

PUBLIC

File Index: EUR 61/08/00

21 March 2000

Further information on UA 07/00 (EUR 61/01/00, 11 January 2000) and follow-up (EUR 61/04/00, 28 February 2000) - Fear for safety / Harsh prison conditions / Prisoner of conscience / Unfair trial

**TURKMENISTAN Nurbərđi NURMAMEDOV ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), aged 57**

Nurbərđi Nurmamedov's sentence of five years' imprisonment was upheld on 15 March 2000 by Akhalsky Veloyatsky Court in the town of Anau near the Turkmen capital Ashgabat. A further appeal is now going to be lodged with the Presidium of Akhalsky Veloyatsky Court.

Amnesty International believes that Nurbərđi Nurmamedov, co-chair of the opposition movement *Azgybirlik* and one of the few opposition figures to openly criticize President Saparmurad Niyazov's policies, is a prisoner of conscience detained solely because of his peaceful opposition activities. It is not currently known where Nurbərđi Nurmamedov is held. The systematic ill-treatment of prisoners in Turkmenistan and harsh prison conditions might place his life in danger.

The sentence of two years' imprisonment for Nurbərđi Nurmamedov's son, Murad Nurmamedov, was also upheld by the Appeal Court on 15 March and a five-year long period of probation, during which he is not allowed to leave the capital Ashgabat, was added. Murad Nurmamedov was not detained after the initial trial. Amnesty International however believes that he is being punished for the political activity of his father and therefore calls for his release to be made unconditional.

Reportedly, the two lawyers who represented Nurbərđi Nurmamedov at the Appeal Court left the courtroom before the end of the appeal procedure to protest against violations of fair trial standards. Another defence lawyer who was due to represent Nurbərđi Nurmamedov was not informed by the authorities that the appeal hearing was going to take place.

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

- expressing grave concern that Nurbərđi and Murad Nurmamedov's appeals were turned down;
- saying that you believe Nurbərđi Nurmamedov to be a prisoner of conscience imprisoned solely for his peaceful opposition activities;
- calling for his immediate and unconditional release;
- saying that you believe that Murad Nurmamedov is being punished solely for his father's political activity;
- calling for Murad Nurmamedov's conviction to be quashed and for his release to be made unconditional;
- expressing concern at allegations that Nurbərđi and Murad Nurmamedov did not receive a fair trial according to international standards;
- urging that Nurbərđi Nurmamedov be protected from ill-treatment while in detention.

**APPEALS TO:** (Please note that fax numbers are difficult to obtain. If a voice answers, repeat 'fax' until connected; otherwise it is advisable to leave your fax machine on auto-redial).

Please continue to write letters to the addresses given in the last update.

Additionally:

· Please note that the fax number of President Saparmurad Niyazov's office is: **Fax: + 993 12 35 51 12.**

· Please note that Khalnazar AGAKHANOV has been appointed the new Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Moscow at the same address.

· Please also write to the Chairman of Akhalsky Veloyatsky Court which will decide about the next appeal:

Chairman of Akhalsky Veloyatsky Court

Turkmenistan

744000 g. Ashau (Ashgabat)

Akhalsky Veloyatsky Sud

Predsdatel'ny

Turkmenistan

**Telegrams: Predsdatel'ny Akhalskogo Veloyatskogo suda, Ashau, Turkmenistan**

**Salutation: Dear Chairman**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 May 2000