

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 57/09/97

23 April 1997

Further information (4) on EXTRA 07/97 (EUR 57/02/97, 22 January 1997) and follow-ups (EUR 57/03/97, 27 January 1997; EUR 57/04/97, 5 February 1997; EUR 57/07/97, 1 April 1997) - Fear of imminent execution

KAZAKSTAN Oleg Amiranovich GOROZASHVILI, aged 27

There has been a disturbing new development in the case of Oleg Gorozashvili, who is under sentence of death in Kazakhstan. Amnesty International has learned that on 22 April 1997 Oleg Gorozashvili was transferred from the prison in Ust-Kamenogorsk, East Kazakhstan Region, where he has been on death row. It is believed that he is being taken to Almaty, the capital. The most likely reason for such a transfer is that he is being taken to his place of execution.

Since the journey from Ust-Kamenogorsk to Almaty may take up to two days, there may still be time to save Oleg Gorozashvili.

Previous lobbying, including by Amnesty International, had forced the authorities in January to suspend Oleg Gorozashvili's transfer to the place of execution, and it appeared that the authorities would review the case in the light of allegations of serious investigative and judicial errors, including forced confession. On 7 April Oleg Gorozashvili's lawyer submitted a petition for judicial review to the Supreme Court, and this has yet to be considered. However, Kazakstani law does not automatically require that a stay of execution be put in place while such a review takes place.

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

To the President of Kazakhstan

- urging that he reconsider his decision not to grant clemency to Oleg Gorozashvili, and commute this and all other pending death sentences;
- stressing that there is widespread international concern that the Kazakstani authorities may commit a grave and irreversible miscarriage of justice if they execute Oleg Gorozashvili.

To the Chairman of the Supreme Court

- urging the court to conduct a judicial review of the case of Oleg Gorozashvili as a matter of urgency, in view of the allegations of violations of investigative and judicial procedure;
- urging that Oleg Gorozashvili's execution be stayed pending the outcome of this judicial review.

APPEALS TO:

The President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev

Respublika Kazakhstan

480091 g. Almaty (Alma-Ata)

Pl. Respubliki, 4

Prezidentu Respubliki Kazakhstan NAZARBAYEVU N.A.

Telegrams: President Nazarbayev, Office of the President, 480091 Almaty, Kazakhstan

Faxes: +7 3272-63 76 33; +7 3272-63 70 33

Salutation: Dear President

The Chairman of the Supreme Court of Kazakstan, Maksud Narikbayev

Respublika Kazakhstan

480103 g. Almaty (Alma-Ata)

ul. Sovetskaya, 66

Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Kazakhstan

Predsedatelyu NARIKBAYEVU M.S.

Telegrams: Chairman Narikbayev, Supreme Court, 480103 Almaty, Kazakstan

Salutation: Dear Chairman

COPIES TO:

The Head of the Presidential Clemency Commission of Kazakstan, Igor Rogov

Respublika Kazakhstan

480091 g. Almaty

pl. Respubliki, 4

Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya

Zaveduyushemu otделom ROGOVU I.

Faxes: +7 3272-63 76 33; +7 3272-63 70 33

Telegrams: Kazakstan, Almaty, Komissiya pomilovaniya

Salutation: Dear Sir

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan, Kasymzhomart Kemel-uly
Tokayev

Respublika Kazakhstan

g. Almaty (Alma-Ata)

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del Respubliki Kazakhstan

Ministru TOKAYEVU K.K.

Faxes: +7 3272-63 13 87

and to diplomatic representatives of Kazakstan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.