

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 61/004/2001

8 February 2001

Further information on UA 32/01 (EUR 61/003/2001, 5 February 2001) - Imminent danger of death in custody / Torture / Ill-treatment

TURKMENISTAN Shagildy ATAKOV (_____), aged 38

Shagildy Atakov has allegedly been inappropriately administered psychotropic drugs in Seydi labour camp in order to punish him for his religious beliefs.

When she last visited him at Seydi labour camp, Shagildy Atakov reportedly told his wife that he was being treated with Aminazin and Prometazin. He has been given no explanation as to why he needs to undergo this treatment. The psychotropic drug Aminazin (also known as Chlorpromazine, Largactil or Thorazine) is a major tranquilliser used in the treatment of psychoses. Prometazin or Promethazin (also known as Phenergan) is an antihistamine, which is used for a number of purposes, including the relief of allergy, nausea and vertigo, but is also be used to induce sleep. According to Amnesty International's medical advice, these drugs are not in themselves sinister. There are specific disorders for which they are prescribed, but they should be administered by qualified doctors, and their use monitored. Aminazin in particular can have powerful side-effects, including involuntary movements.

In the light of previous allegations of torture and ill-treatment of Shagildy Atakov, and in the absence of evidence that he suffers from any psychiatric disorder, Amnesty International fears that the administration of such drugs might be a punitive measure.

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

- expressing concern at allegations that Shagildy Atakov appears to have been inappropriately treated with psychotropic drugs in order to punish him for his religious beliefs;
- urging the Turkmen authorities to ensure that Shagildy Atakov receives appropriate medical treatment;
- urging the authorities to carry out an impartial and comprehensive investigation into allegations that Shagildy Atakov was repeatedly ill-treated in custody, including by being given 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

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Turkmenistan; 744000 g. Ashgabat; pr. Magtymguly, 83; Ministerstvo inostrannykh del Turkmenistana; Ministru BERDIYEV B.; TURKMENISTAN

Faxes: + 993 12 - 51 14 30 / 35 49 18

Telegrams: Ministru Berdiyevu, 744000 Ashgabat, pr. Magtymguly 83, Turkmenistan

Salutation: Dear Minister

Procurator General

Turkmenistan; g. Ashgabat; ul. Seidi, 4; Prokuratura Turkmenistana; Generalnomu prokuroru ATAYANOVOY G.; TURKMENISTAN

Faxes: + 993 12 35 44 82

Telegrams: Prokuroru Atayanovoy, Prokuratura, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

Chairman of the Supreme Court

Turkmenistan; 744000 Ashgabat; prospekt Saparmurad Turkmenbashi, 18; Verkhovny Sud Turkmenistana; Predsedatelyu RAKHMANOVU Y.; TURKMENISTAN

Procurator of Lebapsky region

Turkmenistan; 746100 g. Turkmenobad; ul Nekrasova 128; Prokuratura Lebapskogo veloyata; Prokuroru Atayevu, A.M.; TURKMENISTAN

Director of the corrective labour camp in the town of Seydi

Turkmenistan; Lebapsky veloyat; 746222 g. Seydi; uchr. LV-K/12; Nachalniku kolonii; 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 22 March 2001,