

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 49/03/96

EXTRA 152/96

Death penalty

30 September 1996

BELARUS Igor Mirenkov, aged 27

Fears that Igor Mirenkov, sentenced to death on 9 August 1995, may be facing imminent execution have been heightened by an official statement that the death penalty is increasingly being used in Belarus, and that President Lukashenko has not granted clemency to a single death row prisoner during his two and a half years in office.

On 24 September 1996, Igar Andreyew, the first deputy chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Court reportedly told a press conference that 24 executions have been carried out since the beginning of 1996. He also gave other figures concerning the use of the death penalty in Belarus in recent years, and is quoted as saying "While in 1990 some 20 persons were sentenced to death, the figure went up to 40 in 1994 and 46 in 1995". He did not give details of the number of people sentenced to death in 1996.

Igor Mirenkov was sentenced to death by Svetlogorsk Regional Court for premeditated aggravated murder under article 100 of the Belarus Criminal Code.

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

- urging the Clemency Commission and the President to grant clemency to Igor Mirenkov, sentenced to death by Svetlogorsk Regional Court on 9 August 1995;
- expressing sympathy with the victims of violent crime and their families, but referring to the 1988 Study for the United Nations on the death penalty which concluded that the death penalty was not an effective deterrent for violent crimes;
- expressing concern at the very high rate of executions in Belarus during 1996, and reminding the Belarusian authorities that the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly resolution 1044 of 1994 calls for the abolition of the death penalty in states with guest status to the Council of Europe, as Belarus has, and for clemency in all countries.

APPEALS TO:

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko
Respublika Belarus
220010 g. Minsk
pl. Nezavisimosti, Apparat Prezidenta Respubliki Belarus
Prezidentu Respubliki Belarus, LUKASHENKO A.H
Telegrams: Belarus, Minsk, Prezidentu Lukashenko.A
Faxes: + 375 172 235825 (if voice ask for fax)
Salutation: Dear President

The Head of the Department for Applications for Clemency and Citizenship at the President's Administration, name not known
Respublika Belarus
220010 g. Minsk
Apparat Prezidenta Respubliki Belarus
Otdel po voprosam pomilovaniya i grazhdanstva
Zaveduyushchemu otdelom
(i.e. to the Head of department)
Faxes: + 375 172 235825 (if voice ask for fax)
Telegrams: Belarus, Minsk 220010, pl. Nezavisimosti, Otdel pomilovaniya, Zav.

Salutation: Dear Head of Department

COPIES TO:

The Chairman of the Supreme Court of Belarus, Vladimir S. Karavay
Respublika Belarus
220030 g. Minsk
Ul. Lenina, 28
Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Belarus
Predsedatelyu KARAVAYU V.S.

The Acting Procurator General of Belarus, Vasiliy Stepanovich KAPITAN
Respublika Belarus
220050 g. Minsk
Ul. Internatsionalnaya, 22
Prokuratura Respubliki Belarus
I.o Generalnogo prokurora
KAPITANU V.S
Fax: + 375 172 264166

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Ulazimir SYANKO
Respublika Belarus
220030 g.Minsk
Ul. Lenina, 19
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del
Respubliki Belarus
Ministry SYANKO U.
Fax: + 375 172 274521

The Chairman of the Commission for Human Rights in the CIS, name not known
Respublika Belarus
220000 g.Minsk
Ul. Kirova, 17
Kommissiya po pravam cheloveka SNG
Predsedatelyu

and to diplomatic representatives of Belarus accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 October 1996.