

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 61/009/2001

29 March 2001

Further information on UA 32/01 (EUR 61/003/2001, 5 February 2001) and follow-ups (EUR 61/004/2001, 8 February 2001; EUR 61/005/2001, 21 February 2001; EUR 61/006/2001, 28 February 2001 and EUR 61/008/2001, 22 March 2001) - Imminent danger of death in custody/torture/ill-treatment

**TURKMENISTAN** Shagildy Atakov ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), aged 39

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Shagildy Atakov has reportedly been transferred to a maximum security prison in what appears to be an attempt to prevent the outside world from getting information about his situation.

According to unofficial sources, on 23 March Shagildy Atakov was transferred some 800 kilometres across Turkmenistan from the Seydi labour camp in the east, where he had been held, to a maximum security prison in the Caspian city of Turkmenbashi (formerly Krasnovodsk) in the west. The official reason for his transfer is not known to Amnesty International.

The German-based Baptist organization *Missionswerk Friedensstimme*, Voice of Peace Mission, told Amnesty International: "The fact that they transferred him to this high security prison shows that they are trying to make it impossible for the outside world to get any information about Shagildy."

According to a Turkmen human rights defender in exile "the prison in Turkmenbashi is one of the worst in the country with particularly harsh prison conditions". A possible prisoner of conscience, Khoshali Garayev, died in the prison under suspicious circumstances in September 1999.

Shagildy Atakov has previously been transferred on two occasions. Following pressure from the international community, in mid-February Shagildy Atakov was transferred from the Seydi labour camp to a prison hospital in the town of Mary. On 1 March, he was reportedly returned to the labour camp, where he was placed in a punishment cell.

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

- asking the Turkmen authorities to confirm whether Shagildy Atakov was transferred from the Seydi labour camp to the maximum security prison in Turkmenbashi on 23 March, and, if so, to inform you of the reasons for his transfer;
- asking the Turkmen authorities to inform you of his current state of health, and to ensure that he receives appropriate medical treatment in prison;
- urging the Turkmen authorities to grant international observers access to him;
- 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 not 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**  
**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**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

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

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

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Procurator General

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

Director of the prison in Turkmenbashi

Turkmenistan; 745000 g. Turkmenbashi; Uchr. 25/2; Direktoru; TURKMENISTAN

and to diplomatic representatives Turkmenistan accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 May 2001.