

URGENT ACTION

DETAINEE DIES IN UKRAINE

Georgian citizen Tamaz Kardava, who was photographed on 30 March being brought on a stretcher to a hearing at his recent trial in Ukraine, died in hospital on 7 April.

Tamaz Kardava was transferred from pre-trial detention in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, to the detainees' ward of the Kyiv emergency hospital on 2 April. On 6 April, his sister and lawyer went to Shevchenkovskiy regional court to request that Tamaz Kardava be released but while there they received a call to say that he had lost consciousness due to liver failure and that he probably would not survive until the evening.

They rushed to the hospital where, after some delay, they were given access to Tamaz Kardava's room. He was sharing the room with two other men and a young woman in conditions which his lawyer alleges were very unhygienic. His lawyer also maintains that from 3 April to 5 April no doctor had checked Tamaz Kardava's condition.

Despite Tamaz Kardava undergoing an operation on 6 April to remove fluid from his lungs, which temporarily eased his breathing, he died the next morning.

Tamaz Kardava was a refugee from the conflict in Abkhazia in the 1990s. He had been detained in Ukraine since August 2008, when he was already suffering from Hepatitis C. He was allegedly tortured in Shevchenkovskiy district police station in Kyiv to force him to confess to burglary. Medical reports confirm that he had been badly beaten and raped with a police baton.

Tamaz Kardava had reportedly been denied any specialized medical treatment for his condition in the last two months and his state of health had deteriorated dramatically. During his trial on 30 March, he spent six hours lying on the floor in the court room on a stretcher.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is requested.

This is the first update of UA 75/10 (EUR 50/005/2010). Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR50/005/2010/en>

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