

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 61/10/97

16 July 1997

Further information on EXTRA 83/97 (EUR 61/06/97, 10 June 1997) - Fear of imminent execution / Possible prisoner of conscience

TURKMENISTAN Ashirgeldy SADYYEV, born 1962
(_____ in cyrillic)

Amnesty International has learned from a reliable unofficial source that Ashirgeldy Sadyev has had his death sentence commuted to a long prison term (believed to be 15 or 20 years). He was among 222 death row prisoners whose sentences were commuted under the terms of an amnesty decree issued by President Saparmurad Niyazov on 21 June 1997. Official confirmation of the commutation of these death sentences and of the names of those who it affects is currently being sought by the Urgent Action network working on death penalty cases in Turkmenistan.

Concerns that the charges of drug trafficking, of which Ashirgeldy Sadyev was convicted, are a politically-motivated fabrication are also being investigated by Amnesty International through other action techniques.

Thank you to all who sent appeals on behalf of Ashirgeldy Sadyev and contributed to saving his life. No further action is required from the Urgent Action network.