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**International Campaign to Protect Those Disappeared In Turkmen Prisons**

**List of the Disappeared**

(Work in Progress)

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## Overview

The Turkmenistan Civic Solidarity Group, a platform of 54 human rights groups from the OSCE countries, has launched an international campaign on Turkmenistan called “Prove They Are Alive!”

**Prove They Are Alive!** seeksto uncover the truth about the fate of dozens, and perhaps hundreds, of people who have disappeared in Turkmen prisons as the result of mass arrests that took place in the 2000s. This is the first step towards stopping similar abuses in the future. Shining an international spotlight on the disappeared in Turkmenistan’s prisons is also an important step toward addressing the systemic human rights violations committed by one of the most opaque and repressive governments in the world.

### Objectives of the Prove They Are Alive! campaign:

1. Clarify the fates and whereabouts of all those who have disappeared in Turkmen prisons, and get the Turkmen authorities to reveal to families the location, health and legal status of their disappeared loved ones;
2. Obtain access to the imprisoned for their families, lawyers, doctors and representatives of international organizations;
3. Prevent further disappearances of people in Turkmenistan’s prisons;
4. Help to improve the overall human rights situation in Turkmenistan, including conditions in Turkmenistan’s prisons.

We hope to reach these objectives through cooperation with international organizations and through direct dialogue with the government of Turkmenistan. By disclosing information about the disappeared, the Turkmen authorities will not only be taking a step toward ending a humanitarian crisis, they will also be taking a step away from the country’s totalitarian past and the legacy of mass repression.

### A Brief History of the Issue

Turkmenistan’s first president, Saparmurat Niyazov, completely suppressed dissent and eliminated any political rivals and competition. The opposition, the dissident movement, independent journalism and civil society were completely destroyed. The peak of this policy was the mass repression that took place in the first half of the 2000s, when there was widespread use of fabricated criminal cases, confessions obtained through torture, closed court hearings, illegal sentences and long term imprisonment in secret prisons.

In most of these cases the government refused to reveal any information about people imprisoned for long sentences to their relatives or the public. For over ten years the authorities have not allowed relatives to meet with their imprisoned loved ones, who have simply disappeared into the prison system. Correspondence is forbidden. The International Red Cross and other international organizations have been denied access to prisons. Those who are imprisoned have been totally isolated from the outside world.

For families of the disappeared, the 10-year, complete absence of information about the fate of their loved ones is tantamount to torture. Their loved ones were handed a prison sentence, but not a death sentence. They were ordered to be isolated from society, not to disappear into oblivion. We believe it is very important to bring to light the personal stories of these people and demonstrate that they are not forgotten. Their families have borne this burden for an entire decade. It is time to end their suffering.

Vivid examples include dozens of people who were convicted for alleged involvement in the assassination attempt on President Niyazov in 2002, and the related criminal cases against their relatives and friends. A number of high-profile public figures met a similar fate in the 2000s.

Under the leadership of President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov, just as in the time of Niyazov, the government continues to hide information about these high profile cases. In the official world of the Turkmen authorities, it is as if these people do not exist. In 2007 President Berdymukhamedov, in a presentation at Columbia University in New York, made the only official mention of the fate of two of these people. Answering a question about the fate of Boris Shikhmuradov and Batyr Berdyev, Berdymukhamedov stated, “…I am sure that these people are alive.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

Meanwhile, the families of some who have been imprisoned for more than ten years and whose terms have either expired or are coming to an end, have learned that their relatives were re-sentenced to additional terms. In many cases, notification about the additional terms is the first news families have received about their loved ones since their arrest or verdict. We believe that the Turkmenistan authorities want to prevent these people from being released in order to conceal information about their detention conditions or prevent scrutiny of the criminal cases against them.

As difficult as it is to admit, it is possible that many of these people may have died in custody, and the authorities do not wish to disclose this information. By doing so, the current Turkmen authorities would essentially have to acknowledge their complicity in disappearances.

By failing to acknowledge, let alone address, forced disappearances, the Turkmen government is blatantly disregarding its human rights obligations under domestic and international law.[[2]](#footnote-2) It is time for renewed international pressure on the government of Turkmenistan to change this.

### Campaign Participants

Crude Accountability (USA), the Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights (Russia), Freedom Files (Russia) and the Norwegian Helsinki Committee created the Turkmenistan Civic Solidarity Group in 2013 with the goal of promoting work to defend human rights in Turkmenistan. The group was created as part of and with the support of the international human rights coalition, Civic Solidarity Platform.[[3]](#footnote-3) Our campaign partners include the leading human rights organizations Human Rights Center Memorial and Human Rights Watch, and independent experts and civil society activists of Turkmenistan.

We work with broad international civil society in order to influence public opinion about the unacceptability of, and to categorically reject, disappearance in prisons, which is a characteristic feature of regimes such as Turkmenistan.

### Solidarity

We invite all those who have information about the fate of those who have disappeared in Turkmen prisons to contact us. If you are interested in working with us on the campaign, please contact us at provetheyarealive@gmail.com.

Below is an initial list of the disappeared in Turkmenistan. This is not a comprehensive list, but it is a start, and will be added to as we complete research into those who have disappeared into the prison system.

## Initial List of Disappeared in Turkmenistan

### Gulgeldy Annaniyazov

*Date of Birth:* Unknown

*Citizenship:* Turkmen, political asylum in Norway

*Residence at time of arrest:* Trondheim, Norway

*Position when arrested:* Unknown

*Charges:* Illegal crossing of the border into Turkmenistan

*Sentence:* On June 24, 2008, Mr. Annaniyazov traveled from Norway via Kazakhstan to his native Turkmenistan. Later that day, plain-clothed officers arrested him at his parents’ home in Ashgabat. He was sentenced to 11 years in prison.

*Biography:*Mr. Annaniyazov is a Turkmen political dissident and democracy activist, part of the so-called “Ashgabad Eight.” After organizing a nonviolent anti-government demonstration in Turkmenistan in 1995, he was arrested and sentenced to 15 years in prison. The government released Mr. Annaniyazov five years later as part of an amnesty, and he fled with his family to Norway in 2002, where he obtained political asylum.

*Relatives arrested/harassed/detained:* In 2008, Annaniyazov’s daughter Jasgul was planning to visit Norway, and had been granted a visa by Norwegian authorities. However, she was stopped at Ashgabat International Airport on September 29, 2008, and told that she would not be allowed to leave the country. In 2013, after she received the letter mentioned above, she had more visits by the police, and wants to keep some distance from her father. Also the family in Norway is concerned with the consequences for the daughter still in Ashgabat.

*Current situation:* Some information about Annaniyazov was received in 2009, when he was said to have been transferred to a prison commonly referred to as Gorbatiy, or “Hunchback,” due to the low ceilings of the prison building. He managed to smuggle out a written note asking for money for a new set of glasses. The note also said he did not think he would ever see his family again, and included one question: “Who is working to help me?” In April 2013, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee was informed that a small letter had arrived in the hands of Gulgeldy’s daughter in Turkmenistan. It contained questions about his family and who was working on his case. Even this undated letter is the only sign of life from him since the previous letter in 2009.

In April 2013, Turkmenistan was raised in the UN Universal Periodic Review in Geneva. Upon direct questioning from some of the delegations, the Turkmen delegation responded that Annaniyazov was in prison with good conditions, made use of the medical facilities and had the right to receive parcels. Though this is the only response Turkmenistan has made to any requests, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee is not convinced that this is the truth.

### Redzhepbai Arazov

*Date of birth:* 1947, born in the village of Shakhmanin Gasankuly region of Balkan oblast

*Citizenship:* Turkmen

*Residence at time of arrest:* Ashgabat

*Position when arrested:* Chairman of the National Center of Trade Unions of Turkmenistan

*Charges:* Unknown

*Sentence:* Date and sentencing were not officially published.

*Biography:*Arazov was born in the village Shahman, which is now in the Gasankuliy district in Balkan region. In 1971 he graduated from the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute specializing in geology and oil and gas fields.

 From 1997 until May 20 1998, he was the First Deputy Chairman of the State Consortium, Turkmenoil, after which he took the post of Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Turkmenistan, taking over from Batyr Sardzhaev, who was fired by Niyazov. On Niyazov’s instructions, he focused on attracting foreign investors to E&P and [downstream](http://encyclopedia2.thefreedictionary.com/downstream) ventures. He was also active in promoting oil and gas export pipelines.[[4]](#footnote-4) Simultaneously, from July 24, 1998 to September 14, 2000, he was also the Executive Director of the Competent Authority on the use of Hydrocarbon Resources under the President of Turkmenistan.

 He was the Mayor of the Balkan Velayat from September 18, 2000 until July 7, 2001, and Chairman of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan from July 7, 2001 to March 14, 2002.[[5]](#footnote-5) During this appointment, Niyazov highlighted Arazov’s rare qualities such as unique work ethic, extensive experience, business reputation, and the ability to follow through.

He was Deputy Prime Minister from March 14, 2002 until September 29, 2003, and simultaneously the Defense Minister, Rector of the Military Institute of the Ministry of Defense of Turkmenistan of President Saparmurat Turkmenbashi, and Secretary of the State Security Council of Turkmenistan. On September 29, 2003, he was moved to be Chairman of the National Center of Trade Unions of Turkmenistan. [[6]](#footnote-6),[[7]](#footnote-7),[[8]](#footnote-8)

 He was awarded the honors "Galkinish" (December 1999) and "The Star President," and the medal "For the love of the Fatherland."[[9]](#footnote-9)

*Current situation:* Not known. The latest information on his whereabouts is that he was in Ovadan-Depe prison at the beginning of 2008.

### Begench Beknazarov

*Date of Birth:* 1969

*Citizenship:* Turkmen

*Residence at time of arrest:* Ashgabat. Begench Beknazarov was seized on May 17, 2005 after law enforcement forces found him hiding in a room hidden beneath the floor of an apartment in the Turkmen capital.[[10]](#footnote-10)

*Position when arrested:* He was deputy division commander of the motorized infantry of the Turkmen Armed Forces.

*Date of arrest:* May 17, 2005, 30 months after the Prosecutor General issued a search.In the first half of June 2005 he was tried in closed court on charges of conspiring to assassinate Niyazov.[[11]](#footnote-11),[[12]](#footnote-12)

*Charges:* Article 275 (participation in a criminal community), Part 2; Article 14, Part 2; article 101[[13]](#footnote-13)

*Sentence:* Life imprisonment.

*Biography:* Beknazarov was a Major in the Turkmen Military Forces, and Deputy Division Commander of the motorized infantry.[[14]](#footnote-14) In 1990, he graduated from the Kiev Higher Military Command School of Frunze and trained in the Special Forces program. After graduation, he served in Ukraine (near Kharkov). In 1991 he returned to Turkmenistan with the rank of Lieutenant of the Armed Forces and served in the Army of Turkmenistan. In 1996 he studied at a military academy in Germany. In early October of 2002 he was transferred to the command post in a military unit in Kyzyl-Arvat (200 km from Ashgabat) with demotion in rank.[[15]](#footnote-15) He also previously served in the KNB.[[16]](#footnote-16) He is the nephew of Aina Shikhmuradova.

 Beknazarov disappeared after the events of November 25, 2002. His parents say that early in the morning of the 26th of November, he was urgently called into work, after which he disappeared. On the 27th, the secret services began a search for him on the grounds of involvement in the alleged assassination attempt against Niyazov.[[17]](#footnote-17)

 The search for Beknazarov continued across the country and beyond. A black and white photograph, apparently taken from his personal file, was photocopied and posted in public places, including at the international airport, railway stations and bus stations.

 President Niyazov reproached the Minister of Defense Redzhepbai Arazov for his disappearance: "If in your office, as I told you, every military unit commander would be carefully checked to the third degree, then there would not be any individuals such as Beknazarov."[[18]](#footnote-18)

*Current situation:* Unknown. His relatives were unable to visit him or obtain official trial documents. They do not know of his whereabouts.[[19]](#footnote-19),[[20]](#footnote-20)

*Relatives arrested/harassed/detained*: According to information received, several of Beknazarov’s friends and former colleagues were arrested together with him. They were all sentenced to various prison terms at the closed trial.[[21]](#footnote-21)

 On December 17, 2002, Beknazarov’s parents, Raisa and disabled Amandurdy Beknazarov, and 19 year old sister Dzheren Beknazarova, were said to have been detained for 20 days at the pre-trial detention center (SIZO) of the Ministry of National Security building without formal charges in an attempt to obtain information about his whereabouts and to put pressure on him to turn himself in.The three were reported to have been physically and psychologically ill-treated in detention. Their passports were subsequently confiscated. Raisa Beknazarova was dismissed from her job, and Dzheren Beknazarova expelled from university.[[22]](#footnote-22),[[23]](#footnote-23) Other sources indicate that the three were held up for 2 days.[[24]](#footnote-24)

 Aina Shikhmuradova, Boris Shikhmuradov’s sister-in-law, and her 15-year-old son Aman were detained and kept at the Ashgabat city police on February 21, 2003 for approximately 10 hours. Aman Shikhmuradov was reportedly present throughout the interrogation of his mother and witnessed how she was verbally abused, and threatened that she would be beaten if she did not disclose the whereabouts of her nephew Begench Beknazarov, who went into hiding following the November 2002 attack. The officers reportedly also wanted her to confess to complicity in a murder; Aina Shikhmuradova claimed she was innocent and that she did not even know the person who was allegedly murdered. At one point Aman Shikhmuradov was reportedly taken to another office and threatened that his mother would be put into prison and he would never see her or his father again. When they were released shortly after midnight Aman Shikhmuradov was reportedly in a state of shock and began to speak with a stammer.[[25]](#footnote-25)

 In addition, many family members were evicted from their homes and their property was confiscated. Most court verdicts handed down in December 2002 and January 2003 in relation to those implicated in the November 2002 attack included the confiscation of property. However, in many cases property was either confiscated or temporarily taken away weeks before the verdicts were pronounced and reportedly severely affected family members.

### Batyr Ataevich Berdyev

*Date of Birth:*[October 3,](http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/3_%D0%BE%D0%BA%D1%82%D1%8F%D0%B1%D1%80%D1%8F)[1960](http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/1960), Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

*Citizenship:*Turkmen

*Residence at time of arrest:*Ashgabat

*Position when arrested:*He was released from duty prior to his arrest.

*Date of arrest:* According to Memorial, he was arrested December 7, 2002. The video of his ‘confession’ was shown on television in Turkmenistan on December 18, 2002.[[26]](#footnote-26)

*Charges:* He was convicted January 21, 2003 by the Ashgabat City Court on Article 14-101 Part 2, paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l", 129 h .3, 169 part 1, 2, 174, part 2, 176 part 1, part 2, 214, 218 Part 1, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 235 h .2 paragraph "a", "b", 254 part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 271 Part 3, Part 1 273 275 Part 1 and Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan.

*Sentence:*His trial, along with that of others was held on January 20-21, 2003,[[27]](#footnote-27) and he was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment on January 21, 2003. The first 5 years were to be served in a prison in the town of Turkmenbashi, and 20 years in a penal colony. Further, he was prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for three years after release, and was to reside in a prescribed location for 5 years after release.[[28]](#footnote-28)

*Biography:*He graduated from the Turkmen State University, with a major in Philology.

After graduation he worked his way from intern to chief editor of the newspaper *Komsomolets Turkmenistan*. In 1990-1992 he worked as a correspondent for weekly publication *Union* and *Life* in Turkmenistan. In 1992 he became a consultant of the APPARAT Department of the International Department of the President of Turkmenistan, and in the same year was appointed Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan. In 1994 he was appointed Charge d'Affaires of Turkmenistan to the Republic of Austria, and from 1995, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan to the Republic of Austria, the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic. Simultaneously, he became the Representative of Turkmenistan to the OSCE. From July 4, 2000 he served as First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and from July 28, 2000 until July 7, 2001, as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

 Batyr Berdyev was nominated for, but did not win, the European Parliament’s Sakharov prize in 2003 following his imprisonment.[[29]](#footnote-29)

*Information on arrest/treatment during imprisonment:* According to the description of another prisoner, Berdyev was severely beaten and tortured during the arrest at his residence.[[30]](#footnote-30) According to the opposition website "Dogra El" he was demonstratively and brutally beaten during his arrest by three KNB officials, while handcuffed to a door.[[31]](#footnote-31) In a publication by the Open Society Institute, Mr. Berdyev is listed as a victim of human rights violations in Turkmenistan as he was tortured while in custody.

At the trial, Berdyev and other defendants described being subjected to torture during the investigation, and asked the lawyers not to tell their relatives, in order not to cause them more suffering. They also talked about the fact that in days leading up to the trial, they did not receive any food. But Batyr Berdyev said that “hunger was nothing compared to the torture to which they were subjected."[[32]](#footnote-32)

Leonid Komarovsky, who was imprisoned along with Berdyev, saw Berdyev after six weeks of intensive interrogation, and described his appearance as ‘absolutely disfigured’. His, and others’, kidneys and other internal organs were completely destroyed.[[33]](#footnote-33) Komarovsky described being injected with psychotropic drugs at least three times, and it can be safely assumed that others, including Berdyev, were subjected to this torture as well.

*Last seen/heard about:*According to a source, his voice was last heard by a fellow inmate in May or June 2005. Then, the source received information that Berdyev died from an apparent heart attack in his cell, as the guards were not allowed to open the cell to help him, but went for help instead. When they returned, Batyr was found dead lying on the floor with his hands outstretched towards the door. There has been no official report about this. Another source states that he died in prison on October 10, 2004.

 Families and independent organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and Crescent have not been allowed access and do not know whether Batyr and others are dead or alive. The government refuses to respond to allegations that at least eight, including Batyr Berdyev, died while in custody.[[34]](#footnote-34) President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov, during a visit to Columbia University on September 24, 2007, was asked whether Boris Shikhmuradov and Batyr Berdyev were still alive. The President expressed confidence that the former Foreign Ministers were still alive.**[[35]](#footnote-35)** This is the only statement on the subject by the Turkmen authorities.

*Relatives arrested/harassed/detained:* Batyr Berdyev’s younger sister, Dzhenet Yklymova, married to Esenaman Yklymov, was arrested for involvement in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov in November 2002. Dzhenet Yklymova (born Berdyeva), was born in 1967. She was detained by the police in Ashgabat on December 8, 2002, with her two minor children (names not known) between 8:30 pm on November 25 and 2 pm on November 26, 2002.

 Mrs. Yklymova was released on December 10, 2002. She states that she was tortured, and her property, including her apartment and store, was confiscated.[[36]](#footnote-36)

*Current situation:* Unknown

### Orazmukhammet Muheyevich Berdyev

*Date of Birth:* Unknown

*Citizenship:* Turkmen

*Residence at time of arrest:* Unknown

*Position when arrested:* Unknown

*Date of arrest:* Unknown

*Charges:* He was convicted on January 21, 2003 in violating Article 14-101 Part 2, paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l", 129, part 3, 169 Part 1 and 2, 174 Part 2, Part 1 176 214 Part 2, Part 1 of 218, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a", "b", p 235 Part 2 . "a", "b", 254 part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 271 Part 3, Part 1 273 275 Part 1 and Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan.

*Sentence:* He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, and the rest in a penal colony with confiscation of property, followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years and the prohibition to hold substantive and responsible management positions within 3 years.

*Biography:* Former Lieutenant Colonel of the National Security Committee. From January 2001, he served as Deputy Chairman of the National Security Committee. On March 4, 2002, he was dismissed from service for "serious shortcomings in the work" with deprivation of military ranks and awards.

*Current situation:* Unknown

### Guvanch Rozyevich Djumaev

*Date of Birth:* March 31, 1953[[37]](#footnote-37)

*Citizenship:* Russian, Turkmen[[38]](#footnote-38)

*Residence at time of arrest:* Ashgabat

*Position when arrested:* Businessman

*Date of arrest:* November 25, 2002, 6 pm. He was summoned to the Ministry of National Security by Iskander Kurbanov, and at 9 PM he called his wife Alla saying he would not be returning for a while. He never returned.[[39]](#footnote-39) The video of Guvanch’s “confession” was shown on TV on December 29, 2002.[[40]](#footnote-40)

*Charges:* He was convicted January 15, 2003 by the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan of violating Articles 14-101, part 2, paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l", 129 h .3, 169 part 1, 2, 174, part 2, 176 part 1, part 2, 214, 218 Part 1, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 235 h .2 paragraph "a", "b", 254 part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 271 Part 3, Part 1 273 275 Part 1 and Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan.

*Sentence:* In 2003, he was sentenced to life imprisonment with confiscation of property.

*Biography:* Djumaev was born in Beshir village of Hodjambaz district in Lebap Province. Guwanch Djumaev holds two degrees in agriculture and economics. In 1988, he led the horse run from Ashgabat to Moscow. In the last years of the Soviet Union, he engaged in business, and in the 1990s founded the corporation Gayrat, which employed over 1000 people and specialized in food production, the sales of pharmaceuticals, small trade, and the restaurant business. At one point, he was fined more than 500 million manat ($17.5 million) for the illegal production of pharmaceuticals. According to Komarovsky, in 1999 he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment on charges of tax evasion, but was pardoned by a Presidential decree in the courtroom. From the end of 1999 or beginning of 2000, he lived in Moscow until In June 2, 2001, when he was arrested in Moscow at the request of the Turkmen authorities as a defendant in a case of economic crimes, having supposedly stolen $1.3 million in public funds.[[41]](#footnote-41) In June 2001, he was extradited to Turkmenistan, but was almost immediately released at the request of the Ministry of National Security to transfer a part of his business. There was an international campaign requesting his release, including appeals by Ludmilla Alexeeva of the Moscow Helsinki Group and Valentin Gefter of the Institute of Human Rights.[[42]](#footnote-42),[[43]](#footnote-43)

Guvanch Djumaev was an active supporter of democratic reforms in Turkmenistan. In the early 1990s he published the independent newspaper *Contact*, which at the end of 1993, the authorities closed due to “excessive” freethinking. In 1994 Djumaev gave an interview to the correspondent of the paper *Izvestia*, Vladimir Kuleshov, in which he spoke frankly about the causes of the deterioration of living conditions in the country, and accused the government of carrying out the wrong socio-economic policies. Over the years, he was said to be in communication with the opposition living abroad.

*Information on treatment during imprisonment:*Djumaev was reportedly tortured, with significant damage to his kidneys. He suffered internal bleeding. The authorities wanted to throw him from the third floor window.

*Current situation:* Unknown

*Relatives arrested/harassed/detained:* Several of Djumaev’s relatives were harassed, arrested, detained, have undergone ill treatment and were possibly tortured.[[44]](#footnote-44) His son Timur, and his 70 year old father were arrested on the same day, and his wife and daughter were later questioned about the events on the evening of November 24th. The authorities wanted to take away his mother, but they could not because she had trouble walking. Djumaev family members were not allowed to visit any of the prisoners, their property was confiscated and they lost their jobs. They are also under surveillance 24 hours a day.[[45]](#footnote-45)

 From the house at Chogalny, all of the visitors were automatically taken away by the watchmen. In December 2002, Djumaev’s daughter (8th grade at the time) and nephew, in schools No.7 and No.15, were put before the class and declared “enemies of the people.” Later that month, a boy struck one of them, but the teachers did not help. His wife’s café business was taken away and sold to another family, with the money staying with the officials. Aia Djumaeva’s apartment was also taken away.

* Rozy Djumaevich Djumaev (03.11.1929). Was retired at the time of arrest, father of Guvanch and Chary Djumaev. Rozy was a former senior official of the Council of Ministers TSSR. He was detained on November 25-26, 2002. The video of his “confession” was shown on TV on December 4, 2002 [5] He was convicted in January 2003 of violating Art.14-101, part 2, paragraph “a”, “b”, “f”, “g”, “h”, “i”, “l”, 129, part 3, 169 Part 1 and 2, 174 Part 2, Part 1 176 214 Part 2, Part 1 of 218, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph “a”, “b”, p 235 Part 2 . “a”, “b”, 254 part 4, paragraph “a”, “b”, 271, part 3, part 2, 273, 275, Part 1, Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: three years in prison, and the rest in a colony , followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years.
* Timur Guvanchevych Djumaev (04.17.1975). Son of Guvanch Djumaev.  Detained on November 25-26, 2002. He was convicted in January 2003 of violating Art.14 -101 part 2 , paragraph “a “, ”b” , “f”, “g”, “h”, “i”, “l”, 129, part 3, 169 Part 1 and 2 , 174 Part 2, Part 1 176 214 Part 2, Part 1 of 218 , 2.3 , 231 Part 4 , paragraph “a”, “b”, p 235 Part 2 . “a”, “b”, 254 part 4 , paragraph “a”, “b”, 271 , part 3 , part 2, 273 , 275, Part 1 , Part 3 287 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in a prison, the rest in a penal colony, followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years and with the prohibition to hold substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years. Timur Djumaev’s wife and two children were thrown into the streets before the trial. His and his wife’s apartment was taken away.
* Chary Rozyevich Djumaev (28.12.1957) Brother of Guvanch Djumaev. He was detained on November 25-26, 2002, and convicted in January 2003 of violating Article 14-101 Part 2, paragraph “a”, “b”, “e”, “f”, “s”, “and”, “l “, 129 Part 3, Part 1 169, 2 174, part 2, part 1 of 176, 214, part 2, part 1 of 218, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph “a”, “b”, 235 part 2, paragraph “a”, “b”, 254 part 4, paragraph “a”, “b”, 271 part 3, part 2, 273, 275, Part 1, Part 3 287 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced in January 2003 to 20 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, and the rest in a penal colony, followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years and the prohibition to hold substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.
* Magtim Djumaev. Brother of Guvanch Djumaev. He was kept in pre-trial detention for over two months and was subject to torture.
* Begench Djumaev. Older brother of Guvanch Djumaev. His factory for the production of oxygen was taken away by the authorities, which included equipment worth $1.5 million.  His wife, a gynecologist, was fired from her job.
* Rovshan Dzhorageldyevich Dovletov. He was the commercial director of Guvanch Djumaev’s firm, Gayrat, in Ashgabat. He was convicted in January 2003 of violating Art.14-101, part 2, paragraph “a”, “b”, “f”, “g”, “h”, “i”, “l”, 129, part 3, 169 Part 1 and 2, 174 Part 2, Part 1 176 214 Part 2, Part 1 of 218, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph “a”, “b”, p 235 Part 2 . “a”, “b”, 254 part 4, paragraph “a”, “b”, 271 Part 3, Part 1 273 275 Part 1 and Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: three years in prison, the rest, in a penal colony, followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years.
* Devlet Odaevich Gaipov. Director of a regional hydrocarbon base, village Amudarya of the Niyazov Etrap in Lebap Province. Distant relative of Guvanch Djumaev. He was arrested in December 2002 in the Niyazov Etrap in Lebap province, when a call came to the district department of Ministry of National Security. The video of his “confession” was shown on TV on December 18, 2002.[[46]](#footnote-46) He was convicted in January 2003 of violating Art.14-101, part 2, paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l", 129, part 3, 169 Part 1 and 2, 174 Part 2, Part 1 176 214 Part 2, Part 1 of 218, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a", "b", p 235 Part 2 . "a", "b", 254 part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 271, part 3, part 2, 273, 275, Part 1, Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan, and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony, followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years and the prohibition to hold substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

### Vekil Ataevich Durdyev

*Date of Birth:* Unknown

*Citizenship:* Turkmen

*Residence at time of arrest:* Unknown

*Position when arrested:* Retired

*Date of arrest:* He was arrested on December 9, 2002 in Ashgabat on suspicion of links with those associated with the alleged November 2002 coup attempt. After his arrest, Durdyev was placed in solitary confinement in the pre-trial detention center of the Ministry of National Security.[[47]](#footnote-47), [[48]](#footnote-48)

*Charges:* He was convicted in January 2003 of violating Article 14-101 Part 2, paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l", 129 Part 3, Part 1 169, 2 174, part 2, 176 part 1, part 2, 214, 218 Part 1, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a" , "b", 235 part 2, paragraph "a", "b", 254 part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 271, part 3, 273 part 1, part 1 275 287 h .3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code.

*Sentence**:* In 2003, he was sentenced to 25 years of imprisonment: 5 years in prison; and the rest in a prison colony with confiscation of property, followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years and the prohibition to hold substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

*Biography:*A retired colonel, former employee of the National Security Committee, and former Consul General of Turkmenistan in Mashhad, Iran. On January 28, 2000, he was appointed Chairman of the State Committee for Tourism and Sport. He has been retired since 2001.

*Current situation:* Unknown

### Yazgeldy Gundogdyev

*Date of Birth:* 1950 or 1956

*Citizenship:* Turkmen

*Residence at time of arrest:* Unknown

*Position when arrested:* Unemployed

*Date of arrest:* He was detained at the end of November 2002, and the video of his “confession” was shown on December 18, 2002.

*Charges:* On January 21, 2003, he was convicted of involvement in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. He was convicted by the Ashgabat city court of violating Art.14-101, part 2, paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l", 129 Part 3, Part 1 169, 2, 174 Part 2, Part 1 176 214 Part 2, Part 1 of 218, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 235 part 2, paragraph "a", "b "254 Part 4, paragraph" a "," b ", 271 Part 3, Part 1 273 275 Part 1 and Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan.

*Sentence:* Gundogdyev was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, and the rest in a penal colony with confiscation of property, followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years, and the prohibition to hold substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

*Biography:* Born in Dashoguz. Gundogdyev was the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Leninist Communist Youth Union from July 1985 until August 1989, after which he served as a National Deputy of the High Council of the USSR from the Vekil- Bazarskoy region, from 1989-1991. At this time he was also the Secretary of the Soviet High Committee on Youth. On October 29, 1991, he was elected Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Republics of the High Council of the USSR. From 1992, he served as the Head of the International Department of the Presidential Administration, and after 1994 (exact date unknown), he became the Head of the Department of State Protocol and International Relations. At the same time, he was the Chief Advisor to the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Boris Shikhmuradov, from February 15, 1995, overseeing foreign policy issues. On April 7, 1994, he was promoted to the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. On July 23, 1997, he became the Head of Administration of Dashoguz region (Hakim). [[49]](#footnote-49),[[50]](#footnote-50) On September 11, 2000, he was dismissed for ‘serious shortcomings in his work.’ He was awarded the "Garashsyz Turkmenistan Bolan Beyik Soygusi Ychin" Prize in December 1999.

*Current situation:* It was announced that he was released on October 20, 2006 under an amnesty in connection to his failing health (on October 16, 2006, Niyazov announced the release of 8 "Novemberists" other names were unknown[[51]](#footnote-51)) and sent to a remote village in Dashoguz province.[[52]](#footnote-52) In May 2008, a relative of Gundogdyev told Amnesty International that he was still in prison.[[53]](#footnote-53) In December 2013, Farid Tukhbatullin also stated that his release was never confirmed. In May 2008, his relatives knew that he was still in prison.[[54]](#footnote-54)

### Tagandurdy Khallyevich Khallyev

*Date of Birth:* 1939, born in the Hasan-Kuliysk district of the Krasnovodsk region

*Citizenship:* Turkmen

*Residence at time of arrest:*Ashgabat

*Position when arrested:*Deputy of the Parliament

*Details of arrest:* On November 12, 2002, Khallyev allegedly resigned from his duties as Chairman of the Mejlis due to "health reasons."[[55]](#footnote-55) The meeting of deputies at which this decision was taken was not held in the Parliament building, as usual, but in the presidential palace, in the office of President Niyazov himself. According to the President, the speaker himself asked to be released from his duty. Opposition members believe that Saparmurat Niyazov feared betrayal by the Speaker of Parliament.[[56]](#footnote-56)

The exact date of his arrest is not known. According to the site "Gundogar," on December 9, 2002, at around 5PM, he was summoned to the Ministry of National Security (MNS), and was arrested after questioning and placed in the jail of the MNS. This information has not been confirmed by independent sources.[[57]](#footnote-57) The opposition website "Dogra El" also states that he was arrested as early as December 9, 2002 on suspicion of involvement in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov on November 25, 2002.[[58]](#footnote-58)

On December 14, 2002, he was stripped of powers of as a deputy of the Mejlis by a judge of the Balkan Velyat (region).

On December 18, 2002, he was officially stripped of his academic titles and degrees for “violations of” the Constitution, per the decision of the Higher Council for Science and Technology under the President of Turkmenistan. His diplomas included the degree of Candidate, Doctor of Philosophy, and the titles of associate professor and professor.[[59]](#footnote-59)

*Charges*: He was convicted by the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan of violating Art.14-101, part 2, paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l", 129 h .3, 169 part 1, 2, 174, part 2, 176 part 1, part 2, 214, 218 Part 1, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 235 h .2 paragraph "a", "b", 254 part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 271 Part 3, Part 1 273 275 Part 1 and Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan.

*Sentence*: Khallyev’s trial by the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan was held on January 15-18, 2003, and on January 18, 2003, he was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment (5 years in prison and 20 years in a penal colony). The court also placed a ban on holding any financially or otherwise responsible management positions for 3 years and he was to live in "a prescribed place" for 5 years. The Turkmen television channel videotaped his confession.[[60]](#footnote-60)

*Biography:* In 1963, Khallyev graduated from Turkmen State University. He earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy in 1970. His thesis was titled, "Shaping the communist attitude to work in the collective farm peasantry (based on materials of the Turkmen SSR)." He became a Doctor of Philosophy in 1992. His research was called "The development of the spiritual life of the peasantry in the transition from traditional to modern society."

In 1956, he worked as the head of a rural library. From 1963, he was a Lecturer of Philosophy at Turkmen State University (TSU). Since 1971 he was a Senior Lecturer, Head of Department, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Vice President for Research and Academic Affairs of TSU. On May 18, 1991 he became the Rector of TSU. Virtually all lawyers in Turkmenistan studied under him.

From August 1992 to May 1999, he was the Minister of Justice of Turkmenistan. At the same time, from September 1998, he was the Head of the Department of the Cabinet of Ministers in charge of the security forces. From January 1999 to January 2001, he was the Advisor to the President of Turkmenistan on legal matters, and coordination of law enforcement and military agencies. In 2001-2002 he served as Member of the Mejlis. From January 2001, he was also the Chairman of the Mejlis Committee on legislation. From March 13 to November 12, 2002 he served as Chairman of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan (elected unanimously). He also authored the monograph, "The spiritual life of the peasantry" (1992).[[61]](#footnote-61)

*Information on treatment during imprisonment:* According to a WikiLeaks source, the “‘special prisoners’—including primarily those convicted of leading the 2002 motorcade attack but also including some upper-level officials convicted of crimes as a matter of political expediency—live in a special ‘prison within a prison’ in Turkmenistan’s notorious Ovadan-Depe prison. According to [the source], conditions within the special prison block are particularly rough. Its inmates have no contact (other than with prison guards) with anybody from outside the block. This ban on contact includes access to doctors and letters from family members. When a prisoner falls sick, the prison doctor must prescribe medication based on a description of what is wrong, without being able to examine the patient.”[[62]](#footnote-62)

*Last seen/heard about:*Disappeared without a trace. Family and relatives have not received any information about his whereabouts or condition.

According to a source provided to V. Ponomarev of Memorial, Khallyev is among those who died in prison. Another source says he died on September 24, 2004.

 According to a WikiLeaks source, Tagandurdy Khallyev is included in a list of 20 prisoners who died between 2002-2007 in a special block of Ovadan-Depe.[[63]](#footnote-63)

*Arrest, detention, questioning and harassment of relatives and friends:* Unknown

*Current situation:* Unknown

### Annamurad Akhmedovich Khatamov

*Date of Birth:* January 14, 1954

*Citizenship:* Turkmen

*Residence at time of arrest:* 1 Beki Seytakova St., Ashgabat, Turkmenistan[[64]](#footnote-64)

*Position when arrested:* Chief Engineer of the Research Institute Turkmensuvdesga (Turkmenistan water management design organization)

*Date of arrest:* He was arrested in December 2002.The video of his forced “confession” was shown on TV on December 18, 2002.[[65]](#footnote-65)

*Charges:* He was convicted of violating Art.14-101, part 2, paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l", 129, part 3, 169 Part 1 and 2, 174 Part 2, Part 1 176 214 Part 2, Part 1 of 218, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a", "b", p 235 Part 2. "a", "b", 254 part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 271, part 3, part 2, 273, 275, Part 1, Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan.

*Sentence:* In January 2003, he was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, and the rest in a penal colony with confiscation of property followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years and the prohibition to hold substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

*Biography:* He was the chief engineer of the Research Institute Turkmensuvdesga in Ashgabat, and an expert on water resource management in Turkmenistan. He is the elder brother of Amangeldi Khatamov, and a close friend of Guvanch Djumaev.

 He participated in a number of international conferences, projects and events, including a USAID/McGill University organized conference on “Improving the management of natural resources in Central Asia,”[[66]](#footnote-66) and a GEF funded project on “Management of water resources and the environment in the Aral Sea Basin.”[[67]](#footnote-67)

 Khatamov holds at least three patents, including: ‘Methodology of excavation during construction of the excavation profile and device for its implementation.’[[68]](#footnote-68)He also has a number of publications including a report “Reusing water in Turkmenistan.”[[69]](#footnote-69)

*Relatives arrested/harassed/detained:*Khatamov, Amangeldi Akhmedovich, Younger brother of Annamurad Khatamov. Lived in Ashgabat. He was convicted in January 2003, and sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years - in prison, the rest in a penal colony; followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years. Garayev Atamyrat Nurmuradovich, Acquaintance of Amangeldi Khatamov, from Ashgabat. He was convicted in January 2003 and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment; 3 years in prison, and the rest in a penal colony, followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years.

*Current situation:* Unknown

### Mukhamet Nazarovich Nazarov

*Date of Birth:*1951

*Citizenship:*Turkmen

*Residence at time of arrest:*Ashgabat

*Position when arrested:*Chairman of the Committee on National Security, Chief Legal Advisor to the President, Coordinator of Law Enforcement and the Military.

*Date of arrest:*On March 4, 2002 he was relieved of all duties as Advisor to President Niyazov, Coordinator of Law Enforcement and the Military, and his rank was lowered to Lieutenant General due to shortcomings in his work.[[70]](#footnote-70) On March 14, 2002 he was fired from his position as Chairman of the KNB. On April 1, 2002 Nazarov was stripped of military ranking, material and other benefits for military personnel, State awards, and dismissed from military service.[[71]](#footnote-71)

Some sources indicate that Nazarov was placed under house arrest until trial.[[72]](#footnote-72) On June 15, 2002 he and his key deputies were tried, and Nazarov was given a 20 year sentence.[[73]](#footnote-73)

*Sentence:* Nazarov was given a twenty year sentence, 3 of which must be spent in prison.[[74]](#footnote-74) Other sources say he was sentenced to 25 years.[[75]](#footnote-75)

*Charges:*Although official court documents are not available, Niyazov accused Turkmen KNB leadership on national television of taking bribes, violating the rule of law, trade in and personal use of narcotics, interference with criminal proceedings instituted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other state bodies, arbitrary searches and arrests, falsifying evidence and human rights abuses such as beatings of defendants. Niyazov highlighted that the KNB leadership continued to employ the methods of the USSR KGB, when the secret services presided over all government institutions.[[76]](#footnote-76)

*Biography:* Nazarov began his career in 1975 in the Komsomol. In 1982 he joined the Government Security Committee (KGB) in Turkmenistan and rose through the ranks from an operational employee to Deputy Chairman of the National Security Committee (KNB) of Turkmenistan (January 6, 1993), and served as Chairman of the Committee National Security of Turkmenistan from October 11, 1996 to March 14, 2002. Between 1992 and 1998, Nazarov rose through the ranks from Lieutenant Colonel to Lieutenant General, Major General, and Colonel General. In 1994 and 1997, he traveled to Moscow and requested extradition of political refugees from Russia to Turkmenistan, which was rejected by the Attorney General's Office of the Russian Federation. From May 7, 2001, he was also the Advisor to the President of Turkmenistan on Legal Affairs and Coordinator of law enforcement and military authorities.

During his career he received two official reprimands. In September 1998, he was reprimanded in connection with an incident in a tank regiment in the city of Kazandzhik, as the head of the State Commission on investigation into the incident. Then, on December 2, 1998 he was given a strict reprimand for the shortcomings in the operational activities of national security, which led to untimely adoption of necessary measures to prevent the mass accumulation of citizens in the Pagta branch of the Central Bank Association of the Agriculture and Credits Bank of Turkmenistan (Daikhan banks) in Ashgabat, and disturbance of public order.

He was presented the awards "Bitaraplyk" (December 1999), "Turkmenbashi" (October 1998), the Order of the President of Turkmenistan "Garassyz Turkmenistana bolan beyik soygusi ucin" (January 2001), and the medal, "For the Love of the Fatherland."

*Information on arrest/treatment during imprisonment:* In the fall of 2002 it was reported that Nazarov was being held in a special prison in Krasnovodsk (Turkmenbashi) for members of the security forces who had been charged with crimes. In 2003, it was reported that Nazarov was suffering from severe mental instability. Numerous unofficial reports state that he died on September 10, 2004.

*Last seen/heard about:*Unknown

*Relatives arrested/harassed/detained:*The only information available is on the imprisonment of Nurtach Velmamedova, a relative of Nazarov. She was held in DZK-8, and was not allowed to meet relatives or receive parcels or letters. She was prevented from interacting with other inmates, and guarded by bodyguards who would escort her and other female prisoners to the bathroom and canteen.[[77]](#footnote-77)

*Suspected current situation:*Unknown

### Nurmukhammet Orazgeldyev

*Date of Birth:* 1956

*Citizenship:* Turkmen

*Residence at time of arrest:* Unknown

*Position when arrested:* Unknown

*Date of arrest:* A search was announced for Nurmukhammet Orazgeldyev in November 2002. He was arrested on 14 December at a bus station in the town of Mary, dressed in women's clothes, by an army patrolman. Uzbekistan’s Ambassador Kadyrov to Turkmenistan was accused of hiding him and Boris Shikhmuradov in the Embassy after the attack failed, from November 26 until December 7.[[78]](#footnote-78)

*Charges:* His public “confession” was broadcast on December 18, 2002.[[79]](#footnote-79) He was tried by the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan on January 13-15, 2003, and was convicted on the 15th of January for violating Art.14-101, part 2, paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l", 129 Part 3, Part 1 169, 2, 174 Part 2, Part 1 176 214 Part 2, Part 1 of 218, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 235 part 2, paragraph "a", "b "254 Part 4, paragraph" a "," b ", 271 part 3, part 1 273 275 Part 1 and Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan.

*Sentence:* In 2003, he was given a life sentence with confiscation of property.[[80]](#footnote-80)

*Biography:*Born in Mary province and lived in Ashgabat. He was an entrepreneur. He was from the same village as and a friend of Redjepgeldy Nurgeldyev. He is a retired Major, a former employee of the National Security Committee,[[81]](#footnote-81) the Ministry of Defense of Turkmenistan, and former vice-president of the football club, Nisa.

*Information on treatment during imprisonment*:Amnesty International received allegations that Nurmukhammet Orazgeldyev, among others, was tortured or ill-treated after having been detained in the context of the November 25 attack.[[82]](#footnote-82)

*Current situation:* Unknown. His relatives, friends and the public have no knowledge about his fate.

*Relatives arrested/harassed/detained*:

* Soltan Ereshevich Ilamanov (1979) He is the nephew of N. Orazgeldyev (N. Orazgeldyev is the husband of his mother's sister). He was convicted in January 2003 of violating Art.14 -101 , part 2 , paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l", 129, part 3, 169 Part 1 and 2, 174 Part 2, Part 1 176 214 Part 2, Part 1 of 218, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a", "b", p 235 Part 2. "a", "b", 254 part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 271, part 3, part 2, 273, 275, Part 1, Part 3 287 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony, followed by living with confiscation of property in a designated place for 5 years. He was beaten and tortured with electroshock.
* Edzhegul Akgaevna Tashlieva/Gyachlieva. She is a businesswoman from Mary Province and was a classmate of N. Orazgeldyev. She was convicted in January 2003 of violating Article 218, part 1, 2, 3, 254, p.4 "c", 287 p.3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. She was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment with confiscation of property with additional probation for 5 years.
* Redzhepgeldy Nurgeldyev. He was the managing director of the “Tamponaj” of the “Turkmenburgaz” trust in the village of Shatlyk in Mary Province. He is a friend of, and is from the same village as N. Orazgeldyev. He was detained in December 2002, and convicted in January 2003 of violating Article 14 -101 Part 2 , paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l", 129 Part 3, Part 1 169, 2 174, part 2, 176 part 1, part 2, 214, 218 Part 1, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 235 part 2 , paragraph "a", "b", 254 part 4 , paragraph "a", "b", 271, part 3, 273 part 1, part 1 275 287 h.3 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan. He was sentenced to 22 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, and the rest in a penal colony, with confiscation of property followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years and the prohibition to hold substantive and responsible management positions for 3 more years.

### Serdar Rakhimov

*Date of Birth:* March 3, 1951

*Citizenship:* Turkmen, Russian

*Residence at time of arrest:* Ashgabat

*Date of arrest:* He was arrested on December 2, 2002 and then released on December 4, 2002. He was arrested for the second time on 5 December 2002. The video of his “confession” was shown on TV on December 18, 2002. [[83]](#footnote-83)

*Charges:* Prosecutor General of Turkmenistan Kurbanbibi Atadjanova stated that the former secretary of the Communist Party of the Turkmen SSR, former Minister-Counselor in Pakistan, Serdar Rakhimov participated in the preparation and implementation of a coup attempt in Turkmenistan on November 25, 2002. He was accused of intending to announce on television the assassination of President Niyazov.[[84]](#footnote-84) He was convicted on January 18, 2003 by the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan in violating Art.14 -101 , part 2 , paragraph "a ", " b" , "f" , "g" , "h" , "i" , "l" , 129 h .3 , 169 part 1 , 2, 174 , part 2 , 176 part 1 , part 2, 214 , 218 Part 1 , 2.3 , 231 Part 4 , paragraph "a ", " b" , 235 h .2 paragraph "a" , "b" , 254 part 4 , paragraph "a ", " b" , 271 Part 3, Part 1 273 275 Part 1 and Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan.

*Sentence:* On December 30, 2002, he was sentenced to 25 years in imprisonment:[[85]](#footnote-85),[[86]](#footnote-86) 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony, followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years, and a prohibition against holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years. Even before the court hearing, on the 20th of December, the Supreme Council for Science and Technology under the President of Turkmenistan stripped Rakhimov of his degree of candidate of historical sciences.[[87]](#footnote-87)

*Biography:*Serdar Rakhimov was a Turkmen journalist, social and political activist, and leader of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan.

In 1973, Rakhimov graduated from the Department of Journalism of Moscow State University. He was a member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1977. From 1984 to July 1990 (some sources say till 1989), he unofficially headed the State Committee of the Turkmen SSR on Television and Radio. From July 1990 till 1991, he served as the Secretary of Ideology of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan. On January 6, 1995, he was appointed the Minister-Counselor of the Embassy of Turkmenistan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (some sources say he served in this post from 1993-1994). Upon returning to Turkmenistan, he worked in various commercial structures and actively participated in the restoration of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan and the restoration of relations between the Communist Parties of Russia and Turkmenistan. He spent the last couple of years prior to imprisonment unemployed. He is married to Artykgul Charyevna, has a son Murad, daughter Aina, and at least two grandchildren.[[88]](#footnote-88),[[89]](#footnote-89),[[90]](#footnote-90)

*Last seen/heard about:*Unknown. Since Rakhimov’s arrest, there has been no reliable information about his fate. His relatives are not aware of where he is serving his sentence. He is denied the right to receive parcels and letters, and is not to be considered for pardon; he is not allowed visits from representatives of international human rights organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.[[91]](#footnote-91)

 In an interview with Vitaliy Ponomarev, a former inmate at Ovadan-Depe who escaped Turkmenistan disclosed important facts about the internal order of the prison. In particular, the ‘Novemberists’ or those convicted in the so-called assassination attempt against President Niyazov, are kept in cells with fully closed windows in a separate section of the prison. However, their cries can be heard in the quarantine chamber, where inmates come for a time. The Novemberists cry out to let the others know about their fates and situations. The source managed to make out that Serdar Rakhimov was still alive in Ovadan-Depe when he was there in March 2007.

On August 18, 2009, a group of journalists who graduated from Moscow State University appealed to their colleagues and human rights activists to support an action in defense of Boris Shikhmuradov and Serdar Rakhimov, both graduates of the Faculty of Journalism of Moscow State University. In their initiative, the journalists asked President Medvedev to act as guarantor of compliance with the mandate of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs to seek a meeting of the representatives of the Russian Embassy in Turkmenistan with the detainees, in order to assist them. The group reminded Medvedev of his own words that "an absolute priority for us is to protect the life and dignity of our citizens, wherever they may be" and asked him to take matters of the two Russian citizens under his personal control. [[92]](#footnote-92),[[93]](#footnote-93)

Many individuals, including members of the Russian Communist party, as well as Serdar Rakhimov’s son, wrote to Niyazov, asking for Rakhimov’s release: <http://www.trudoros.narod.ru/akm/2013/07/trkm.htm>.

*Relatives arrested/harassed/detained:* Sixteen of Rakhimov’s relatives were fired from their jobs.[[94]](#footnote-94)

### Batyr Kurbanovich Sardzhaev

*Date of Birth:* 1945

*Citizenship*: Turkmen

*Residence at time of arrest:* Ashgabat

*Position when arrested:* Days before the arrest, Sardzhaev was dismissed from his position as Head of the Turkmen Railways, "Turkmendemiryollary."[[95]](#footnote-95)

*Date of Arrest:* He was arrested on August 5, before the start of the Halk Maslahat  (People's Council) of Turkmenistan[[96]](#footnote-96).

*Charges:* He was charged with "unclean affairs in the railway industry," including embezzlement.[[97]](#footnote-97),[[98]](#footnote-98)

*Sentence:* In 2002, he was sentenced to 12 years in prison and disappeared without any information.

*Biography:*Sardzhaev was born in Dashoguz; his family moved there from Kizil-Arvat in the 1920-1930s. He graduated from high school in 1963, and studied at the Turkmen Agricultural Institute from 1968-1973. From 1963 he worked as a locksmith miller at the Dashoguz auto-repair factory named after the "40th anniversary of the Turkmen SSR."

From 1964-1967 he served in the Soviet Army. From 1973-1979 he worked as a miller in the railroad service. He was a depot master of the Ashgabat Vocational Industrial Institute Number 6. He was also the head of the technical control department, and chief engineer of the Ashgabat repair plant Number 1. From 1979-1980 he was the Deputy Chief of Operations, and Chief Engineer of the Ashgabat Industrial Motor Association Minavtotransa TSSR. In 1980-1986, he served as the Deputy Head of the Department of Transport and Communications of the Office of the Council of Ministers of TSSR. From March 1986, he worked as Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee of Ashgabat. In November 1986, he was appointed the 1st Secretary of the Leninsk Regional Committee of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan (CPT) of Ashgabat. In 1988-1990, he served as the Head of the Socio-economic department of the Central Committee of CPT. Beginning in 1998 he also oversaw the oil and gas sector. From April 1990 he was the 1st Secretary of the Ashgabat City Committee of CPT. From January 1991 until May 18, 1992 he was the Chairman of the Ashgabat City Council. On May 19, 1992, he was appointed Mayor of the city of Ashgabat. In June 1993 he was appointed Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan (Deputy Prime Minister). From April 1997 to May 1998 he was also the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources. From May 24, 1999 till June 2001 he served as the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Defense Minister, and Rector of the Military Institute of Defense (assigned to coordinate all Security Departments).[[99]](#footnote-99) This assignment was Niyazov's attempt to rebuild the Turkmen army after its collapse. In this capacity he became the first civilian to be Defense Minister in the CIS.[[100]](#footnote-100) He was also the Deputy of the 12th meeting of Turkmenistan's Supreme Council. Sardzhaev was considered by some a protégé of Niyazov and very close to the President. He was regarded very well by Niyazov himself.[[101]](#footnote-101)

He was awarded the medals "Galkinish," "Bitaraplyk," "Ghairat," and "For the Love of the Fatherland."

From June 2001 until July 29, 2002, he was the Head of the Turkmen Railways "Turkmendemiryollary." Other sources say he was appointed to this post in October 2001. On July 29, 2002, Sardzhaev was dismissed from the post without a right to take up further leadership positions.[[102]](#footnote-102),[[103]](#footnote-103)

His removal from office became a grand spectacle, with the three national television channels spending a week strongly denouncing Sardzhaev and accusing him of embezzlement. People who knew him have written online that he was educated, loyal, honest and hardworking. Sardzhaev was noted for his integrity and efficiency at work.

*Information on treatment during imprisonment:*According to a source, Sardzhaev was transferred from a prison in Turkmenbashi to Ovadan-Depe in June 2004. He was previously reported to be suffering from poor health.[[104]](#footnote-104) The horrors which Batyr Sardzhaev, one of the most respected people in the country, was enduring within the walls of the building of the Prosecutor General led an employee of the Prosecutor General to take an unusual step and appeal to the international public in August 2002: "Help us, please let everyone know that we have a terrible mess going on in Turkmenistan, it's worse than in 1937. I want everyone to know,” he said, “that except for the high officials, no one in my department is able to endure the terror unleashed by Niyazov any longer."[[105]](#footnote-105)

*Last seen/heard about:* On August 23, a routine interrogation ended for Batyr Sardzhaev with a stroke, which paralyzed the right side of his face. According to an insider source, the Attorney General of Turkmenistan Kurbanbibi Atadjanova, fearing the incident, forbade any of her subordinates to report on Sardzhaev's state, and on the transportation route for his interrogations between the Attorney General's office and the detention center (SIZO) of the National Security Committee (KNB).[[106]](#footnote-106)

*Current situation:* Unknown. His relatives, friends and the public have no knowledge about his fate.

### Boris Shikhmuradov

*Date of Birth:* May 25, 1949 in Ashgabat

*Citizenship:* Russian

*Residence at time of arrest:* Living outside of Turkmenistan

*Position when arrested:* At the time of his arrest, Shikhmuradov had resigned from public service in Turkmenistan.

*Charges against the imprisoned, the sentence and current status of the case:* Boris Shikhmuradov, the former Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan from 1993 to 1999, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan from 1993 to 2000, and Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China from March 2001 to October 2001, was arrested in Ashgabat on December 25, 2002 on allegations of organizing an assassination attempt on the life of the then-President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurat Niyazov, on November 25, 2002. Four days after his arrest, without adequate time to review his case or access to an interpreter, on December 29, 2002, Mr. Shikhmuradov was sentenced in a closed trial to twenty-five years in prison for attempting to overthrow the state system, assassinate the President of Turkmenistan, and for allegedly violating over twenty other articles of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan; these included the possession of contraband, illegal weapons possession, murder, possession and sale of illegal drugs, and embezzlement. Also on December 29th, 2002, Mr. Shikhmuradov’s public confession was broadcast. On tape he recites his confession in a monotone, using wooden phrases. He is quite clearly under the influence of drugs, or otherwise under a great amount of psychological duress. He says that he was not in fact an opposition leader, but a Mafioso, and that he took drugs, drank alcohol, and deserved the harshest punishment.[[107]](#footnote-107) The unrecognizable Boris Shikhmuradov appears along with the subtitle “terrorist.”

On December 30, 2002, however, the People’s Council (Halk Maslahaty), the highest legislative body in Turkmenistan until it was abolished in the 2008 constitution, amended the Criminal Code so that Boris Shikhmuradov could be sentenced to life imprisonment. Before this the Criminal Code stated that the punishment for the most serious crimes was a term of up to twenty-five years imprisonment. According to the OSCE Special Rapporteur for Turkmenistan, Professor Emmanuel Decaux, the speakers went so far as to try to reinstate the death penalty but were superseded by President Niyazov, who, invoking international considerations, proposed “life imprisonment” as the punishment for the most severe crimes.[[108]](#footnote-108)

*Biography:* Boris Shikhmuradov was born in Ashgabat in 1949 to an Armenian mother and Turkmen father. Mr. Shikhmuradov holds Russian citizenship. After graduating from Moscow State University with a degree in journalism in 1971, Mr. Shikhmuradov began working at the news agency “Novosti” (after the collapse of the Soviet Union, “Novosti” became known as “Russian Information Agency Novosti,” or “RIA Novosti,” and is currently one of the largest state-owned news agencies in Russia).

Mr. Shikhmuradov worked at “Novosti” until 1992. During his time there he went on two long missions abroad: from 1975-1979 as an editor of “Novosti,” he was sent to Pakistan where he served as third secretary of the Soviet embassy there; and from 1986 to 1991 as the deputy head of the “Novosti” Information Center, he served as counselor to the Soviet Embassy in India. He had studied at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR from 1983-1986. It was in 1992 while in Delhi that he received President Niyazov’s invitation to join the Foreign Ministry of Turkmenistan. From 1992 to 2001, he occupied several high level positions, including Deputy Foreign Minister, Foreign Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and Representative of the President of Turkmenistan in Afghanistan and the Caspian region. In 2001, he was appointed Ambassador of Turkmenistan to the People’s Republic of China.

According to Tatyana Shikhmuradova, the relationship between Mr. Shikhmuradov and President Niyazov started to deteriorate around 1999. At the beginning, Mr. Shikhmuradov was a trusted member of Niyazov’s cabinet, and was the Vice-Premier-Curator of many different areas, including health, foreign policy, law enforcement, military agencies, education, and science. Mr. Shikhmuradov eventually focused on foreign policy issues. However, after 1999 he began to sharply criticize certain foreign policies of President Niyazov, including his policies on Afghanistan. He was then relieved of the positions of Deputy Prime Minister, and later, Foreign Minister. Instead, Mr. Shikhmuradov was appointed Rector of the Institute for Tourism and Sports, which he found pleasant both because he had always loved sports, but also because it gave him a chance to get away from politics, aware as he was of the futility of his efforts to change Niyazov’s decisions.

From 1999 to early 2001, Mr. Shikhmuradov repeatedly asked to resign. According to Mrs. Shikhmuradova, Niyazov responded: “only from the grave.” They finally compromised and Mr. Shikhmuradov was made ambassador to the People’s Republic of China. Niyazov told him: “travel, take a rest, and have a good think about it.…”

*Information on arrest and treatment during imprisonment:* The last time Mr. Shikhmuradov’s wife, Tatyana, saw her husband was on television, during his public confession at a public meeting, where fragments of the trial of Shikhmuradov and others were broadcast along with his “confession, recognition of all crimes, and exaltation of President Niyazov.”

Since then, family members have had no word as to his location, the conditions of his confinement, his health, or even whether he is deceased or still living. Mrs. Shikhmuradova has on many occasions tried to find out information concerning her husband, but to no avail.[[109]](#footnote-109)

 According to unconfirmed reports, immediately following the alleged assassination attempt, Shikhmuradov went into hiding at the homes of acquaintances and at the Embassy of Uzbekistan.

Mr. Shikhmuradov’s sister, Larisa, told the human rights group “Memorial,” that her brother only had one meeting with his lawyer, Victoria Bagdasaryan. On December 27, 2002, Ms. Bagdasaryan received a copy of the indictment against Mr. Shikhmuradov, which was written in the Turkmen language, which neither Mr. Shikhmuradov nor Ms. Bagdasaryan spoke. Mr. Shikhmuradov, who had no time to review the case and was not allowed to meet with his lawyer a second time, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment on December 29, 2002 and then life imprisonment on December 30, 2002. It is not known whether Ms. Bagdasaryan was allowed to plead his case in court but she was present on the 29th when his sentence was read. She refused to see any family members after the trial. In addition, family members never received copies of the accusations against Mr. Shikhmuradov and never learned where the trial took place.[[110]](#footnote-110) All the information the family knows, either about the trial, the verdict, or the events of November 25, 2002 was gleaned from the Russian and Turkmen media.

During his confession, it was obvious that Mr. Shikhmuradov was under the influence of drugs. Leonid Komarovsky briefly saw him in jail during the first week of confinement and attested that he “looked completely worn out and had his head down.” Mr. Shikhmuradov may well have been tortured.

*Arrest, detention, questioning, and harassment of relatives and friends:* Professor Emmanuel Decaux states in his report, “In practice, there are three groups of persons repressed: those accused of being directly connected with the attempt, relatives of these persons, against whom charges have been artificially created and finally, persons who have been targeted on political grounds without any connection with the so-called attempt”.[[111]](#footnote-111)

In fact, even Victoria Bagdasaryan has stopped practicing law, and many other people connected with the events of November 25, 2002, have been punished. The judge in the sentencing court was forced out of Ashgabat and resettled in a distant district, and heads of the National Security Committee, the Ministry of the Interior, the General Prosecutor’s Office, and the Supreme Court were all fired. Even Prosecutor General Gurbanbibi Atajanova, who condemned Boris Shikhmuradov in a report on *Watan News Program*, was convicted and is currently in prison.

* Konstantin Shikhmuradov (Boris Shikhmuradov’s brother) was sentenced to seventeen years in prison on January 21,2003. According to Larisa Shikhmuradova, he was not allowed family visits and no one could bring him medication or warm clothing. His lawyer was also not allowed to visit him. His wife, Aina, was subjected to almost daily interrogations. Their family possessions were initially seized, telephones were tapped, and the house was under observation.
* Aina Shikhmuradova (Boris Shikhmuradov’s sister-in-law), together with her son, Aman, (son of Konstantin Shikhmuradov), were summoned for questioning in the months of November and December, 2002. They were separated into different rooms and were subject to intimidation and abuse. Their house was seized and sealed on December 22, 2002. Although Aina managed to reclaim the house, it was demolished.

On June 27, 2007, Aina and Aman Shikhmuradov were sentenced each to three years’ imprisonment on charges of bribery and forging documents; this occurred because Shikhmuradova had allegedly given US $160 and documents to a driving school instructor who had promised to help expeditiously arrange a driving test for her son. Aina and her son Aman were released from prison in October, 2007 after serving three months.

Aina Shikhmuradova, prior to this, had a conversation with a Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) correspondent, which may have precipitated the charges against her. Furthermore, after President Niyazov’s death she had appealed to the newly created Commission on the Actions of Law Enforcement Bodies with a request to review the cases of Boris Shikhmuradov and two other relatives, her husband, Konstantin Shikhmuradov and their son Murad. She received an answer with regard to Murad, which stated only that he was “justly” sentenced.

* Aman Shikhmuradov (Boris Shikhmuradov’s nephew and Konstantin Shikhmuradov’s youngest son) was only fourteen when his father was sentenced to prison. He was repressed together with his mother, allegedly for paying bribes. He was released after three months of imprisonment due to pressure from foreign embassies and international organizations.
* Maria Shikhmuradova (Boris Shikhmuradov’s mother) Despite her inability to leave the house due to her advancing years, Boris and Konstantin Shikhmuradov’s mother was under constant surveillance and her house was guarded by two armed agents. Unwarranted searches had reportedly frequently taken place and she was often threatened, intimidated, and interrogated by agents from the Ministry of National Security. They demanded the addresses and photographs of relatives living in Russia. At the time, the 85-year-old did not receive any medical aid because her relatives, friends, and neighbors were afraid to enter her home for fear of being arrested. The nurse who cared for her was also called in for questioning. Maria Shikhmuradova passed away at the age of 93 in June 2011.
* Larisa Shikhmuradova (Boris Shikhmuradov’s sister) lived in Russia and worked at the Research Library of Moscow State University. She also actively worked to draw public attention to the repression of her relatives. She was closely followed for a year afterwards by Turkmenistan Special Forces, who loitered under the windows of her apartment and by her workplace. She would often receive threatening telephone calls and she was once almost forced into an agent’s car. Larisa Shikhmuradova died in Moscow in August 2004 at the age of 60.
* Begench Beknazarov (the nephew of Boris Shikhmuradov’s sister-in-law, Aina) served as deputy commander of the infantry division stationed in Ashgabat. His parents saw him for the last time on the morning of November 26, 2002, when he was urgently summoned for questioning. He disappeared soon after and was wanted for some time, but was arrested in Ashgabat on May 17, 2005. There are reports that he was sentenced to life imprisonment.
* Amandurdy Beknazarov (the brother of Boris Shikhmuradov’s sister-in-law, Aina) was 63-years-old and in poor health when he was arrested on December 17, 2002. He was first detained for two days and forced to specify the location of his son, Begench. He was then held for twenty days in pre-trial detention (SIZO) without formal charges. During this time he was beaten and tortured. After Begench was arrested in 2005, both he and his wife Raisa were forcibly evicted from Ashgabat to Mary province. In addition, when his two older children living in Israel tried to make arrangements for their parents to travel there, both Amandurdy and Raisa Beknarazov’s passports were taken away.
* Raisa Beknazarova (The sister-in-law of Boris Shikhmuradov’s sister-in-law, mother of Begench Beknazarov) was also arrested on December 17, 2002 and held for twenty days in pre-trial detention (SIZO) without formal charges. She was also beaten and tortured during that time.
* Djeren Beknazarova (the niece of Boris Shikhmuradov’s sister-in-law, sister of Begench Beknazarov) was only nineteen in 2002. She was arrested along with her parents on December 17, 2002 and held for twenty days in pre-trial detention (SIZO). She was beaten and tortured, and was administered shots of unknown chemical substances.
* Serdar Shikhmuradov and Larisa Shikhmuradova (Boris Shikhmuradov’s cousin and his wife) are highly qualified doctors, but both were fired from their jobs after the events of November 25, 2002. Serdar had gone to Russia before November 25, but his wife and children (one of whom was disabled in childhood) were not allowed to leave the country, despite the fact that they all had Russian citizenship. Their apartment was repeatedly ransacked, and Larisa was called in for questioning. The family was reunited in Moscow (their current residence) only after Serdar asked the U.S. embassy there for help.
* Rita and Zurab Akopyan (Boris Shikhmuradov’s second cousin and her husband) were detained for three days for questioning on December 21, 2002, and their home was raided. Both were fired from their jobs. After this, for several years their family tried to leave the country, but each time they were pulled from their flight. Rita only managed to leave in 2008, and Zurab and their children a little earlier. They currently live in Armenia.

*Current situation:* Unknown. During a visit to Columbia University in 2007, the current President, Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov, was asked by a graduate student about the status of Boris Shikhmuradov and Batyr Berdyev (Turkmenistan’s former ambassador to the OSCE, convicted also for participating in the alleged attempted coup). President Berdymukhamedov responded that he is “positive they are alive”.[[112]](#footnote-112) However, there is no evidence either supporting or contradicting this statement.

Konstantin Shikhmuradov

*Date of Birth:* June 4, 1951

*Citizenship:* Russian and Turkmen

*Residence at time of arrest:* Ashgabat

*Date of Arrest:* Arrested December 7, 2002 initially on charges of extortion and fraud. A few days later accused of involvement in the conspiracy.

*Charges:* Convicted January 21, 2003 by the Ashgabat City Court on Article 14 -101 Part 2 , paragraph "a ", " b" , "f" , "g" , "h" , "i" , "l" , 129 h .3 , 169 part 1 , 2, 174 , part 2 , 176 part 1 , part 2, 214 , 218 Part 1 , 2.3 , 231 Part 4 , paragraph "a ", " b" , 228 h .4 , 235 , part 2 , paragraph "a ", " b" , 254 part 4 , paragraph "a ", " b" , 271 Part 3, Part 1 273 275 Part 1 and Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan .

*Sentence:* Sentenced to 17 years imprisonment 5 years - in prison, the rest - in a penal colony with confiscation of property followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years and the prohibition to hold substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

*Biography:*brother of Boris Shikhmuradov

*Current Situation:* Unknown. His relatives, friends and the public have no information about his fate.

### Tirkish Tyrmyev

*Date of Birth:* January 2, 1951. Born inthe village of Leningrad in the Oktyabr district of Dashoguz Province

*Citizenship:*Turkmen

*Residence at time of arrest:*Unknown

*Date of arrest:* On April 5, 2002, Tyrmyev was taken into custody. He was tried by the Supreme Court on May 6, 2002.[[113]](#footnote-113)

*Position when arrested:* When Tyrmyev was stripped of his military ranking of Major General and all benefits associated with it, he had been serving as Chief of the KNB for the Mary city for several weeks. He was reassigned and demoted to this less important post from serving as Head of the Border Service on March 5, 2002.[[114]](#footnote-114),[[115]](#footnote-115),[[116]](#footnote-116) He was dismissed as Head of the Border Service for “serious shortcomings in his work and the use of his position for personal gain,” according to official sources.[[117]](#footnote-117)

*Charges:*On April 5, 2002, he was convicted of ‘abuse of power’ according to articles 358 (part 3), 359 (part 2 and 33), 148 (part 2) 63 (part 3) of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan.[[118]](#footnote-118) Ten days prior to the end of his initial sentence, he was charged with a crime against a prison guard.[[119]](#footnote-119)

*Sentence:*His initial sentence was 10 years for abuse of power in high security. Other sources say 12 years. On March 6, 2012, he was sentenced to seven more years in jail at a closed door hearing in the prison court.[[120]](#footnote-120) He was sentenced in accordance with article 213 (part 1) of the new criminal code of Turkmenistan. According to this article, he should be imprisoned in a penal colony, but he is in the AT 2 prison in Akhalsk Velayat.

*Biography:*Graduated from the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute (1971), The KGB Institute (1985).

Tyrmyev began his career in 1971 at the Institute "TurkmenNIPIneft" where he held various positions including in management.

 From 1977, he was the first secretary of the Municipal Committee of the Nebitdag Komsomol. From 1981-1982 he was the Secretary of the Leninist Komsomol of Soviet Youth of the Republic of Turkmenistan. From 1985, he held various positions in the TSSR KGB (the Turkmenistan KNB). From 1993 to 1997 he was Head of the KNB of the Mary province. In January 1999 he was appointed First Deputy Chairman of the National Security Committee. On April 23, 1999, he was appointed Head of the State Border Service.

 On April 1, 2002, he was dismissed as Head of the Mary administration of the KNB due to “serious” shortcomings in his the work, stripped of his military rank of Major General, and all material and other benefits for military service, state awards, and dismissed from military service.[[121]](#footnote-121) He held the rank of Colonel from October 25, 1995 to April 1999 when he was promoted to Major General until his demotion on April 1, 2002.

 He was awarded the Order of the President of Turkmenistan "Garassyz Turkmenistana bolan beyik soygusi ucin" in January 2001 and medals " Edermenlik," "For the Love of the Fatherland," and “Gayrat" (December 1999 ).[[122]](#footnote-122)

*Information on arrest/treatment during imprisonment:*Unknown. According to a statement by Boris Shikhmuradov dating to September 2002, Niyazov ordered that Tyrmyev be kept in strict isolation in "solitary confinement.” The last information about his imprisonment (in 2002) was that he was being kept in an internal prison in a KGB detention facility on Zhitnikov Street. In September 2002, he suffered from terrible headaches and extreme mental exhaustion.[[123]](#footnote-123)

*Last seen/heard about:*Prior to sentencing, on May 7, 2002, Tyrmyev’s family was granted permission for a one time visit. Following this, they last saw him in the court room.

 Members of Tyrmyev's family, who live in Dashoguz Province, say they have not been allowed to see him or communicate with him since the summer of 2002.[[124]](#footnote-124) According to the articles by which he was sentenced, his family should have the right to see him at least 6 times a year. However, in the 12 years he has been imprisoned they have not been given permission to see him and have no idea about his condition.

 According to Boris Shikhmuradov, in September 2002, Tirkish Tyrmyev was alive, but his health was in critical condition. According to reliable information received from a source of Shikhmuradov’s in the Turkmenistan KNB, Niyazov gave his executioners a deadline: within three months from September 2002, General Tyrmyev should disappear.[[125]](#footnote-125)

*Relatives arrested/harassed/detained:*Hiswife and daughter live in fear for themselves and their families. They are not allowed to leave the country.

*Current situation:* Unknown. His relatives, friends and the public have no knowledge about his fate.

### Amanmukhammet Yklymov

*Date of Birth:* November 23, 1948, born in Dargan-Ata district Chardjou area, Ashgabat

*Citizenship:* Turkmen

*Residence at time of arrest:* Ashgabat

*Position when arrested:* Unknown

*Date of arrest:* Wanted in November 2002, was arrested on 25 November 2002 and was detained incommunicado in the "trial center" of the Ministry of Domestic Affairs. His videotaped “confession” was shown on TV on December 4, 2002.[[126]](#footnote-126)

*Charges:* Art.14 -101 , part 2 , paragraph "a", " b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l", 129, part 3, 169 Part 1 and 2, 174 Part 2, Part 1 176 214 Part 2, Part 1 of 218, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a", " b", p 235 Part 2. "a", "b", 254 part 4 , paragraph "a", " b", 271, part 3, part 2, 273, 275, Part 1, Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan.

*Sentence:* He was convicted in January 2003 and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony, followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years and the prohibition to hold substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

*Biography:*He is a businessman and brother of Yklym, Saparmurat and Orazmammet Yklymov. He graduated from the Faculty of History of the Turkmen State University (in absentia). He worked as deputy head of a farm in the outskirts of Ashgabat. On November 18, 1987, he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment on charges of misappropriating a loan from an Iranian firm.

*Treatment during arrest/detention/imprisonment:* He was reportedly tortured throughout the time of his detention up until his death, which is thought to have occurred during March 2003.**[[127]](#footnote-127)** The torture reportedly included severe beatings and the administration of large doses of psychotropic drugs, which resulted in fits and paralysis down the right side of his body. His family claims that as a result of the torture, he lost sight in his left eye and the hearing in his left ear. His left arm was reportedly broken and he was hardly able to move. Sources allege that a plastic bag was put over his head to restrict his breathing, and that he was suspended by his arms, and forced to wear a gas mask, to which the air supply was cut off. The court reportedly ignored Amanmukhammet Yklymov’s allegations that he was tortured in custody. His brother Saparmurat Yklymov told Amnesty International from exile in Sweden in January 2003: *“Amanmukhammet was already ill before they arrested him. I’m afraid he may not survive.”* All contact with or news about Mr. A. Yklymov stopped on February 20th, 2003.[[128]](#footnote-128)

*Current situation:* Unknown.

### Orazmammet Yklymov

*Date of Birth*: 1950 in Dargan-Ata district of Chardjou area of Ashgabat

*Citizenship:* Russian and Turkmen

*Residence when arrested:* Ashgabat

*Position when arrested*: Businessman

*Arrest:* He was arrested on 25 November, 2002.

*Charges:* He was convicted on 18 January 2003 by the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan in violating Art.14 -101 , part 2 , paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l" 129 Part 3, Part 1 169, 2 174, part 2, 176 part 1, part 2, 214, 218 Part 1, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a", "b" 235, part 2, paragraph "a", "b", 254 part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 271 Part 3, Part 2, 273, 275, Part 1, Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan.

*Sentence:* He was sentenced to 19 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony with confiscation of property followed by living in a prescribed place for 5 years, and the prohibition to hold substantive and responsible management positions within 3 years.

*Biography:* Businessman, brother of Amanmukhammet and Yklym Yklymov. He graduated from the Economics Faculty of the Turkmen State University. In Soviet times, he lived in the Smolensk region of Russia, where he worked in the field of trade, including as Deputy Director General of the Pochinkovskoe interdistrict trading base, and then at Consumers Union in the district center Glinka. During perestroika, he returned to Turkmenistan and worked in the Ministry of Commerce. His last position was as Head of the State Trade Inspection. He later engaged in business.

*Current Situation:* Unknown. Relatives do not have any information about his location or fate.

### Yklym Yklymov

*Date of Birth:* January 8, 1955, in Takhtabazar in Mary province

*Citizenship:* Russian and Turkmen[[129]](#footnote-129)

*Position when arrested:*Businessman, owner of company, Turkmenodzhak

*Residence at time of arrest:*Ashgabat

*Date of arrest**:*Yklym Yklymov was arrested December 23, 2002, and a video of his “confession” was shown on TV on December 29, 2002. Prior to that, he was in hiding until December 21 at the apartment H.Annaevoy. His and all of his family’s arrest happened at night, arbitrarily, without witnesses. All of the Yklymov family’s possessions were confiscated.[[130]](#footnote-130)

*Charges:* He was convicted in January 2003 by the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan of violating Article 14 -101 Part 2 , paragraph "a ", " b" , "f" , "g" , "h" , "i" , "l" , 129 h .3 , 169 part 1 , 2, 174 , part 2 , 176 part 1 , part 2, 214 , 218 Part 1 , 2.3 , 231 Part 4 , paragraph "a ", " b" , 235 h .2 paragraph "a" , "b" , 254 part 4 , paragraph "a ", " b" , 271 Part 3, Part 1 273 275 Part 1 and Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan. "Confessions" of the central ‘enemies of the State,’ including Yklym Yklymov, were placed on the pages of the pro-government daily Turkmen newspaper *Adolat*. Each confession was preceded by an editorial comment, all in abusive and derogatory terms.[[131]](#footnote-131)

*Sentence:*Sentenced in January 2003 to life imprisonment with confiscation of property in accordance with Article 14-101 Para 2, Para 2, 174, 176, part 1, part 3, 271, 275, Part 1, Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code.

*Biography:*Yklym Yklymov graduated from the Law School of the Turkmenistan State University. He worked in the district and regional committees in Ashgabat, the High Committee of the Komsomol of the TSSR, and in unions. He served about 10 years in the Ministry of Justice, including as head of propaganda and legal services for the Ministry of Justice. He was an entrepreneur and owner of the company, Turkmenodzhak.

 Yklym Yklymov gave an interview in 1991 at the first and last edition of the journal *Dayanch* (meaning ‘support’), which was in those years the only public announcement, made in Turkmenistan, in which the legitimacy of the election of Niyazov as President was called into question.

*Information on arrest/treatment during imprisonment:*Yklym Yklymov was among those tortured during arrest and imprisonment, as reported by others detained in connection with the November 25,2002 events.[[132]](#footnote-132)

*Relatives Arrested/ harassed/detained:* On November 25, 2002, at 11 AM, all members of the Yklymov family were taken from their houses by KNB and MIF officials, and brought to the house of Yklym Yklymov’s mother, Edzhebai. Armed soldiers were posted inside and outside the house. Then they took Orazmammet away in handcuffs. The same day they took all of the males in the family, including those under age. The adolescents were abused and harshly beaten in prison. On November 28, 2002, at 2 am, all the women and children were woken up, and the courtyard of the house was filled with KNB and MNS officials. Everyone was ordered to leave the house, without the chance to get dressed or get belongings, and was evicted into the streets. At this time approximately 50 women and children total were among those arrested, detained, imprisoned or harassed as part of collective punishment inflicted upon the Yklymov family.

*Current situation:* Unknown. In March 2003, there were rumors that he suffered from a mental disorder: he did not recognize anyone and was always laughing.

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1. #  Deirdre Tynan and David Trilling, Visits of Turkmen, Iranian Leaders Put Columbia University in the Spotlight, *Eurasianet.org*, September 24, 2007, <http://www.eurasianet.org/departments/insight/articles/eav092507.shtml>. Accessed 28 May 2013.

 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The report of the OSCE rapporteur on Turkmenistan, Professor Emmanuel Decaux: <http://www.osce.org/ru/odihr/18373>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
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