

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 61/11/97

31 July 1997

Further information on EXTRA 44/97 (EUR 61/03/97, 27 March 1997) and follow-up (EUR 61/09/97, 2 July 1997) - Death penalty: Fear of imminent execution

TURKMENISTAN Akhmed SARYGULOV ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
Yagshimurad (surname unknown) ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
Armen NERSISYAN ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
Amangeldy ATAGARYYEV ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
Murad GULLYYEV ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
Sakhit MUKHAMEDNIYAZOV ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

and new names: Gurbanmukhamed ALTYYEV ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
Ture MURADSHIROV ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
PULYYEV (first name unknown) ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
AKMAMEDOV (first name unknown) ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

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On 22 July 1997, a government newspaper in Turkmenistan reported that four people had been sentenced to death recently by the Mary Regional Court on charges of drug trafficking. The article did not provide the names of those involved.

These are the first new death sentences to come to the attention of Amnesty International since a presidential decree, issued on 21 June, commuted the death sentences of 222 people reportedly charged with drug-related crimes.

Based on information from unofficial sources, Amnesty International believes the four people to be Gurbanmukhamed Altyyev, Ture Muradshirov, and two men identified only by their surnames, Pulyyev and Akmamedov. Gurbanmukhamed Altyyev is known to have been tried separately from the other three (their cases are not connected). All were convicted of drug trafficking.

Amnesty International is still trying to ascertain whether the other six men, named above, benefited from the June 1997 commutations.

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

- urging commutation of the death sentences passed on Gurbanmukhamed Altyyev, Ture Muradshirov, Pulyyev and Akmamedov and of all other pending death sentences in Turkmenistan;
- requesting confirmation of reports that an amnesty decree of 21 June 1997 commuted the death sentences of 222 people and asking to be informed of the names of all persons who have had their death sentence commuted in this way;
- requesting clarification of the fate of Akhmed Sarygulov, Yagshirmurad, Armen Nersisyan, Amangeldy Atagaryyev, Murad Gullyyev and Sakhit Mukhametniyazov and for their death sentences to be commuted if they have not already benefited from the 21 June amnesty.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurad Atayevich Niyazov  
Turkmenistan  
744000 g. Ashgabat  
Apparat Prezidenta  
Prezidentu Turkmenistana  
NIYAZOVU S.A.

**Telegrams: President Niyazov, 744000 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**

**Faxes: +993 1 25 51 12 (N.B. it can be difficult to get a connection)**

**Salutation: Dear President Niyazov** (in Russian \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_!)

**COPIES TO:** Diplomatic representatives of Turkmenistan.

If none are accredited to your country (outside the Commonwealth of Independent States, we are aware of Turkmenistan embassies currently only in the USA, Turkey, France, Austria, the UK and Iran, but this list may not be exhaustive so we request that you check if possible), please send your appeals to one of the following embassies:

Embassy of Turkmenistan in the USA

2207 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington DC  
20008  
USA

**Faxes: +1 202 588 0697**

Embassy of Turkmenistan in Austria

Friedrich-Schmidtplatz 3  
A-1080 Wien  
Austria

**Faxes: +43 1 407 31 89**

Embassy of Turkmenistan in the United Kingdom

2nd floor, George House  
14-17 Wells Street  
London W1  
United Kingdom

**Faxes: +44 171 323 9184**

Embassy of Turkmenistan in the Russian Federation

Russian Federation  
Moscow  
ul. Aksakova, 22

**Faxes: +7 095 291 09 35**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 September 1997.