

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 46/18/96

28 March 1996

**Further information (1) on UA 72/96 (EUR 46/15/96, 14 March 1996) - Fear of Forcible Repatriation / Fear for Safety**

**RUSSIA/GEORGIA Elgudzha Khutayevich MESKHIA, aged 38**  
**( \_\_\_\_\_ in Russian)**

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Amnesty International has learned that Elgudzha Meskhia was forcibly repatriated to Georgia on 19 March 1996.

On 15 March, a day after the original Urgent Action on behalf of Elgudzha Meskhia was issued, officers of the Georgian Security Services arrived at the temporary detention isolator (IVS) in Moscow where Elgudzha Meskhia was detained and requested that he be handed over to them. According to unofficial sources in Moscow their attempt was thwarted at the last moment by the intervention of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who had reportedly been alerted to Elgudzha Meskhia's case by AI appeals. An official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is reported to have warned the responsible authorities that they had to be more stringent in observing Russia's obligations under international law now that Russia had been accepted into the Council of Europe. Following this, the director of the IVS allegedly refused to hand over Elgudzha Meskhia to the Georgian officers.

However, four days later Georgia was successful in obtaining the extradition of Elgudzha Meskhia from Russia.

Amnesty International is now calling on the Georgian authorities to guarantee the safety of Elgudzha Meskhia. Elgudzha Meskhia had been seeking political asylum in Russia. He has been charged under Article 73, part 1 of the Georgian Criminal Code with being a member of an anti-state organization whose aim is the overthrow of the constitutional order in Georgia. He claims that his opposition activities in Georgia were not illegal.

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

to the Russian authorities:

- expressing regret at the Russian authorities' forcible repatriation of Elgudzha Meskhia despite fears that he will suffer serious human rights violations in Georgia;
- reminding the Russian authorities of their obligations under international law, in particular under the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

**APPEALS TO:**

Procurator General of the Russian Federation, Yuriy SKURATOV  
Rossiyskaya Federatsiya  
103793 g. Moskva K-31  
Ul. Dimitrovka, d. 15a  
Prokuratura Rossiyskoy Federatsii  
Generalnomu prokuroru Skuratovu Yu.

**Telegrams: Rossiya, 103793 Moskva, Generalnomu prokuroru Skuratovu**

**Faxes: + 7 095 292 88 48**

**Salutation: Dear Procurator General**

**COPIES TO:**

The President of Russia, Boris YELTSIN  
Rossiyskaya Federatsiya  
g. Moskva  
Kreml  
Prezidentu Rossii Yeltsinu B.  
**Faxes: +7 095 206 51 73**

Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Evgeny PRIMAKOV  
Rossiyskaya Federatsiya  
121200 g. Moskva  
Smolenskaya-Sennaya pl., 32/34  
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del  
Ministru Primakovu Ye.  
**Faxes: +7 095 244 1480**

To the Georgian authorities:

- urging the Georgian authorities to guarantee the safety of Elgudzha Meskhia and ensure that he is not submitted to torture or ill-treatment in detention.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Procurator General of Georgia, Dzhomlet BABILASHVILI  
Gruziya  
380033 g. Tbilisi  
ul. Gorgosali, 24  
Prokuratura Gruzii  
Generalnomu prokuroru Babilashvili D.  
**Telegrams: Gruziya, 380033 Tbilisi, Generalnomu prokuroru Babilashvili**  
**Fax: +7 8832 95 54 61**  
**Salutation: Dear Procurator General**

2) Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Maj-Gen Kakha TARGAMADZE  
Gruziya  
380014 g. Tbilisi  
ul. Generala Gia Gulua, 10  
Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del Gruzii  
Ministru TARGAMADZE K.  
**Telegrams: Gruziya, 380014 Tbilisi, Ministru vnutrennikh del Targamadze**  
**Faxes: +7 8832 99 65 32**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

The President of Georgia, Eduard SHEVARDNADZE  
Gruziya  
380018 g. Tbilisi  
pr. Rustaveli, 8  
Apparat Prezidenta Gruzii  
Prezidentu Shevardnadze E.

**Faxes: +7 8832 99 98 87**

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Irakli MENAGHARISHVILI

Gruziya

380018 g. Tbilisi

ul. Chitadze, 4

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del Gruzii

Ministru Menagharishvili I.

**Faxes: +7 8832 99 72 49**

and to diplomatic representatives of Russia and Georgia accredited to your country, as appropriate.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 May 1996.