

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 61/011/2001

8 June 2001

Further information on UA 121/01 (EUR 61/010/2001, 18 May 2001) - Torture and ill-treatment

TURKMENISTANDmitry Melnichenko (_____), aged 18

The Turkmenistani authorities have threatened to bring criminal charges against conscientious objector Dmitry Melnichenko if he does not swear an oath of military allegiance by 10 June.

On 1 June Dmitry Melnichenko was reportedly transferred from one military unit to another one in the town of Serdar (formerly Kizyl-Arvat) in western Turkmenistan, on the orders of the Ministry of Defence. The following day he was apparently brought before the local prosecutor's office, where the Deputy Procurator told him that criminal charges will be brought against him if he continues to refuse swearing the oath of military allegiance.

Baptist Christian Dmitry Melnichenko has been held in a military unit since 10 May, when he was called up for military service. He was reportedly tortured at the local offices of the National Security Committee (KNB) on 15 May to punish him for his objection to carry arms and swear an oath of military allegiance on grounds of conscience. According to an eye witness, he had bruises on his body as a result of the torture.

Dmitry Melnichenko has apparently not been physically assaulted since the original Urgent Action was issued on 18 May. However, Amnesty International remains concerned that he may be at risk of further torture or ill-treatment.

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

- urging the authorities to guarantee the safety of Dmitry Melnichenko, and calling for him to be granted access to his family, lawyers and any necessary medical treatment;
- stating that Amnesty International believes that everyone has the right to refuse to carry arms on conscientious grounds, and that if Dmitry Melnichenko is arrested for his refusal to swear the oath of military allegiance, Amnesty International will regard him a prisoner of conscience and will call for his prompt and unconditional release;
- urging the authorities to open a prompt and impartial investigation into allegations that Dmitry Melnichenko was tortured by KNB officers in Serdar on 15 May.

APPEALS TO (Please note that it can be difficult reaching Turkmenistani fax numbers and you may need to ask an international operator for help. 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

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

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

Telegrams: Ministru Berdiyevu, 744000 Ashgabat, pr. Magtymguly 83, Turkmenistan
Salutation: Dear Minister

Procurator of the town of Serdar

Turkmenistan; Balkan Veloyat; 745150 g. Serdar; Gorodskaya Prokuratura; Prokuroru; TURKMENISTAN

Telegrams: Gorodskomu Prokuroru, 745150 Serdar, Turkmenistan

Salutation: Dear Procurator,

Head of Dmitry Melnicheko's military division

Turkmenistan; Balkan Veloyat; 745150 g. Serdar; v/ch 48798, Polkovniku; TURKMENISTAN

Telegrams: Polkovniku, 745150 Serdar, v/ch 48798, Turkmenistan

Salutation: Dear Colonel,

COPIES TO:

Chairman of the Turkmen Committee for National Security (KNB)

Turkmenistan; 744000 g. Ashgabat; pr. Magtymguly, 91; KNB (Byv. KGB)
Turkmenistana;
Predsedatelyu NAZAROVU M.N.

Director of the Turkmen National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights

Turkmenistan; 744000 g. Ashgabat; ul. Karla Liebnichta, 47; Turkmensky natsionalny institut demokratii i prav cheloveka; Direktoru KEPBANOVU E.

Faxes: + 993 12 35 06 76

e-mail: nidhr@online.tm

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkmenistan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 July 2001.