

PUBLIC

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22 March 2001

Further information on UA 32/01 (EUR 61/003/2001, 5 February 2001) and follow-ups (EUR 61/004/2001, 8 February; EUR 61/005/2001, 21 February 2001 and EUR 61/006/2001, 28 February 2001) - Imminent danger of death in custody/torture/ill-treatment

TURKMENISTAN Shagildy Atakov (_____), aged 39

Shagildy Atakov has reportedly been transferred back to the Seydi labour camp, where he is said to be held in a punishment cell.

According to a German-based Baptist organization, *Missionswerk Friedensstimme*, Voice of Peace Mission, Shagildy Atakov was moved from the prison hospital in Mary to Seydi labour camp on 1 March. He has apparently been placed in a punishment cell for one month. The official reason for this is not known. *Friedensstimme* have said that "The administration of the labour camp in Seydi has affirmed that Shagildy Atakov is well. But we don't know whether this is true. They are trying to isolate him more and more to prevent anyone from finding out about his actual state of health."

Shagildy Atakov's case has raised concern with the international community, and various organizations have sought to intervene on his behalf. On 12 February, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) asked to be allowed to visit Shagildy Atakov. They have not yet had a reply from the Turkmen government. On 23 February, the European Union called on the Turkmen foreign minister, Batyr Berdiyev, to free Atakov. On 15 March, the European Parliament issued a resolution calling on the Turkmen authorities "to release him immediately ... and allow the participation of international observers in this process".

Shagildy Atakov's family have said that support from the international community is their only hope. A Turkmen human rights defender in exile told Amnesty International: "I am sure that it is only thanks to pressure from the international community that Atakov is still alive."

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

- asking the Turkmen authorities whether Shagildy Atakov was transferred from Mary prison hospital to Seydi labour camp on 1 March;
- asking the Turkmen authorities whether he has been placed in a punishment cell, and, if so, to inform you why;
- asking the Turkmen authorities to inform you of his current state of health, and to ensure that he receives appropriate medical treatment in prison;
- urging the Turkmen authorities to grant international observers access to him;
- continuing to urge the authorities to carry out an impartial and comprehensive investigation into allegations that Shagildy Atakov has suffered repeated ill-treatment in custody, including inappropriate medical treatment, with the findings made public and those responsible brought to justice.

APPEALS TO (Please not that fax numbers can be difficult to obtain. If a voice answers, repeat 'fax' until connected):

President

Turkmenistan; 744000 g. Ashgabat; Apparat Prezidenta; Prezidentu NIYAZOVU S.A.;
TURKMENISTAN

Faxes: + 993 12 - 35 51 12 / 35 66 88 (it can be difficult to get a connection)
Telegrams: Prezidentu Niyazovu, 744000 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Salutation: Dear President Niyazov

Director of the Turkmen National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights
Turkmenistan; 744000 g. Ashgabat; ul. Karla Liebknechta, 47; Turkmensky
natsionalny institut demokratii i prav cheloveka; Direktoru KEPBANOVU E.;
TURKMENISTAN

Faxes: +993 12 - 35 06 77
emails: nidhr@online.tm
Telegrams: Direktoru Kepbanovu, Natsionalny institut demokratii, 744000
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Turkmenistan; 744000 g. Ashgabat; pr. Magtymguly, 83; Ministerstvo inostrannykh
del Turkmenistana; Ministru BERDIYEVU B.; TURKMENISTAN

Faxes: + 993 12 - 51 14 30 / 35 49 18
Telegrams: Ministru Berdiyevu, 744000 Ashgabat, pr. Magtymguly 83, Turkmenistan
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Procurator General

Turkmenistan; g. Ashgabat; ul. Seidi, 4; Prokuratura Turkmenistana; Generalnomu
prokuroru ATAYANOVY G.; TURKMENISTAN

Faxes: + 993 12 35 44 82
Telegrams: Prokuroru Atayanovoy, Prokuratura, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Salutation: Dear Procurator General

Director of the corrective labour camp in the town of Seydi

Turkmenistan; Lebapsky veloyat; 746222 g. Seydi; uchr. LV-K/12; Nachalniku
kolonii; TURKMENISTAN

and to diplomatic representatives Turkmenistan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 May 2001.