

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on EXTRA 87/92 (EUR 61/04/92, 27 October 1992) - and follow-up EUR 61/07/92, 10 November 1992 - House arrest

TURKMENISTAN: Ak-Mukhamed VELSAPAR
Khudayberdi KHALI
Nurberdi NURMURADOV
Aman GURSHAYEV

and new names: Mukhamed SALAMATOV
and at least five others (names not known to Amnesty International)

(in cyrillic _____

_____)

Amnesty International has learned that Ak-Mukhamed VELSAPAR, Khudayberdi KHALI, Nurberdi NURMURADOV and Aman GURSHAYEV have once again been placed under house arrest. They together with Mukhamed SALAMATOV and at least five other members of the non-violent Agzybirlik political opposition movement were placed under 24-hour house arrest at their homes in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan, on 2 December 1992 after attempting to attend a human rights conference in Kyrgyzstan. The conference began on 5 December, and all were still under house arrest on 7 December.

Human rights activists Ak-Mukhamed VELSAPAR, Khudayberdi KHALI, Aman GURSHAYEV and Nurberdi NURMURADOV were previously placed under house arrest for around a week at the end of October 1992 after meeting or trying to make contact with representatives of Amnesty International who were visiting Ashgabat, and who were later expelled from the country (see EXTRA 87/92).

The Agzybirlik movement has tried three times to register officially, but each time members have been threatened with arrest if they meet for the necessary constituent assembly.

Amnesty International believes that the arrest of these men is in direct violation of their right to freedom of association. Amnesty International is again calling on the Turkmenian authorities to release immediately and unconditionally all those currently under house arrest for attempting peacefully to exercise their human rights.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express and airmail letters

in Russian, English or your own language:

- urging the immediate and unconditional release from house arrest of Ak-Mukhamed VELSAPAR, Khudayberdi KHALI, Nurberdi NURMURADOV, Aman GURSHAYEV, Mukhamed SALAMATOV and all others currently so detained for peacefully seeking to exercise fundamental human rights.

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APPEALS TO:

1. President of Turkmenistan, Sapamurad Niyazov:

Turkmenistan

g. Ashgabat

Prezidentu Turkmenistana

Niyazovu S.A.

Telegrams: Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, Prezidentu Niyazovu S.A.

Salutation: Dear President Niyazov

2. The Minister of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan, S. Charyyarov:

Turkmenistan

g. Ashgabat

MVD Turkmenistana

Ministru Charyyarovu S.

Telegrams: Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, MVD, Ministru Charyyarovu S.

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan:

Turkmenistan

g. Ashgabat

MID Turkmenistana

Ministru

Faxes: +7 3632 25 14 63

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkmenistan accredited to your country (these are usually to be found at the Embassy of the Russian Federation, the former Soviet Embassy).

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 January 1993.