

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 61/001/2002

11 January 2002

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; EUR 61/008/2001, 22 March 2001; EUR 61/009/2001, 29 March 2001) - Imminent danger of death in custody / torture / ill-treatment

TURKMENISTAN Shagildy Atakov (m), aged 39

Baptist Christian Shagildy Atakov was released from prison in the Caspian port of Turkmenbashi on 8 January. He was arrested in December 1998 on what his supporters call fabricated charges to punish him for his religious beliefs.

In May 2001, Shagildy Atakov and his wife Artygul reportedly refused to accept an offer to emigrate to the United States, amid warnings by officers of the National Security Committee that Shagildy Atakov would have to serve his sentence in full, if he did not leave the country.

He was released before the end of his four year prison sentence and has reportedly been reunited with his wife and their five children at their home in the village of Kaakha, close to Turkmenistan's southern border with Iran.

No further action by the UA network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.