

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of imminent execution

16 May 1995

UKRAINE

Aleksey Alekseyevich PETROV, aged 27
(in Russian)

Aleksey Alekseyevich Petrov faces imminent execution unless his sentence is commuted by the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma. His appeal against his death sentence was turned down by the Ukrainian Supreme Court on 20 April 1995.

Aleksey Petrov was sentenced to death for attempted premeditated murder (Articles 17-93 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code) by the Zhitomir regional court on 8 February 1995. According to his mother, Aleksey Petrov has had mental health problems since childhood. Doubts about his state of mind reportedly caused the court of first instance to return the criminal case against him for additional investigation. Notwithstanding the fact that he was eventually considered to be of sound mind, the psychiatrist who provided the expert medical testimony pointed to the fact that Aleksey Petrov had behavioural problems.

At present very few details about the crime are known but according to his mother, Aleksey Petrov helped his victims after he committed the crime. He called an ambulance, helped carry the stretchers and offered his blood for transfusion. One of his victims appealed to the Ukrainian Supreme Court not to execute Aleksey Petrov but this plea was rejected.

To Amnesty International's knowledge this is one of very few instances in which a death sentence was passed for **attempted** premeditated murder in Ukraine.

Amnesty International is opposed to the death penalty, in all cases and 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. The organisation is appealing to the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, to commute Aleksey Petrov's death sentence.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English, Ukrainian or Russian, without delay:

- urging President Kuchma to grant clemency to Aleksey Petrov and to commute his death sentence;
- urging President Kuchma to commute all other death sentences that come before him.

APPEALS TO

President of Ukraine, Leonid Danilovich Kuchma

Ukraina

252220 Kiev

ul. Bankovaya, 7

Prezidentu Ukrainy Kuchme L.D.

Telegrams: Ukraina, 252220 Kiev, ul. Bankovaya, Prezidentu

Faxes: +380 44 291 61 61 (Please note that the country code has been changed; also that you may have to try this number several times before a connection is made)

Salutation: Dear President

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Chairman of the Presidential Clemency Commission
Ukraina
252220 Kiev
ul. Bankovaya, 7
Apparat Prezidenta Ukrainy
Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya pri Prezidente
Predsedatelyu
Faxes: +380 44 291 61 61

Chairman of the Supreme Court of Ukraine, Vitaly Boyko
Ukraina
252601 Kiev 24 GSP
ul. M. Grushevskogo
Verkhovny Sud Ukrainy
Predsedatelyu Boyko V.

Head of the Department for Citizenship and Clemency Issues at Ukraine's
Presidential Administration, P.A. Andreychenko
Ukraina
252220 Kiev
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Otdel po voprosam grazhdanstva i pomilovaniya
pri administratsii Prezidenta Ukrainy
Zaveduyushchemu otделom Andreychenko P.A.
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Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Hennady Yosifovich Udovenko
Ukraina
252501 Kiev 24
ul. Karla Liebknecht, 15/1
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del Ukrainy
Ministru Udovenko H.Y.
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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 16 June 1995.