

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 61/006/2001

28 February 2001

Further information on UA 32/01 (EUR 61/003/2001, 5 February 2001) and follow-ups (EUR 61/004/2001, 8 February 2001 and EUR 61/005/2001, 21 February 2001) - Imminent danger of death in custody/torture/ill-treatment

TURKMENISTAN Shagildy ATAKOV

The Turkmen authorities have written to Amnesty International's UK Section to deny that Shagildy Atakov has been ill-treated in detention. However, they have provided no evidence in support of this claim.

Responding to appeals by the UA Network, the director of the Turkmen National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights, Yolbors Kepbanov, who is also deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, wrote that "Information that torture is allegedly being used against Atakov does not correspond with reality." He did not say how the Turkmen authorities had reached this conclusion, and gave no indication that there had been any impartial and comprehensive investigation into the allegations. The political officer of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Turkmenistan told Keston News Service that Yolbors Kepbanov's response "sounds like the standard official line".

In his statement Yolbors Kepbanov wrote that Shagildy Atakov was transferred from Seydi labour camp to the city of Mary for medical assistance, and that "his health is at present in a normal state". However, he gave no details of the medical treatment given to Shagildy Atakov.

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

- noting the response by the Director of the Turkmen Institute of Democracy and Human Rights, but continuing to urge the Turkmen authorities to ensure that Shagildy Atakov receives appropriate medical treatment;
- 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 77

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 ATAYANOVOY G.; TURKMENISTAN

Faxes: + 993 12 35 44 82

Telegrams: Prokuroru Atayanovoy, Prokuratura, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

Director of Mary prison

Turkmenistan; g. Mary; uchr. MR-KKh/15; 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 11 April 2001.