Minister,

and to diplomatic representatives of Ukraine accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 March 1997.