

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 49/07/95

21 November 1995

Further information on UA 239/95 (EUR 49/06/95, 18 October 1995) - Fear of imminent execution

BELARUS Igor Yurevich Kopytin, aged 24
(???? ??????? ??????? in Russian)

Amnesty International has received more information on the case of Igor Yurevich Kopytin, prisoner on death row in Belarus. Igor Kopytin, a radio technician by profession, has been in detention since 15 September 1993.

It is now known that Igor Kopytin's appeal against his death sentence to the Supreme Court was turned down on 1 September 1995, and that his last hope of avoiding execution depends the President of Belarus upholding his petition for clemency.

Igor Kopytin was convicted of premeditated, aggravated murder (Article 100 of the Belarus Criminal Code) by the Regional Court of Vitebsk on 30 January 1995. He was found guilty of murdering a woman during a robbery he took part in along with two other men. He pleaded not guilty, and he and his mother strongly protest his innocence, and claim that the court proceedings were unfair.

Igor Kopytin's mother has written a letter to Amnesty International in which she expresses her gratitude that people in other countries are willing to appeal on behalf of her son: (translation) "*As a mother, I would like to say a big thank you for your attention and efforts to help myself and my son in our sorrow... It must mean that not everything is so bad in this world, if there are still people who are able to feel and understand someone else's sorrow and pain, if there are still people who try to help a stranger who is far-away.*"

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

- urging President Lukashenko to grant clemency to Igor Kopytin and to commute his death sentence;
- expressing sympathy for victims of violent crime, but stating your opposition to the death penalty in all cases, pointing out that it has never been shown to be an effective deterrent to such crimes;
- urging President Lukashenko to commute all other death sentences that come before him.

APPEALS TO

Note: The first fax number given is the old code; if you are unable to get through on this number, please try the second number given, the new Belarus code.

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: + 7 0172 235825 or + 375 172 235825
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: + 7 0172 235825 or + 375 172 235825

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, Vasilii Stepanovich KAPITAN

Respublika Belarus
220050 g. Minsk
Ul. Internatsionalnaya, 22
Prokuratura Respubliki Belarus
I.o Generalnogo prokurora
KAPITANU V.S

Faxes: + 7 0172 264166 or + 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.

Faxes: + 7 0172 274521 or + 375 172 274521

The Director of Prison 15/IZ -1, Minsk, name not known.

Respublika Belarus
220050 g.Minsk
ul. Volodarskovo, 2
UCH 15/IZ-1
Nachalniku

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 6 January 1996.

