

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 61/005/2001

21 February 2001

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

TURKMENISTAN Shagildy ATAKOV

Shagildy Atakov has been moved from Seydi labour camp to a prison hospital in the town of Mary, apparently in response to international concern about the way his health has deteriorated in custody.

The director of the governmental National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights in Turkmenistan has reportedly spoken to representatives of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in the capital, Ashgabat. He assured them that he had requested that Shagildy Atakov receive appropriate medical treatment for the jaundice he is suffering from.

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

- welcoming Shagildy Atakov's transfer to Mary prison hospital, and continuing to urge the Turkmen authorities to ensure that he receives appropriate medical treatment;
- continuing to express concern at allegations that Shagildy Atakov appears to have been inappropriately treated with psychotropic drugs to punish him for his religious beliefs;
- 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 note 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; Turkmeny natsionalny institut demokrati i prav cheloveka; Direktoru KEPBANOVU E.; TURKMENISTAN

Faxes: +993 12 - 35 06 76

emails: nidhr@online.tm

Telegrams: Direktoru Kepbanovu, Natsionalny institut demokrati i prav cheloveka, 744000 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

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

COPIES TO:

Head of the State Directorate of the Criminal Executive System (prison service)
Turkmenistan; g. Ashgabat; ul. Zhitnikova; Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del; GUUIS;
Nachalniku; TURKMENISTAN

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkmenistan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 April 2001.