

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 53/95

Fear of imminent execution

12 May 1995

TURKMENISTAN

**Khamidilla Gaybullayevich ISLAMOV, aged 23
(_____
in cyrillic)**

Amnesty International fears that Khamidilla Gaybullayevich Islamov faces imminent execution in Turkmenistan. He was sentenced to death for murder on 9 November 1994 by the regional court of Akhalsky *veloyat* (region) and an appeal against his sentence was turned down by the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan on 17 March 1995. His only hope of now avoiding execution is a petition for clemency which he is believed to have submitted to the President of Turkmenistan.

Recent death penalty cases in Turkmenistan known to Amnesty International suggest that the period from the passing of sentence, through the stages of appeal and petition for clemency to execution can be very short. In one such case known to Amnesty International, that of three men sentenced to death in November 1992, the process of appealing and then petitioning for clemency was exhausted in less than four weeks, and they were executed in December of that year. Khamidilla Islamov was believed by his father to be still alive as of 24 April 1995, but if his petition for clemency is turned down execution could be imminent.

Khamidilla Islamov is an Uzbek national and comes from Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. He was sentenced to death under Article 106 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan for premeditated murder under aggravating circumstances.

His relatives claim that his accomplice, who is a Turkmen national, committed the murder Khamidilla Islamov has been charged with and that Khamidilla Islamov was sentenced to death because of his nationality.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases and without reservation, on the grounds that it is a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Amnesty International is appealing to the President of Turkmenistan to exercise his constitutional authority to commute this death sentence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

To Amnesty International's knowledge, the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan retains the death penalty for 18 peacetime offences. Information about its application is meagre in the absence of any published official statistics, although Amnesty International has learned from unofficial sources of four executions carried out during 1992, and one in 1993. Execution is by shooting.

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

- urging commutation of the death sentence passed on Khamidilla Islamov;
- urging that a moratorium be imposed on death sentences and executions pending a comprehensive review of the death penalty.

APPEALS TO

1. President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurad Atayevich Niyazov:
Turkmenistan
744000 g. Ashgabat
Apparat Prezidenta

Prezidentu Turkmenistana

NIYAZOVU S.A.

Faxes + 3632 25 51 12 (can be difficult to get connection)

Telegrams: Turkmenistan, 744000 Ashgabat, Prezidentu Niyazovu

Salutation: Dear President Niyazov

2. Chairman of the Clemency Commission of the Turkmenistan Majlis (parliament), name unknown:

Turkmenistan

g. Ashgabat

Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya Majlisa Turkmenistana

Predsedatelyu

Telegrams: Turkmenistan, g. Ashgabat, Komissiya pomilovaniya Majlisa, Predsedatelyu.

Salutation: Dear Chairman

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Procurator-General of Turkmenistan, Turbanmukhamed Kasimov:

Turkmenistan

g. Ashgabat

Prokuratura Turkmenistana

Generalnomu prokuroru KASIMOVU T.

Chairman of the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan, Kh. A. Atayev:

Turkmenistan

744000 Ashgabat

prospekt Saparmurad Turkmenbashi, 18

Verkhovny Sud Turkmenistana

Predsedatelyu ATAYEVU Kh.A.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Khalykberdy Atayev:

Turkmenistan

744000 g. Ashgabat

ulitsa Magtymguly, 87

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del Turkmenistana

Ministru ATAYEVU Kh.

Faxes: + 3632 25 14 63

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 15 June 1995.