

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 277/94 (EUR 56/07/94, 19 July 1994) - Fear of torture / Legal concern / Medical concern

GEORGIA Zaza TSIKLAURI

new names: Viktor DOMUKHOVSKY
 Mamuka DANELIA
 Zurab BARDZIMASHVILI

Amnesty International remains concerned that a group of 19 prisoners standing trial in Georgia on terrorism charges face ill-treatment or lack of appropriate medical care.

In June it was reported that one of the prisoners, Zaza Tsiklauri, was transferred back to prison from hospital as a punitive measure after an unauthorized meeting with a human rights activist. Since then it has been alleged that co-defendant Viktor Domukhovsky was beaten in his cell by police officers and that two others are not receiving adequate medical treatment.

The beating of Viktor Domukhovsky is said to have taken place in early August when police officers entered his cell and demanded that he hand over notes that he had made on the trial. When he refused they reportedly beat him with clubs and continued kicking him after he had fallen to the floor. He was said to be unable to stand properly at a subsequent court session.

At least two other prisoners in the group face medical problems. Zurab Bardzimashvili, who has invalidity status following a car accident, is said to have tried to commit suicide on the day of his arrest in October 1992, and twice since he has been in prison. He has been on a dry hunger-strike since 6 August 1994 in protest at the conduct of his case, but despite assurances to his lawyer he has not yet been moved from prison to hospital. The health of Mamuka Danelia, who suffers from a pre-existing condition in connection with head injuries, is said to have deteriorated during the two years he has now spent in custody.

The trial began in 1993, and Amnesty International is also concerned at reports that the defendants are not receiving a fair trial in line with international standards. Viktor Domukhovsky is one of four in the group who face charges carrying a possible death sentence and who allege their confessions were made under duress. Others report problems in obtaining a defence lawyer of their own choice.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams, express and airmail letters in English, Russian, Georgian, or your own language:

- urging the authorities to investigate swiftly and impartially the alleged beating of Viktor Domukhovsky, and all other similar reports, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- urging that Zaza Tsiklauri, Viktor Domukhovsky, Mamuka Danelia and Zurab Bardzimashvili receive all appropriate medical treatment;
- urging that all the defendants receive a fair trial in line with international standards.

APPEALS TO

Eduard Shevardnadze
Chairman of the Parliament
of the Republic of Georgia
Rustaveli 8
380018 Tbilisi, Georgia

Telegrams: Georgia, 380018 Tbilisi, Predsedatelyu Shevardnadze

Salutation: Dear Chairman

Dzhomlet Babilishvili
Procurator General
Gorgosali, 24
380033 Tbilisi, Georgia

Telegrams: Georgia, 380033 Tbilisi, Generalnomu Prokuroru Babilishvili Dzh.

Salutation: Dear Chairman

Shota Kviraya
Minister of Internal Affairs
Bolshaya Alleya, 10
380014 Tbilisi, Georgia

Telegrams: Georgia, 380014 Tbilisi, MVD, Ministru Kviraya Sh.

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Aleksandr Chikvaidze
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Chitadze, 4
380018 Tbilisi, Georgia

and to diplomatic representatives of Georgia, if any, accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 September 1994.