



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TURKMENISTAN: APPEAL CASES

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Prisoner of conscience Kakabay Tedzhenov released

Amnesty International learnt on 25 October 2006 that prisoner of conscience Kakabay Tedzhenov, aged 70, was recently released from the psychiatric hospital in Garashsyzyk district in the eastern Lebap region of Turkmenistan. Kakabay Tedzhenov had been forcibly confined in medical institutions since 4 January 2006 to punish him for exercising his right to freedom of expression, in particular for protesting against government policies.

Reportedly, immediately after his release he was admitted to the urology department of the regional hospital for surgery. His daughter Olga Tedzhenova told Amnesty International on 25 October: "My father is in a relatively good condition now after the operation. He is happy because he is free again."

Amnesty International believes that Kakabay Tedzhenov's release is a result of international pressure. His daughter said: "I would like to thank everybody for their help in getting my father released. On my own I would have been powerless but it is good to see that many people have not been indifferent to my father's fate."

Background information:

On 4 January 2006 Kakabay Tedzhenov was reportedly taken to a psychiatric hospital in the city of Turkmenabad (formerly Chardzhou) in the eastern Lebap region by law enforcement officers. Later he was transferred to the psychiatric hospital in Garashsyzyk district (formerly Boyunuzyn) in the same region. A trusted source told Amnesty International that when Kakabay Tedzhenov arrived at the psychiatric hospital in Garashsyzyk district he was placed in a cell together with people convicted of serious crimes, including murder, for a week. At the end of February or the beginning of March he was transferred to a special section of the hospital for patients without relatives to care for them. There are strong indications that later in March Kakabay Tedzhenov was temporarily transferred to the urology department of the regional hospital for medical treatment.

Amnesty International regarded Kakabay Tedzhenov as a prisoner of conscience and called for his prompt and unconditional release. In recent years Kakabay Tedzhenov had sent several complaints to the authorities of Turkmenistan, including the administration of his home town and of Lebap region, about communal services in his district. On 7 June 2005 he sent telegrams to the President and the Procurator General of Turkmenistan protesting government policies. In September 2005 he sent to contacts abroad his *Statement about human rights violations in Turkmenistan* which included calls on the authorities of Turkmenistan to allow freedom of expression, and called on the international community to impose sanctions against Turkmenistan. In the statement he criticized President Saparmurat Niyazov for his neglect of issues of vital interest to the citizens of Turkmenistan such as "mass unemployment and the low standard of living [noting that] heads of city and regional administrations build monuments in honour of the President in huge quantities while in Dzheykhun district people have lived in unheated apartments for twenty years."



Kakabay Tedzhenov © Private

Thank you for sending appeals. No further action is required.