



To: Health Professional Network  
From: Health and Human Rights Team  
Date: 12 April 2007

### **Health Professional Action**

**Mikhail Trepashkin**

**Denial of Health Care**

**Russian Federation**

(See earlier information in EUR 46/005/2007; EUR 46/027/2006, 31 May 2006; EUR 46/006/2007, 8 February 2007 and EUR 46/067/2006, 12 December 2006)

#### **Summary**

A recent court decision to transfer Mikhail Trepashkin from the open prison colony in the IK 13 complex to the standard prison colony in IK 13 risks worsening his already precarious state of health. Conditions in the standard prison colony – and in the investigation centre where Mikhail Trepashkin is currently held awaiting judicial decision on his appeal regarding the transfer – are considered to be harsher than in the open prison colony, and medical provision is no better. Mikhail Trepashkin has not received adequate health treatment for chronic, life-threatening asthma despite the fact that the head of the health department confirmed that the prison lacked adequate health provision and repeatedly stated that Mikhail Trepashkin should be transferred to a hospital. In May 2006 Mikhail Trepashkin was provisionally diagnosed with a form of bronchial asthma which, under the criminal administration code and an instruction of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, would allow for him to be released from prison due to serious health concerns.

#### **Background information**

Mikhail Trepashkin, a lawyer and former security service officer, was convicted in May 2004 of “divulging state secrets” and “illegal possession of ammunition”. His trial failed to meet international standards, and AI has repeatedly called for a full review of his case. On 9 March 2007, a district court in Nizhnii Tagil in the Sverdlovsk Region of the Russian Federation decided that Mikhail Trepashkin should be transferred to a standard prison colony, which has

a stricter regime than that of the open prison colony in the IK 13 complex where he has been held until recently. His lawyers and human rights activists in Russia are concerned that the proposed transfer of Mikhail Trepashkin to a stricter prison colony for alleged violations of the prison rules is politically motivated and that it is an attempt to prevent him from having access to lawyers, human rights activists, journalists and to the public.

Mikhail Trepashkin's state of health has been an ongoing concern and the subject of a number of AI actions. According to Mikhail Trepashkin's lawyer who visits him every few weeks, he is suffering from asthma attacks on a near-daily basis, particular at night. He was also suffering from pain in the area of his heart. The lawyer stated that he looked very ill during her visit on 24 November 2006. He was very pale and had dark circles around his eyes. AI has received medical advice stating that an individual experiencing this intensity of asthmatic attacks and not receiving adequate medical care is at risk of, at the very least, further serious respiratory illness, and at worst sudden death.

It is feared that Mikhail Trepashkin's health may be further undermined by a lack of a provision of food of nutritional value adequate for health and strength, as stipulated in the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Whereas prisoners at the open prison colony are able to supplement their diet, this is denied to prisoners held at the prison colony who are provided with a diet that may not meet their nutritional needs.

### **Recommended actions**

Please write to the authorities below, in Russian, English or your own language using the following as a guideline:

- Explain that you are a health professional and are writing about the case of Mikhail Trepashkin, currently held in an investigation centre at IK13. If you have written to the authorities about this case before, please state that your concern is ongoing.
- Express concern about the deteriorating health of Mikhail Trepashkin, and urge the prison authorities to send him to hospital immediately for necessary medical treatment.
- Express concern about the transfer of Mikhail Trepashkin to a standard prison colony where conditions fail to meet those set out in the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.
- Reiterate AI's concerns that Mikhail Trepashkin may have been convicted following an unfair trial and calling upon the authorities to release him from detention immediately pending a full review of this case.
- Invite a response.

### **Addresses**

Yuri CHAIKA  
Procurator General of the Russian Federation  
103793 Moskva, Ul. Bolshaya Dimitrovka 15a,  
Fax: + 7 495 692 1725 (if someone answers, say "fax please")  
Salutation: Dear Procurator General

Pavel Pavlovich Kukushkin  
Procurator  
Procuracy of Sverdlovsk Region  
Ul. Moskovskaia 21  
620219 g. Yekaterinburg  
Russian Federation  
Fax: +7 343 377 0241  
Salutation: Dear Procurator

**Copies**

Please send copies of your letters to:

Yury Ivanovich KALININ  
Director  
Federal Service for the Execution of Punishments  
Ul. Zhitnaia 14  
119991 g. Moskva  
GSP - 1  
Russian Federation  
Fax: +7 495 982 1930  
Salutation: Dear Director

and to diplomatic representatives of the Russian Federation accredited to your country.

**Please send appeals immediately.**

If you receive no reply within six weeks of sending your letter, please send a follow-up letter seeking a response.

Please inform your section or structure and the Health and Human Rights team at the IS, if you take action in this case, and of any replies you receive.