

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Penalty

17 July 1992

REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA:

Mr Talyschanov (first name not known)

Amnesty International is concerned that Mr Talyschanov may soon be executed. He has already petitioned the Presidium of the Supreme Council for clemency and his petition has been rejected. It is believed that his petition may be resubmitted.

Mr Talyschanov was convicted of the murder of a military school cadet and of a taxi-driver. Amnesty International has no further details concerning his case.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

New information on the death penalty in the Republic of Estonia was given to Amnesty International by the Chairman of the Supreme Court earlier this year.

According to this information a revision of the criminal code came into force on 1 June. The death penalty is retained for three crimes: aggravated murder, assassination and acts of terrorism. During the period 1989-91 three persons were sentenced to death in Estonia, all for the crime of premeditated murder under aggravated circumstances. In one case clemency was granted; in another the sentence was carried out; and in the third execution had been delayed until the adoption of the new criminal code. It is believed that the third case may be that of Mr Talyschanov.

The submission of a petition for clemency is the final stage of the judicial process for capital offences in the Republic of Estonia.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- appealing for commutation of the death sentence passed on Mr Talyschanov;
- explaining Amnesty International's opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances without exception;
- urging the authorities in the Republic of Estonia to consider the complete abolition of the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

1. The Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Estonia

Arnold Rüütel
Chairman of the Supreme Council
Lossi plats 1A
Tallinn EE0100
Republic of Estonia
Telegrams: Chairman Supreme Council, Tallinn, Estonia
Telephone: + 7 0142 426 200
Faxes: + 7 0142 436 389
Telex: 173647 VIKING

Salutation: Dear Chairman

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2. The Procurator General of the Republic of Estonia

Leo Urge
Procurator General
Wismari 7
Tallinn EE0100
Republic of Estonia
Telegrams: Procurator General, Tallinn, Estonia
Telephone: + 7 0142 445 226

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

3. The Chair of the Parliamentary Legal Committee

Tonu Anton
Chair, Legal Committee of the
Estonian Supreme Council
Lossi plats 1A
Tallinn EE0100
Republic of Estonia
Telegrams: Chairman Legal Committee, Supreme Council, Tallinn, Estonia
Telephone: + 7 0142 606 318

Salutation: Dear Chairman

4. The Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Estonia

Robert Närska
Minister of the Interior
Pikk 61
Tallinn EE0101
Republic of Estonia
Telegrams: Minister of Interior, Tallinn, Estonia
Telephone: + 7 0142 663 262
Faxes: + 7 0142 602 785

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Diplomatic representatives of the Republic of Estonia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 August 1992.