

Public

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To: Health Professional Network

From: Health and Human Rights Team

Date: 2 February 2007

Health Professional Action

Mikhail Trepashkin

Russian Federation

(See earlier information in EUR 46/027/2006, 31 May 2006 and EUR 46/067/2006, 12 December 2006)

Summary

Mikhail Trepashkin, imprisoned at IK 13, an open prison colony located in Sverdlovsk Region, is being denied access to adequate medical treatment for chronic, life-threatening asthma. According to Mikhail Trepashkin's lawyers, the head of the health department of the prison has stated repeatedly that Mikhail Trepashkin needs to be transferred to a hospital as the prison is unable to provide adequate treatment. This was very evident last October when Mikhail Trepashkin suffered an especially serious asthmatic attack, lost consciousness and stopped breathing. An ambulance had to be called from outside the prison because medical staff in the prison colony were unable to provide adequate medical treatment. The head of the prison reportedly continues to object to such a transfer.

Background information

Mikhail Trepashkin, a lawyer and former security service officer, was convicted in May 2004. His trial failed to meet international standards, and AI has repeatedly called for a full review of his case.

In May and October 2006 Mikhail Trepashkin, was reportedly preliminarily diagnosed with a level of asthma which, under Russian law, allows him to be transferred to a hospital for treatment and to be considered for early release. However, according to Mikhail Trepashkin's lawyers, prison authorities refuse to allow for a full and thorough independent medical examination and will not give his lawyers a copy of an initial medical diagnosis done in May and October 2006, which hinders his lawyers from contesting the refusal to transfer him.

Mikhail Trepashkin has also been placed in a punishment cell repeatedly, apparently for demanding to be treated as defined by law. He reportedly developed further health problems due to the harsh conditions. According to his lawyers, hygienic conditions are bad even in normal cells, and they are infested with cockroaches and rats. In punishment cells prisoners are not allowed to sit down during the day and the cells are not heated or ventilated, even when temperatures are below zero or above 30 degrees Celsius.

According to Mikhail Trepashkin's lawyer who visited him on 24 November 2006, he had been suffering from asthma attacks on a daily basis, in particular at night, for over three months. He is also suffering from pain in the area of his heart. The lawyer stated that he looked very ill during her visit on 24 November. He was very pale and had dark circles around his eyes. According to medical advice given to Amnesty International, 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.

In recent letters to Amnesty International Mikhail Trepashkin claims that his health has deteriorated. He also informed Amnesty International that other detainees told him they had been asked to start a fight with him and to beat him up in exchange for some privileges. An official from the prison colony reportedly "jokingly" told one of Mikhail Trepashkin's lawyers that Mikhail Trepashkin would be buried in the colony.

The procuracy in Sverdlovsk Region informed Amnesty International in a letter received in June this year that Mikhail Trepashkin was treated according to his needs and that they did not find any violations of his rights while in detention.

Recommended action

Please write to the authorities below, using the following as a guideline:

- Explain that you are a health professional and are writing about the case of Mikhail Trepashkin, held in prison colony IK13. If you have written to the authorities on this case before, please state that your concern is ongoing.
- Express concern about continuous reports about the poor conditions of detention in IK13 and especially the deteriorating health of Mikhail Trepashkin.
- Urge the Russian authorities to provide Mikhail Trepashkin with necessary medical treatment immediately.
- Ask for an investigation into allegations that Mikhail Trepashkin is deliberately denied access to necessary medical treatment and that other detainees have been asked to harm him.
- Reiterate AI's concerns that Mikhail Trepashkin may have been convicted following an unfair trial and calling upon the authorities to release Mikhail Trepashkin from detention immediately pending a full review of this case.
- Invite a response.

Addresses

|Head of the Federal Service for the Execution of Punishments of the Russian Federation
Yury 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

Yuri CHAIKA
Procurator General of the Russian Federation
103793 Moskva
Ul. Bolshaya Dimitrovka 15a
Generalnomu Prokuroru Rossiyskoy Federatsii
Yuriu Chaika
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Fax: + 7 495 692 1725 (if someone answers say "fax please")
http://www.genproc.gov.ru/
Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

Procuracy of Sverdlovsk region

Ul. Moskovskaia 21
GSP 1036
620219 g. Yekaterinburg
Russian Federation

Please also write to diplomatic representatives of the Russian Federation accredited to your country.

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.