

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 61/01/95
Distr: UA/SC

6 January 1995

Further information on UA 389/94 (EUR 61/02/94, 31 October 1994) -
"Disappearance" and follow-up (EUR 61/03/94, 18 November) - Fear of torture
/ possible prisoners of conscience

TURKMENISTAN:Yusup Kuliyeu
Khoshali Garayev
Mukhammad Aymuradov
(in cyrillic _____)

Members of the Urgent Action Network in the United States who sent appeals on behalf of Yusup Kuliyeu, Khoshali Garayev and Mukhammad Aymuradov have received official replies from the Ambassador of Turkmenistan in Washington.

The Ambassador states that after receiving appeals about the apparent "disappearance" of Yusup Kuliyeu, and in compliance with Amnesty International's request, "we completed an investigation of Mr Kuliyeu's whereabouts and are pleased to report that he was not arrested. Mr Kuliyeu continues to live at his home in Ashgabat and work at the Turkmenistan State Cinema Company".

Unofficial sources insist that Yusup Kuliyeu was detained by agents of the State Security Committee (KGB) for around 15 days, and Amnesty International believes these reports to be credible. However, the Ambassador's assertion that Yusup Kuliyeu was not arrested is correct: it is now clear that although Yusup Kuliyeu was detained and questioned about alleged preparations to assassinate the President, no formal charges have been brought against him in connection with this. Unofficial sources concur with the Ambassador's statement that Yusup Kuliyeu is at home in Ashgabat, but continue to allege that he is under supervision by law enforcement authorities, with his freedom of movement and rights to receive visitors restricted.

The Ambassador confirmed that Khoshali Garayev and Mukhammad Aymuradov are in detention, but declined to provide details of the charges against them. Concerning the fears of torture raised by Amnesty International, the Ambassador asks Amnesty International to "be assured that the government of Turkmenistan does not condone the maltreatment of detainees or prisoners".

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- welcoming the assurances of the Government of Turkmenistan that it does not condone the maltreatment of detainees or prisoners, and expressing the hope that it will continue to guarantee the physical safety and well-being of Khoshali Garayev and Mukhammad Aymuradov;
- continuing to call for an explanation of the exact nature of and basis for the criminal charges against Khoshali Garayev and Mukhammad Aymuradov;
- welcoming the news that Yusup Kuliyeu has not been put under arrest, but noting credible reports the he was indeed held in detention by the KGB in Ashgabat for around 15 days, and calling for an investigation into allegations that he was tortured during that time;
- asking whether allegations that Yusup Kuliyeu is living under supervision by law enforcement authorities are correct, and if so what are the reasons for this.

APPEALS TO:

1. The President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurad Niyazov

Turkmenistan

744000 g. Ashgabat

Apparat Prezidenta

Prezidentu Niyazovu S.A.

Telegrams:Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, apparat Prezidenta, Prezidentu Niyazovu S.A.

Faxes:+ 7 3632 25 51 12

Salutation:Dear President Niyazov

2. The Chairman of the Committee for State Security, Allashur Ovedzhov

Turkmenistan

g. Ashgabat

KGB Turkmenistana

Predsedatelyu Ovedzhovu A.

Telegrams:Turkmenistan, g. Ashgabat, KGB, Predsedatelyu Ovedzhovu A.

Salutation:Dear Chairman

3. The Procurator General, Turbanmukhamed Kasimov

Turkmenistan

g. Ashgabat

Prokuratura Turkmenistana

Generalnomu Prokuroru Kasimovu T.

Telegrams:Turkmenistan, g. Ashgabat, Prokuratura, Gen. Prokuroru Kasimovu.

T.

Salutation:Dear Procurator General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

The Minister of Foreign Affairs

Turkmenistan

744000 g. Ashgabat

ulitsa Magtymguly, 87

MID Turkmenistana

Ministru

Faxes: +7 3632 25 14 63

and to diplomatic representatives of TURKMENISTAN accredited to your country, where these exist.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 February 1995.