

# Martik Zhamkochyan Dies in Psychiatric Hospital

## Martik Zhamkochyan

Born - 1961/Died - July 1986

Home address:

Armenian SSR  
Yerevan

raion Nor-Aresh, d. 4-B, kv. 34

Martik Zhamkochyan graduated from a Polytechnical Institute, Department of Mines. He was given a special diploma issued to excellent students at his graduation. He started to practice Krishna Consciousness at a time when the persecution of Hare Krishna devotees in Armenia was particularly intense. Therefore, he preferred to practice secretly and not associate much with other devotees of Krishna. For this reason it is difficult to uncover the details of the tragedy of his death.

Before becoming a devotee of Krishna, Martik used to eat only raw vegetables and fruits. He was fasting for a few days in July 1986 when he was interned unexpectedly in a psychiatric hospital in the Sovetashen District of Yerevan. Armenian television presented a pro-

gram about Hare Krishna devotees. On that program the case of Martik Zhamkochyan was mentioned and how he died from fasting. The actual fact is that he died as a result of treatment in the Soviet psychiatric hospital.

When Martik was put into the psychiatric hospital he was force-fed raw eggs through a tube inserted down his throat. Simultaneously he was injected with large doses of psychopharmacological drugs (tizercine). After several days of such treatment Martik Zhamkochyan died.

The first couple of days of Martik's imprisonment in the psychiatric hospital, before the heavy injections began ruining his health, he was discussing the Hare Krishna philosophy with the other patients in the ward. He would not have been able to do this if he were "on the verge of death, half conscious due to fasting," as the Soviet authorities declared. Martik Zhamkochyan was killed by the so-called treatment he received in a Soviet psychiatric hospital. This treatment of force-feeding accompanied by drug injections had been used on four other Hare Krishna devotees earlier in 1986.□



*Armenian psychiatrists from the Sovetashen Psychiatric Hospital in Yerevan. On the right is Sedrak Zgrabovich TADEVOSYAN who is responsible for killing Martik ZHAMKOCYAN by injections in July 1986. Second from the left is Armen ARUTYUNYAN, Chief of the Forensic Psychiatry Department, who is responsible for torturing four other Soviet Hare Krishnas with injections and forced feeding.*