



Prove They Are Alive!

The Disappeared in Turkmenistan

2016 Update



April 2016

Financial support for this report was generously provided by Open Society Foundations.



For more information contact:

Prove They Are Alive!

c/o Crude Accountability

P.O. Box 2345

Alexandria, VA 22301

703-299-0854

www.crudeaccountability.org

info@crudeaccountability.org

www.provetheyarealive.org

provetheyarealive@gmail.com

CRUDE ACCOUNTABILITY

Crude Accountability and the Prove They Are Alive! campaign thank the individuals and organizations who have contributed valuable information to this report, many of them anonymously out of necessity. We could not have compiled the report without their support and assistance. Crude Accountability and the Prove They Are Alive! campaign assume full responsibility for the contents of the report. While we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information presented in this report, we cannot be held liable for any errors, omissions or inconsistencies.

Copyright 2016, Crude Accountability

Table of Contents

Introduction	6
Situation in the Country.....	6
Waves of Repression	7
About the Campaign, Prove They Are Alive!	8
Relevant Articles of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code	10
Profiles of the Disappeared in Turkmenistan.....	12
1. Annaniyazov, Gulgeldy	12
2. Arazov, Redzhepbai	13
3. Beknazarov, Begench	13
4. Berdyev, Batyr Ataevich	16
5. Berdyev, Orazmukhammet Muheyevich	18
6. Djumaev, Guvanch Rozyevich.....	18
7. Durdyev, Vekil Ataevich	20
8. Gundogdyev, Yazgeldy	21
9. Khallyev, Tagandurdy Khallyevich	22
10. Khatamov, Annamurad Akhmedovich	24
11. Nazarov, Mukhamet Nazarovich.....	25
12. Orazgeldyev, Nurmukhammet	26
13. Rakhimov, Serdar	27
14. Sardzhaev, Batyr Kurbanovich	29
15. Shikhmuradov, Boris	31
16. Shikhmuradov, Konstantin	35
17. Tyrmyev, Turkish	35
18. Yklymov, Amanmukhammet	37
19. Yklymov, Orazmammet.....	38
20. Yklymov, Yklym	39
Others Disappeared in Turkmen Prisons	42
21. Adov, Vladimir	42
22. Ahmedov, Geday	42
23. Allakulyev, Allamyrat	42
24. Annadurdyev, Gurban	42
25. Atageldiev, Orazmuhammet.....	42
26. Atayev, Mamour	42
27. Akmammedov, Gurbangeldy Akgaevich.....	42
28. Akmuradov, Annagel'dy Ovezmuradovich	43
29. Annageldyev, Djumamuhammet Durdyevich	43

30. Annasahatov (Annasahedov), Annadurdy	43
31. Atanesian, Aram Shavashovich.....	44
32. Babaev, Arslan Annadurdyevich	44
33. Begenjov, Gurbandurdy	44
34. Bishoev, Amirbek.....	44
35. Buriev, Aman Djumadurdyevich	44
36. Buriev, Esen Djumadurdyevich	45
37. Charyev, Ilyas	45
38. Djumaev, Chary Rozyevich	45
39. Djumaev, Rozy Djumaevich	45
40. Djumaev, Rustem Byashimovich.....	45
41. Djumaev, Timur Guvanchovich.....	46
42. Dovletov, Rovshen Dzhorageldyevich	46
43. Durdyklychev, Djumagel'dy Allaberdyyevich	46
44. Durdyev, Habibylla.....	46
45. Esenov, Guychmyrad.....	47
46. Gaipov, Dovlet Odaevich.....	47
47. Garataev, Guvandyk Isaevich	48
48. Garataev, Isa Bektaevich	48
49. Garataev, Murat Amanovich	48
50. Garayev, Atamurat Nurmuradovich.....	48
51. Gulmuradov, Ishankuli	48
52. Gurbanmuradov, Yelly	49
53. Gurbanov, Bazar	51
54. Hemraev, Nepes Hemraevich	51
55. Ilamanov, Soltan Ereshevich.....	51
56. Kakaev ,Hayit.....	52
57. Kandymov (Gandymov), Seitbay.....	52
58. Kerimkulov, Yeldashev	52
59. Khalykov, Khudaykuly	53
60. Khatamov, Amangeldy Akhmedovich	53
61. Khatamov, Paltakgul Achilovich.....	53
62. Khodzhanazarov, Allanazar	53
63. Khommaev, Suleiman Bajramovich	53
64. Khudaykulov, Bayramkuli.....	54
65. Kurbanov, Iskander	54
66. Lyaskin, Yuriy Gennad'evich	54
67. Mamedov, Seyran.....	54
68. Movlyamov, Muhammetberdy Yagmurovich	54
69. Mukhammedov, Saparmurat Djumagel'dyevich.....	54
70. Nazargullyev, Dovletguly Mammedovich	55
71. Niyazdurdyev, Davlet	55

72. Novozhilov, Vladislav Stanislavovich	55
73. Nuraliev, Magomet Saidahmetovich.....	55
74. Nurgeldyev, Redzhepgeldy	55
75. Pavlinov, Aleksander Konstantinovich	56
76. Redjepov, Akmurad	56
77. Reimov, Dzhora Behremovich	56
78. Sadullaev, Ruslan Saidovich	57
79. Safarov, Honsait Sagatovich	57
80. Saparov, Redjep.....	57
81. Shagalov, Vepa Gurbandurdyevich	58
82. Soltanov, Annamurat	58
83. Tachnazarov, Guychnazar.....	59
84. Tajmazov, Chary	59
85. Valiev, Saparmamed	59
86. Volmuradov, Kurbangeldy.....	59
87. Yazmuradov, Ovezmurat	60
Prison Conditions	61
Overview of Violations of National and International Law and Standards.....	63
Violations of National Legislation.....	63
Living Conditions	63
Communication.....	64
Respect for Human Rights.....	64
Special Decree of the People’s Council regarding ‘Traitors of the Nation’	65
Violations of International Legal Standards	66
Prohibition against Torture	66
The Right to Liberty and Security of Person.....	66
The Right to a Fair Trial	67
Enforced Disappearances.....	67
Right to an Effective Remedy.....	69
Recommendations	71

Introduction

Situation in the Country

Turkmenistan is one of the most repressive regimes in the world; it is regularly on the list of the Worst of the Worst, published by Freedom House,¹ and is among the most dangerous countries for journalists. It is among the worst ranked in Transparency International's Corruption Index,² and is ranked 109 out of 178 countries for most environmentally polluted countries in a study conducted by Yale University.³ Led by President Berdymukhamedov, an egomaniacal leader who follows in the dictatorial steps of the previous president Niyazov, Turkmenistan's government is authoritarian, non-transparent and isolated, and purposely cuts off contact with the outside world for its approximately five million citizens. Human rights and other civil society activists are not able to work openly, and according to the US State Department's 2013 Human Rights Report for Turkmenistan, "the three most important human rights problems were arbitrary arrest; torture; and disregard for civil liberties, including restrictions on freedoms of speech, press, assembly, and movement."⁴

Turkmenistan also has the third largest reserves of natural gas in the world,⁵ as well as significant oil reserves, both on- and offshore in the Caspian Sea. International companies and governments are interested in these reserves and European and US entities, in an effort to avoid Russian transport routes for hydrocarbon exports, have been courting Turkmenistan in an effort to obtain access to natural gas reserves. Mistakenly believing that the supply of natural gas from Turkmenistan will be more stable than that from Russia, European companies and governments have been actively engaging with Berdymukhamedov's government.

On May 24, 2013, US Ambassador Richard Morningstar, speaking at an energy conference in Baku, stated the US would be pleased to see the Transcaspian Pipeline built.⁶ European governments have also recently increased their support for the construction of the Transcaspian Pipeline, which would create a direct route for Turkmen gas to cross the Caspian Sea to Azerbaijan and points west. The EU Commissioner for Energy, Gunther Oettinger spoke publicly in April 2013 about the need to diversify natural gas sources away from dependence on Russia.⁷ Recent news reports from the Caspian region indicate that discussions about the Transcaspian Pipeline continue and that the project may, in fact, become a reality in the near future.⁸

Interests in Turkmen gas are evidently a priority over human rights for Western governments. With energy and geopolitical interests at stake, both the EU and the US have demonstrated a hesitation to openly and forcefully push President Berdymukhamedov to implement democratic reforms in Turkmenistan. Thus, the status quo remains, and families continue to be left without information about their disappeared relatives.

¹ <http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/freedom-world-2014#.U7sGzvlDXJl>, accessed July 7, 2014.

² <http://www.transparency.org/country#TKM>, accessed July 7, 2014.

³ <http://epi.yale.edu/epi>, accessed July 7, 2014.

⁴ See more at: <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/#wrapper>, accessed July 7, 2014.

⁵ <http://www.energy.eu/stats/energy-natural-gas-reserves.html>, accessed July 8, 2014.

⁶ "U.S. Ambassador: Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan have right to lay Trans-Caspian pipeline," *Trend*, May 24, 2013, <http://en.trend.az/capital/energy/2154048.html>, accessed July 8, 2014.

⁷ "Turkmenistan, EU to intensify energy negotiations," *Trend*, April 11, 2013, <http://en.trend.az/capital/energy/2137781.html>, accessed July 8, 2014.

⁸ See, for example, <http://tribune.com.pk/story/726486/gas-supply-at-stake-trans-caspian-pipeline-threatens-to-bury-tapi-project/>, accessed July 8, 2014.

Waves of Repression

Turkmenistan's first President Niyazov completely suppressed dissent and eliminated all voices of opposition. By the early 2000s, civil society, independent journalism and any political opposition had been completely destroyed. The 2003 NGO law, for example, forced literally all active civil society organizations underground as their activity became illegal. Forced to "re-register" with the government according to the new law, virtually every independent organization was denied registration, and to work without it was initially a criminal offense. The law was changed, making it an administrative offense, but the damage was done and civil society ceased to function as it had.

Along with this crackdown was one of a different kind, in which fabricated criminal cases, confessions obtained through torture, closed court hearings, illegal sentences, and long term imprisonment in secret prisons became the norm for dozens of people. In many of these cases, once they were imprisoned, no additional information about the imprisoned was available to their relatives or the public. In rare cases, relatives were informed when a family member died in prison, but there are only a couple of instances when relatives were able to bury their family members. The fate of the others—dozens of individuals—is unknown. The authorities do not let their relatives see them, they are forbidden to exchange correspondence, the International Red Cross and International Red Crescent are not allowed access to the prisons where they languish, and the prisoners, themselves, are completely isolated. Some witnesses have reported that prisoners in some of the secret prisons have not had any idea about what is happening in the world for the past 5 to 10 years.

Examples of enforced disappearances by the Turkmen authorities include the criminal cases of those individuals who were involved in the alleged coup attempt against President Niyazov in November, 2002, and the related criminal cases against their relatives and acquaintances. On November 25, 2002, a group of political opposition leaders in Turkmenistan was accused of an alleged assassination attempt on then President Niyazov, in what appeared to be a failed political coup. The members of that group were arrested and quickly imprisoned without proper trials, along with family members and others who were swept up in the frenzy around the event. Since then, the families of the imprisoned have not received any news about them, have not been able to see them, and, in many cases, family members were also subject to imprisonment and harassment. In total, over sixty people were imprisoned and have disappeared, with no word about whether they are alive or dead. Their trials, held in late 2002 and 2003, were swift and full of procedural violations.

The government of Turkmenistan has presented its own detailed account of the events, and its version of the histories of the participants of the November events, most completely narrated by then Prosecutor General Kurbanbibi Atanjaeva.⁹ The level of detail, inconsistencies and contradictions in the accounts, as well as obtaining confessions under duress and torture has raised numerous and significant questions about the validity of this account. Based on interviews with those knowledgeable about the events at the time, the Prove They Are Alive! campaign maintains the following position on the November 2002 events:

The events of November 25, 2002 in Ashgabat should be considered a failed attempt to push the President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurat Niyazov, to abdicate his position. Those who participated in this plan considered Niyazov to be a mentally unstable dictator, prone to inadequate actions and decisions, and the totalitarian nature of his governance extremely dangerous for the development Turkmenistan.

⁹ Prosecutor General's Public report about the investigation, broadcast on national television, can be found in Prof. Emmanuel Decaux's "OSCE Rapporteur's Report on Turkmenistan. March 2003. www.osce.org/odihr/18372?download=true

According to witnesses informed during the preparation of the conspiracy, this plan involved separating Niyazov's car from the other cars of the presidential motorcade and bringing the President to the Turkmen Parliament, where other implementers of the plan were waiting to ask him to sign a letter of resignation and the transfer of his powers, under the Constitution, to the Speaker of Parliament.

However, the Turkmen Secret Services somehow obtained information about the plot and staged an attack on the presidential motorcade, simulating an assassination attempt on the President. Niyazov was nowhere near the motorcade at the time.

In 2003, in response to these unsettling events and apparent gross violations of international law regarding the legal proceedings after the alleged coup, the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE) launched for the first time ever its Moscow Mechanism. The Moscow Mechanism is one of the mechanisms of the OSCE, which allows for invocation of the Vienna Mechanism (which allows participating OSCE states to raise questions related to the human dimension in other OSCE states) and, furthermore, the establishment of ad hoc missions of independent experts to resolve a human dimension problem in an OSCE state.¹⁰ Within the framework of this Mechanism, OSCE Special Rapporteur for Turkmenistan, Dr. Emmanuel Decaux, issued a report describing in great detail the extensive human rights violations that were perpetrated in the arrest, trial and subsequent imprisonment of those involved in the alleged coup attempt.¹¹

Despite information from contacts in Turkmenistan, which suggests that many of those imprisoned in connection with the alleged attempted coup have died in prison, President Berdymukhamedov indicated otherwise in a September 2007 speech at Columbia University in New York. When asked by a graduate student about the fate of Boris Shikhmuradov and Batyr Berdyev, two of the alleged conspirators, Berdymukhamedov stated, "...I am positive they are alive."¹²

In 2012, family members of at least one of those imprisoned for ten years and whose prison terms had expired, were contacted by representatives of the prosecutor's office or the prison system, indicating that their family member had been re-sentenced to an additional prison term. This was the first information family members had received about their loved one since they were imprisoned in 2003, and perhaps the latest official information received about any of the disappeared.

There are also other individuals who have been in prison longer than those allegedly involved in the failed coup attempt. Several waves of repression have rocked Turkmenistan since the early 2000s, and not all of those who have disappeared were connected to the November 2002 events.

About the Prove They Are Alive! Campaign

The campaign was officially launched in September 2013 by the Turkmenistan Civic Solidarity Group, which is part of the Civic Solidarity Platform, a network of 54 human rights groups from the OSCE countries, and seeks to uncover the truth about the fate of dozens of people who have disappeared into Turkmenistan's prisons as the result of mass arrests that took place beginning in the early 2000s. The goal of the campaign is to push the government of Turkmenistan to speak about the fates of these

¹⁰ Human Dimension Mechanisms, <http://www.osce.org/odihr/43666>, accessed July 8, 2014.

¹¹ See the report here: Professor Emmanuel Decaux, "OSCE Rapporteur's Report on Turkmenistan," 12 March 2003, <http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372>

¹² 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 July 7, 2014.

people, who have simply disappeared. Their families, friends, and society in general, have no information about them and have been denied access to them, and the right to send packages and letters. The imprisoned have not had access to medical care or legal representation, and in virtually every case, when they were arrested, charged and sentenced, they were denied proper legal counsel and fair trials. Their loved ones have not seen them since they were arrested, and they have been denied due process entirely.

The campaign is simply asking that the government inform the families of the disappeared about their whereabouts and condition, and allow the disappeared access to health care and legal representation. The campaign aims to prevent further disappearances into Turkmenistan's prisons, and to improve the overall human rights situation in Turkmenistan, including conditions inside the prisons. By disclosing information about the disappeared, the Turkmen government can take step away from its totalitarian past and its legacy of mass repression. We have invited the Turkmen government to engage in this type of dialogue, but sadly, have not received any response to date.

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 continuing to blatantly disregarding its human rights obligations under domestic and international law.¹³ 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.¹⁴ Our campaign members 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 international organizations and continuously try to engage in direct dialogue with the government of Turkmenistan. As a team of international civil society organizations and individuals, we aim 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.

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.

¹³ The report of the OSCE rapporteur on Turkmenistan, Professor Emmanuel Decaux: <http://www.osce.org/ru/odihr/18373>.

¹⁴ The international Civic Solidarity Platform is a coalition of 54 civil society organizations working on human rights issues in the OSCE region (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe). <http://www.civicsolidarity.org>.

Relevant Articles of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code

14 – criminal attempt;

101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l" – premeditated murder

(Part 2, paragraph "a" – two or more persons; paragraph "b" – a person connected with an official or public office; paragraph "f" – committed with special cruelty; paragraph "g" – committed in a manner deliberately threatening the lives of many people; paragraph "h" – committed by two or more persons; paragraph "i" – from selfish motives, as well as for hire; paragraph "l" – in order to facilitate the commission of another crime);

129 Part 3 – illegal confinement (Part 3 – initiated serious consequences);

169 Part 1, 2 – mercenaries (Part 1 – recruitment, training, financing or other material support of mercenaries, as well as their use in an armed conflict or other military actions, Part 2 – participation of a mercenary in an armed conflict or military actions);

A mercenary is a person who acts in order to obtain material compensation and is not a citizen of a State party to an armed conflict or hostilities, no permanent residence in its territory, and not a person directed to perform official duties.

174 Part 2 – conspiracy to seize power (Part 2 – resulting in death or other grave consequences);

176 Part 1 – attempt on the life of the President of Turkmenistan;

181 Part 2 – abuse of power (Part 2 – caused serious consequences);

182 Part 2 – abuse of office (Part 2 – if it was committed with the use of physical violence, weapons or caused grave consequences);

187 – forgery committed by an official;

195 Part 1 – unlawful imprisonment;

210 Part 2 – not promised in advance harboring severe or especially violent crimes;

214 Part 2 – illegally crossing protected State borders (Part 2 – committed repeatedly or by a group of people, previously conspired, or by an organized group with the use of violence or threat of violence);

218 Part 1, 2, 3 – falsification of a document (Part 1 – falsification of a document for usage, Part 2 – repetition of the falsification, Part 3 – using a fake document knowingly);

228 Part 4 – fraud (Part 4 – causing damage on a large scale);

229 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b" – embezzlement (Part 4, paragraph "a" – causing damage on a large scale; paragraph "b" – committed by an organized group or a criminal association);

231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b" – robbery (Part 4, paragraph "a" – causing damage on a large scale; paragraph "b" – by a criminal association);

235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b" – a deliberate destruction or damage of property (Part 2, paragraph "a" – committed by arson, explosion or other dangerous method; paragraph "b" – caused serious consequences);

242 Part 2, paragraphs "b", "c" – Legalization of money or other property acquired by illegal means (Part 2, paragraph "b" – a group with a prior agreement or an organized group; paragraph "c" – committed by an official using his official position);

254 Part 3, 4, paragraphs "a", "b", "c" – smuggling (Part 3 – firearms or ammunition; Part 4, paragraph "a" – if repeated; paragraph "b" – a group with a prior agreement or an organized group; paragraph "c" – an official using his position);

263 – organized tax evasion;

271 Part 3 – terrorism (Part 3 – acts committed by an organized group or a criminal association);

273 Part 1 – to create armed formations not described by the legislation of Turkmenistan, as well as to lead such formation;

275 Part 1 – to create a criminal association in order to commit severe or especially violent crimes, as well as to lead a criminal association;

Part 2-- participation in a criminal organization shall be punished by imprisonment of three to ten years with confiscation of property or without it.

287 Part 2, 3 – illegal acquisition, storage, transportation, transfer or possession of firearms and ammunition (Part 2 – committed by a group with a prior agreement or repeatedly; Part 3 – committed by an organized group or a criminal association);

291 Part 3 – theft of firearms, their component parts, ammunition (Part 3 – committed with violence, endangering lives or creating risk of serious harm, by an organized group or a criminal association);

293 Part 2 – illegal acquisition, possession, transportation or transfer of narcotics without an intent to sell (Part 2 – committed repeatedly or by a group with a prior agreement).

Profiles of the Disappeared in Turkmenistan

Since the initial 2014 report, the list of cases of enforced disappearances in Turkmenistan has grown from 66 to 87 to date. Further, we have updated information on Gulgeldy Annaniyazov, Allanazar Khodzhanazarov and Davlet Niyazdurdyev based on official information received from the Government of Turkmenistan, and on Yelly Gurbanmuradov from verified sources.

1. Annaniyazov, Gulgeldy

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.

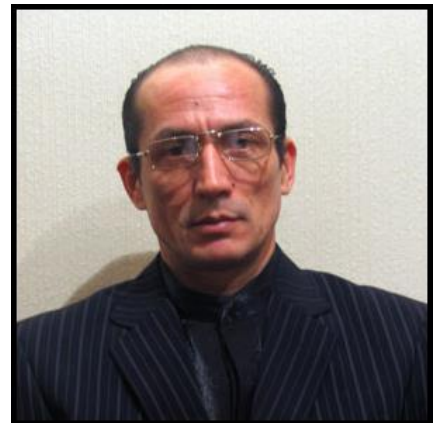
Biography: Mr. Annaniyazov is a Turkmen political dissident and democracy activist, part of the so-called "Ashgabat Eight." After organizing a nonviolent anti-government demonstration in Turkmenistan in 1995, he was arrested and sentenced to 15 years in prison. The government released Mr. Annaniyazov 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 decided 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 asked who was working on his case. This undated letter is the only sign of life from him since the previous letter in 2009.

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

In September 2015 at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, Poland, Turkmenistan Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Vepa Khadjiev stated that Annaniyazov had been



transferred to a lower security colony in Tedzhent and could be visited. Despite this, to this day, no one has been able to establish contact or visit him.

2. Arazov, Redzhepbai

Date of birth: 1947, born in the village of Shahmanin 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 Gasankuly 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 ventures. He was also active in promoting oil and gas export pipelines.¹⁵ 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, 2002.¹⁶ 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.^{17,18,19}

He was awarded the honors "Galkinish" (December 1999), "The Star President," and the medal "For the love of the Fatherland."²⁰

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

3. Beknazarov, Begench

¹⁵ The Free Library. "TURKMENISTAN - Profile – Redzhepbai Arazov."

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/TURKMENISTAN+-+Profile+-+Redzhepbai+Arazov.-a065464830>. Accessed on 1 April 2014.

¹⁶ Wikipedia. "Predsedatel' Medzhliisa Turkmenistana"

http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Председатель_Меджлиса_Туркменистана. Accessed on 1 April 2014.

¹⁷ Tsentrasia.ru. "Arazov, Redjepbai." <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?&st=1013880026>. Accessed on 1 April 2014.

¹⁸ Lenta.ru. "Mamedgel'dyev, Agagel'dy: Byvshiy ministr oborony i sekretar' Gosudarstvennogo soveta bezopasnosti" Turkmeni <http://lenta.ru/lib/14175263/>. Accessed on 1 April 2014.

¹⁹ Turkmenistan.ru. "Predsedatelem Parlamenta Turkmenistana Izbran Tagandurdy Khallyyev" <http://www.turkmenistan.ru/ru/node/14528>. 14.03.02. Accessed on 1 April 2014.

²⁰ Biography from official paper, Neitralniy Turkmenistan.

Date of Birth: 1969

Citizenship: Turkmen, Russian

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.²¹

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

Date of arrest: He was wanted since November 27, 2002, and was arrested on May 17, 2005, 30 months after the Prosecutor General issued a search.

Charges: He was charged in association with the alleged assassination attempt of Niyazov.^{22,23} In the first half of June 2005 he was tried in closed court on charges of conspiring to assassinate Niyazov. and was convicted of ^{24,25}Article 275, Part 2; Article 14, Part 2; article 101.²⁶

Sentence: He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Biography: Beknazarov was a Major in the Turkmen Military Forces, and Deputy Division Commander of the motorized infantry.²⁷ 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 a demotion in rank.²⁸ According to unconfirmed sources, he also previously served in the KNB.²⁹ 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.



²¹ The Moscow Times. "News in Brief: Turkmen Arrested." 27.5.2005.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/news-in-brief/222978.html>. Accessed on 20 March 2014.

²² Human Rights Watch. *World Report 2006: Events of 2005*. 18.1.2006.

<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2006/01/17/world-report-2006>. Accessed 20 March 2014.

²³ Amnesty International. "Amnesty International Report 2006 – Turkmenistan" 23.05.2014.

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/447ff7bb20.html>. Accessed on 20 March 2014.

²⁴ Human Rights Watch. *World Report 2006: Events of 2005*. 18.1.2006.

<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2006/01/17/world-report-2006>. Accessed 20 March 2014.

²⁵ Amnesty International. "Amnesty International Report 2006 – Turkmenistan" 23.05.2014.

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/447ff7bb20.html>. Accessed on 20 March 2014.

²⁶ Federalniy Rozisk. "Beknazarov Begench Amandurdyevich" 07.03.2003. <http://vroziske.com/person121049>. Accessed on 20 March 2014.

²⁷ Human Rights Center Memorial. "Turkmenistan/Rossiya: Poka Ne Yasno, Oblegchit Li «Pokayaniye» Borisa Shikhmuradova Sud'bu Yego Rodstvennikov" 29.12.2002. <http://www.memo.ru/d/219.html>. Accessed on 19 February 2014.

²⁸ Broadcast on National Turkmen Television on 31.03.2003

²⁹ Deutsche Welle. "Turkmenistan: 'okhota na lis' prodolzhayetsya." 08.01.2003.

<http://www.dw.de/туркменистан-охота-на-лис-продолжается/a-742332>. Accessed on 19 February 2014.

On the 27th, the secret services began a search for him on the grounds of involvement in the alleged assassination attempt against Niyazov.³⁰

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."³¹

Current situation: Unknown. His relatives were unable to visit him or obtain official trial documents. They do not know of his whereabouts.^{32,33}

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.³⁴

On December 17, 2002, Beknazarov's parents, Raisa and Amandurdy Beknazarov, who is disabled, 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.^{35,36} Other sources indicate that the three were held up for 2 days.³⁷ Amandurdy and Raisa were expelled from Ashgabat to Mary Province.

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

³⁰ Human Rights Center Memorial. "Turkmenistan/Rossiya: Poka Ne Yasno, Oblegchit Li «Pokayaniye» Borisa Shikhmuradova Sud'bu Yego Rodstvennikov" 29.12.2002. <http://www.memo.ru/d/219.html>. Accessed on 19 February 2014.

³¹ TSENTRASIA.RU "V Turkmenii yeshche ne vse izmenniki poymany. Kapitan Beknazarov skryvayetsya v podpol'ye" 10.04.2003. <http://www.centrasia.ru/newsA.php?st=1049953440>. Accessed on 15 February 2014.

³² TSENTRASIA.RU "V Turkmenii yeshche ne vse izmenniki poymany. Kapitan Beknazarov skryvayetsya v podpol'ye" 10.04.2003. <http://www.centrasia.ru/newsA.php?st=1049953440>. Accessed on 15 February 2014.

³³ Tsentrasia.Ru. «Mayor Begench Beknazarov Prigovoren K Pozhiznennomu Za "Pokusheniye" Na S.Turkmenbashi" 7.06.2005 <http://www.Centrasia.Ru/NewsA.php?St=1118208120>. Accessed On 15 February 2014.

³⁴ Tsentrasia.Ru. «Mayor Begench Beknazarov Prigovoren K Pozhiznennomu Za "Pokusheniye" Na S.Turkmenbashi" 7.06.2005 <http://www.Centrasia.Ru/NewsA.php?St=1118208120>. Accessed On 15 February 2014.

³⁵ Amnesty International. "Amnesty International Report 2006 – Turkmenistan" 23.05.2014.

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/447ff7bb20.html>. Accessed on 20 March 2014.

³⁶ Decaux, Emmanuel. "OSCE Rapporteur's Report on Turkmenistan." OSCE, 12.3.2003.

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372>

³⁷ Human Rights Center Memorial. "Turkmenistan/Rossiya: Poka Ne Yasno, Oblegchit Li «Pokayaniye» Borisa Shikhmuradova Sud'bu Yego Rodstvennikov" 29.12.2002. <http://www.memo.ru/d/219.html>. Accessed on 19 February 2014.

were released shortly after midnight Aman Shikhmuradov was reportedly in a state of shock and began to speak with a stammer.³⁸

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.

4. Berdyev, Batyr Ataevich

Date of Birth: October 3, 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, 2002.³⁹

Charges: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. He was convicted 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.⁴⁰

Sentence: His trial, along with that of others was held on January 20-21, 2003,⁴¹ and he was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment on January 21 by the Ashgabat city court. 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.⁴²

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 Administration 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



³⁸ Turkmenistan Helsinki Foundation. «Amnesty International: Turkmenistan-2003»

<http://www.tmhelsinki.org/en/modules/wfchannel/index.php?pagenum=4>. Accessed on 19 February 2014.

³⁹ Ferghana.ru. Istochniki v Turkmenistane soobshchayut o provedennykh novykh arestakh

<http://www.ferghananews.com/articles/1191>, 15.12.2002. Accessed on 22 December 2013.

⁴⁰ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation. "04.02.2003". Accessed on 10 January 2014.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

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.⁴³

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.⁴⁴ 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.⁴⁵ 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."⁴⁶

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.⁴⁷ 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. 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.⁴⁸ President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov, 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.⁴⁹ This is the only statement on the subject by the Turkmen authorities.

Relatives arrested/harassed/detained: Batyr Berdyev's younger sister, Dzhenet Berdyeva, married to Esenaman Yklymov, was arrested for involvement in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov in November 2002. Dzhenet Berdyeva was born in 1967. She was detained by the police in Ashgabat on December 8, 2002, with her two minor children between 8:30 pm on November 25 and 2 pm on November 26, 2002.

⁴³http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdf/cardoc/14402_CARDOC_11_INLAY_EN_7.pdf, page 121. Accessed on 8 February 2014.

⁴⁴ Komarovsky, Leonid. (2003). Notes from his interview with Vitaliy Ponomarev of Human Rights Center Memorial.

⁴⁵ "BERDYEV Batyr Atayevich" <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?&st=1013880066>. Accessed on 18 December 2013.

⁴⁶ Gundogar, 2012.

⁴⁷ Kompromat.ru. "Arkhipelag Turkmeniya Zapiski byvshego zaklyuchennogo kamer nomer 30 i 31 SIZO KNB Turkmenistana." http://www.kompromat.ru/page_13182.htm. Originally from Moscovsky Komsomolets, 03.06.2003. Accessed on 19.12.2013.

⁴⁸ Human Rights In Russia. "V Turkmenistane posle dlitel'nogo zaklyucheniya osvobozhdon vozmozhnyy uznik sovesti" <http://www.hro.org/node/5445>, 13/05/2009. Accessed on 28 December 2013.

⁴⁹ Ferghana.ru "Prezident Turkmenii: Eks-ministry Boris Shikhmuradov i Batyr Berdyev zhivy." <http://www.ferghananews.com/news.php?id=7191>, 26.09.2007. Accessed on 20 November 2013.

Mrs. Berdyeva was released on December 10, 2002. She states that she was tortured, and her property, including her apartment and store, was confiscated.⁵⁰

Current situation: Unknown

5. Berdyev, Orazmukhammet Muheyevich

Date of Birth: Unknown

Citizenship: Turkmen

Residence at time of arrest: Unknown

Position when arrested: Unknown

Date of arrest: Unknown

Charges: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. He was convicted on January 21, 2003 of 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.⁵¹

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.⁵²

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

6. Djumaev, Guvanch Rozyevich

Date of Birth: March 31, 1953⁵³

Citizenship: Russian, Turkmen⁵⁴

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.⁵⁵ The video of Guvanch's "confession" was shown on TV on December 29, 2002.⁵⁶

Charges: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. He was convicted January 15, 2003 by the Supreme



⁵⁰ Decaux, Emmanuel. "OSCE Rapporteur's Report on Turkmenistan." OSCE, 12.03.2003.

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372>

⁵¹ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation. "04.02.2003. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Human Rights Center Memorial. "Turkmenistan: novyye imena arestovannykh po delu o pokushenii na Niyazova" 05.12.2002. <http://www.memo.ru/d/262.html>. Accessed on 15 January 2014.

⁵⁴ Komarovskiy, Leonid. "Nado prekratit' lyudoyedskiy rezhim Niyazova, poka tam yeshche ostalis' zhivyye lyudi" 12.12.2003. <http://www.radiolenta.com/article3/>. Accessed on 15 January 2014.

⁵⁵ Izvestia. "Leonid KOMAROVSKIY: 'Ubivat' Niyazova nikto ne sobiralsya" 11.05.2003. <http://izvestia.ru/news/276418>. Accessed on 15 January 2014.

⁵⁶ Decaux, Emmanuel. "OSCE Rapporteur's Report on Turkmenistan." OSCE, 12.3.2003. <http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372>

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.⁵⁷

Sentence: He was sentenced to life imprisonment with confiscation of property.⁵⁸

Biography: Djumaev was born in Beshir village of Hodjambaz district in Lebap Province. Guvanch 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 Komarovskiy, 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 allegedly stolen \$1.3 million in public funds.⁵⁹ 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 Gefer of the Institute of Human Rights.^{60,61}

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 a 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

⁵⁷ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation. "04.02.2003. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Guvanch, through his firm Gairat and with the unofficial support of the Turkmen government, brokered and organized the transfer of petroleum products from Afghanistan to Pakistan. The contract was between Gairat and a Pakistani firm, and payments were made partly in cash. This continued from 1997 until after the start of the US operations in Afghanistan. On June 2, 2001, Guvanch was arrested in a café in Moscow, after information was obtained through his tapped cell phone. He was detained for a few days in solitary confinement in the facility at Petrovka, and then extradited to Turkmenistan. Before the extradition, the Moscow police took about \$1-1.5 thousand in bribes. Before this incident Djumaev wanted to permanently settle in Moscow with his family. He was released in Ashgabat after handing his office to the government.

⁶⁰ Moscow Helsinki Group. "Rossiya vydala svoego grazhdanina Turkmenistanu" <http://www.cornelius.ru/GB/viewsm.php?id=241791>. Accessed on 15 January 2014.

⁶¹ Izvestia. "Leonid KOMAROVSKIY: 'Ubivat' Niyazova nikto ne sobiralsya" 11.05.2003. <http://izvestia.ru/news/276418>. Accessed on 15 January 2014.

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.

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.⁶⁶

Sentence: 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.⁶⁷

Biography: He is 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

8. Gundogdyev, Yazgeldy

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.⁶⁸

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 a prohibition against holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.⁶⁹

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 (Hyakim).^{70,71} 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.

⁶⁶ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation. "04.02.2003. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation. "04.02.2003. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Tsentral'no-Aziatskiy Tolstyy Zhurnal "Turkmenskaya Elita - Vzglyad Iznutri" <http://www.Ctaj.Elcat.Kg/Tolstyj/A/A063.Htm>. Accessed on 15 January 2014.

⁷¹ Tsentrasia.ru "GUNDOGDYYEV Yazgel'dy Potayevich" <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?&st=1013880083>. Accessed on 13 January 2014.

Current situation: It was announced that he was released on October 20, 2006 under an amnesty in connection with his failing health (on October 16, 2006, Niyazov announced the release of 8 "Novemberists," other names were unknown⁷²) and sent to a remote village in Dashoguz province.⁷³ In May 2008, a relative of Gundogdyev told Amnesty International that he was still in prison.⁷⁴ 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.⁷⁵

9. Khallyev, Tagandurdy Khallyevich

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."⁷⁶ 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.⁷⁷

The exact date of his arrest is not known. According to the website "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.⁷⁸ 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, 2002.⁷⁹

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.⁸⁰

⁷² <http://archive.chrono-tm.org/?id=176>

⁷³ Tsentrasia.ru "GUNDOGDYEV Yazgel'dy Potayevich" <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?st=1013880083>. Accessed on 13 January 2014.

⁷⁴ Human Rights in Russia "V Turkmenii prodolzhayut narushat'sya prava cheloveka" 13.02.2009. <http://www.hro.org/node/45506>. Accessed on 10 March 2014.

⁷⁵ Amnesty International. "DOCUMENT - TURKMENISTAN: INDIVIDUALS CONTINUE TO BE AT RISK OF VIOLATIONS IN TURKMENISTAN" <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR61/001/2009/en/fe05b48e-f3fc-42da-b6a1-a8ea96230c57/eur610012009ru.html>. Accessed on 10 March 2014.

⁷⁶ Ferghana.News. "Istochniki v Turkmenistane soobshchayut o provedennykh novykh arestakh," 15.12.2002, <http://www.ferghananews.com/article.php?id=1191&print=1>, Accessed on 15 January 2014.

⁷⁷ Kommersant. "Protokol: Turkmenbashi pomenyal glavu parlamenta." 14.11.2002, <http://www.kommersant.ru/doc/350850>. Accessed on 16 January 2014.

⁷⁸ Human Rights Center Memorial. "Turkmenistan: Arest Durdyeva i ostal'nykh" 15.12.2002. <http://www.memo.ru/d/264.html>. Accessed on 16 January 2014.

⁷⁹ TsentAsia. "Hallyev Tagandurdy" <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?st=1013880214>. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

⁸⁰ Neitralniy Turkmenistan. "Predatel', oboroten' i izmennik" eks-spiker Medzhliisa Turkmenistana Khallyyev lishen uchenykh stepeney i zvaniy." 21.12.2002. <http://www.centrasia.ru/newsA.php?st=1040418960>. Accessed on 13 January 2014.

Charges: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. His trial was held January 15-18, 2003, and on January 18, 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.⁸¹

Sentence: 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.⁸²

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). From 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).⁸³

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."⁸⁴

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.

⁸¹ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation. "04.02.2003. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ TsentrAsia. "Hallyev Tagandurdy" <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?st=1013880214>. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

⁸⁴ WikiLeaks. "Turkmenistan: In-Prison Deaths Of 'Special Prisoners' May Be Higher Than Expected." 6.11.2007 http://www.wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/07ASHGABAT1204_a.html. Accessed on 28 January 2014.

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.⁸⁵

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

Current situation: Unknown

10. Khatamov, Annamurad Akhmedovich

Date of Birth: January 14, 1954

Citizenship: Turkmen

Residence at time of arrest: 1 Beki Seytakova St., Ashgabat, Turkmenistan⁸⁶

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

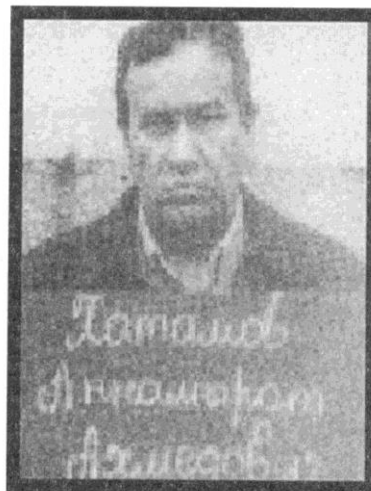
Date of arrest: He was arrested in December 2002. The video of his forced “confession” was shown on TV on December 18, 2002.⁸⁷

Charges: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. 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.⁸⁸

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 against holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.⁸⁹

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 Amangeldy 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,”⁹⁰ and a GEF funded project on “Management of water resources and the environment in the Aral Sea Basin.”⁹¹



⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ List of Participants Central Asia Natural Resources Management Project, United States Agency for International Development (nrmpp/usaidd). <http://uz.denemetr.com/docs/312/index-971-1.html>. Accessed on 15 April 2014.

⁸⁷ Decaux, Emmanuel. “OSCE Rapporteur’s Report on Turkmenistan.” OSCE, 12.3.2003. <http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372>

⁸⁸ Memorial. “Vragi naroda (Tyrmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika ‘Adolat’” Translation.” [04.02.2003](http://uz.denemetr.com/docs/312/index-970-1.html). Accessed on 10 January 2014.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Spisok uchastnikov Proyekt sovershenstvovaniye upravleniyem prirodnymi resursami v Tsentral'noy Azii, Amerikanskoye agentstvo mezhdunarodnogo razvitiya (nrmpp/usaidd), Universitet MakGill, <http://uz.denemetr.com/docs/312/index-970-1.html>. Accessed on 13 January 2014.

⁹¹ Upravleniye vodnymi resursami i okruzhayushchey sredoy v basseynе Aral'skogo morya. <http://www.ecoportalka.kz/439-2/1-6/1-10>. Accessed on 13 January 2014.

Khatamov holds at least three patents, including: 'Methodology of excavation during construction of the excavation profile and device for its implementation.'⁹² He also has a number of publications including a report, "Reusing water in Turkmenistan."⁹³

Relatives arrested/harassed/detained:

- Khatamov, Amangeldy 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. (See p. 46)
- Garayev, Atamyrat Nurmuradovich, acquaintance of Amangeldy 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. (See p. 45)

Current situation: Unknown

11. Nazarov, Mukhamet Nazarovich

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.⁹⁴ 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.⁹⁵

Some sources indicate that Nazarov was placed under house arrest until trial.⁹⁶ On June 15, 2002 he and his key deputies were tried, and Nazarov was given a 20 year sentence.⁹⁷

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.⁹⁸

⁹² Sposob razrabotki grunta pri stroitel'stve profil'noy vvyemki i ustroystvo dlya yego osushchestvleniya <http://www.findpatent.ru/patent/180/1809066.html>. Accessed on 13 January 2014.

⁹³ CA-Water Info. "Natsional'naya vodokhozyaystvennaya politika Turkmenistana." <http://www.cawater-info.net/bk/iwrm/0614.htm>. Accessed on 13 January 2014.

⁹⁴ Central Asia Regional News Digest. "Prezident turkmenii potreboval ot rukovodstva komiteta nacional'noj bezopasnosti ochistit' rjady ot nechestnyh sotrudnikov." 6 March 2002 <https://ca-news.info/2002/03/06/13>. Accessed on 11 November 2013.

⁹⁵ Turkmenistan.ru. "Saparmurat Niyazov razzhaloval v rjadovye treh generalov specslyzhby." 1 April 2002. http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=3&lang_id=ru&elem_id=1216&type=event&layout=print&sort=date_desc. Accessed on 11 November 2013.

⁹⁶ Turkmenskiye spets sluzbi. <http://www.agentura.ru/dossier/turkmen/>. Accessed on 11 November 2013.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Central Asia Regional News Digest. "Prezident Turkmenii potreboval ot rukovodstva komiteta nacional'noj bezopasnosti ochistit' rjady ot nechestnyh sotrudnikov" 6 March 2002. <https://ca-news.info/2002/03/06/13>. Accessed on 20 November 2013.

Sentence: Nazarov was given a twenty year sentence, 3 of which must be spent in prison.⁹⁹ Other sources say he was sentenced to 25 years.¹⁰⁰

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 prison in Krasnovodsk (Turkmenbashi) BLT-5, in one of the special cells especially 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.¹⁰¹

Suspected current situation: Unknown

12. Orazgeldyev, Nurmukhammet

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 December 14 at a

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ Ferghana.ru. "Odin iz byvshih rukovoditelej Centrobanka Turkmenii rasskazal 2004. <http://www.ferghananews.com/articles/2960>. Accessed on 20 November

¹⁰¹ Turkmenistan Initiative for Human Rights, International Labor Organization. *against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment* 2011. http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/CAT_Turkmenistan_alternative_report_TIF on 18 November 2013.



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 of Uzbekistan after the attack failed, from November 26 until December 7.¹⁰²

Charges: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. His public "confession" was broadcast on December 18, 2002.¹⁰³ 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.¹⁰⁴

Sentence: He was given a life sentence with confiscation of property.¹⁰⁵

Biography: He was born in Mary province and lived in Ashgabat. He is an entrepreneur. He is from the same village as and a friend of Redjeggeldy Nurgeldyev. He is a retired Major, a former employee of the National Security Committee,¹⁰⁶ 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.¹⁰⁷

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

Relatives arrested/harassed/detained:

- Ilamanov, Soltan Ereshevich (See p. 46)
- Nurgeldyev, Redzhepgeldy (See p. 48)

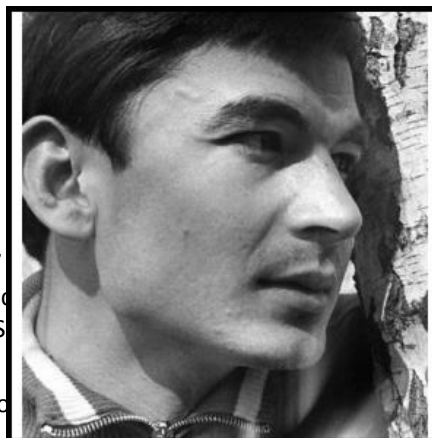
13. Rakhimov, Serdar

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 December 5, 2002. The video of his "confession" was shown on TV on December 18, 2002.¹⁰⁸



¹⁰² Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty. "Turkmen Report: January 2, 2003" 02.01.2003.<http://www.rferl.org/content/article/1346986.html>. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁰³ Decaux, Emmanuel. "OSCE Rapporteur's Report on Turkmenistan." OSCE, 12.3.2003. <http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372>

¹⁰⁴ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyркmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabatskovo" 04.02.2003. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁰⁵ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyркmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabatskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation." 04.02.2003. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁰⁶ Decaux, Emmanuel. "OSCE Rapporteur's Report On Turkmenistan." OSCE, 12.3.2003. [Http://Www.Osce.Org/Odihr/18372](http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372)

¹⁰⁷ Amnesty International. "Turkmenistan: A Summary Of Amnesty International's Concerns (Briefing For Government Delegations At The 59th Session Of The United Nations Commission On Human Rights)" [Http://Www.Amnesty.Org/En/Library/Asset/EUR61/009/2003/En/Ba44bfcd-D70c-11dd-B0cc-1f0860013475/Eur610092003en.html](http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR61/009/2003/en/Ba44bfcd-D70c-11dd-B0cc-1f0860013475/Eur610092003en.html). Accessed On 20 March 2014.

¹⁰⁸ Decaux, Emmanuel. "OSCE Rapporteur's Report on Turkmenistan." OSCE, 12.3.2003. <http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372> pp. 21, 18.

Charges: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. He was accused of intending to announce on television the assassination of President Niyazov.¹⁰⁹ 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: He was sentenced to 25 years in imprisonment:^{110, 111} 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.¹¹²

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.^{113,114,115}

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.¹¹⁶

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

¹⁰⁹ RIA Novosti. "Turkmeniya: "predately Rodiny" lishili zvaniy" 21.12.2002. <http://ria.ru/politics/20021221/286859.html#ixzz2tAL0lh2k> Accessed on 10 February 2014.

¹¹⁰ "Solidarnost' s turkmenskimi politzaklyuchonnyim kommunistom" 1 January 2007. <http://www.trudoros.narod.ru/akm/2013/07/trkm.htm>. Accessed on 1 February 2014.

¹¹¹ Memorial "Vragi Naroda" from the Turkmenistan publication "Adolat"

¹¹² RIA Novosti. "Turkmeniya: "predately Rodiny" lishili zvaniy" 21.12.2002. <http://ria.ru/politics/20021221/286859.html#ixzz2tAL0lh2k>. Accessed on 10 February 2014.

¹¹³ Wikipedia. «Rakhimov Serdar Seitmuradovich», http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Рахимов,_Сердар_Сейтмурадович. Accessed on 5 January 2014.

¹¹⁴ "Solidarnost' s turkmenskimi politzaklyuchonnyim kommunistom" 1 January 2007. <http://www.trudoros.narod.ru/akm/2013/07/trkm.htm>. Accessed on 1 February 2014.

¹¹⁵ Notes from Vitaliy Ponomarev, Memorial.

¹¹⁶ Novaya Gazeta. "Zaklyuchennyye v ashkhabade" 10.9.2009. <http://novayagazeta.spb.ru/articles/5278/>. Accessed on 1 March 2014.

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.^{117,118}

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.¹¹⁹

14. Sardzhaev, Batyr Kurbanovich

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, "Turkmemdemiryollary."¹²⁰

Date of Arrest: He was arrested on August 5, before the start of the Halk Maslahat (People's Council) of Turkmenistan.¹²¹

Charges: He was charged with "unclean affairs in the railway industry," including embezzlement.^{122,123}

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."



¹¹⁷ Chronika Turkmenistana. "Medvedeva prosyat pomoch' rossiyanam, osuzhdennym v Turkmenii" 17.08.2009. <http://archive.chrono-tm.org/?id=2091>. Accessed on 20 February 2014.

¹¹⁸ Ferghana.News. "Rossiya-Turkmenistan: Initsiativnaya gruppa zhurnalistov trebuyet vnimaniya k delu Borisa Shikhmuradova i Sardara Rakhimova" 18.08.2009. <http://www.ferghananews.com/news.php?id=12733>. Accessed on 10 February 2014.

¹¹⁹ "Solidarnost' s turkmenskimi politzaklyuchonnymi kommunistami" 1 January 2007. <http://www.trudoros.narod.ru/akm/2013/07/trkm.htm>. Accessed on 1 February 2014.

¹²⁰ Institute for War and Peace Reporting. "Turkmenbashi Otravil V Odstavku Populyarnogo Ministra" 21.02.2005. <http://iwpr.net/ru/report-news/туркменбаши-отправил-в-отставку-популярного-министра>. Accessed on 5 March 2014.

¹²¹ Vremya Novostei. "Zhertva vozhdya: Arestovannogo eks-ministra oborony Turkmenii razbil paralich." 29.08.2002 <http://www.vremya.ru/print/26528.html>. Accessed on 2 March 2014.

¹²² Vremya Novostei. "Zhertva vozhdya: Arestovannogo eks-ministra oborony Turkmenii razbil paralich." 29.08.2002 <http://www.vremya.ru/print/26528.html>. Accessed on 2 March 2014.

¹²³ Lenta.ru. "Sotrudnik Genprokuratury Turkmenii - 'Vremeni novostey': 'U nas tut khuzhe, chem bylo v 37-om godu'" 29.08.2002. lenta.ru/world/2002/08/29/niyazov/. Accessed on 8 March 2014.

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 Minavtotrans 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).¹²⁴ 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.¹²⁵ 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.¹²⁶

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 "Turkmendemiryoilary." 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.^{127,128}

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.¹²⁹ The horrors that Batyr Sardzhaev, one of the most respected people in the country, endured within the walls of the building of the Prosecutor General led an employee of the Prosecutor

¹²⁴ CentrAsia "Batyr Kurbanovich Sardzhaev." <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?st=1013880204>. Accessed on 20 February 2014.

¹²⁵ Vremya Novosti. "Zhertva vozhdya: Arestovannogo eks-ministra oborony Turkmenii razbil paralich." 29.08.2002 <http://www.vremya.ru/print/26528.html>. Accessed on 2 March 2014.

¹²⁶ Turkmenistan.ru. "Prezident Turkmenistana Naznachil Batyra Sardzhayeva Nachal'nikom Upravleniya Zheleznikh Dorog" 26.06.2001 <http://www.turkmenistan.ru/ru/node/12995>. Accessed on 2 March 2014.

¹²⁷ Kommersant. "Turkmenbashi zanyalsya perestanovkami." 31.07.2002. <http://www.kommersant.ru/doc/334417>. Accessed on 7 March 2014.

¹²⁸ CentrAsia "Batyr Kurbanovich Sardzhaev." <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?st=1013880204>. Accessed on 20 February 2014.

¹²⁹ Turkmen Helsinki Fund for Human Rights. Posledniye izvestiya o turkmenskom rezhime. 22.06.2004. <http://www.tmhelsinki.org/ru/modules/news/print.php?storyid=420>. Accessed on 8 March 2014.

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."¹³⁰

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 Atajanova, 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).¹³¹

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

15. Shikhmuradov, Boris

Date of Birth: May 25, 1949

Citizenship: Russian, possibly Turkmen

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.

Date of Arrest: Declared wanted in November 2002. He was detained on December 25, 2002, 5 pm in his Ashgabat apartment. According to an unconfirmed report, he surrendered himself to the authorities. According to another version, the information about his whereabouts was leaked through a female doctor, who was called to give him injections due to heart problems. She told her husband, who informed the police. The police, however, did not believe that the information was accurate, and sent a police patrol to check the apartment. After those inside the apartment refused to open the door, the police called in reinforcements.

Charges: Four days after his arrest, without adequate time to review his case or access to an interpreter, on December 29, 2002, he was convicted by the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan of violating Article 14 - 101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 181 Part 2; 182 Part 2; 187; 195 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 229 Part 4, paragraph "a"; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 242 Part 2, paragraphs "b", "c"; 254 Part 3, 4; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 2, 3; 291 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code.¹³²

Sentence: Boris Shikhmuradov was sentenced in a closed trial to 25 years in prison: 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.¹³³ 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



¹³⁰ Vremya Novostei. "Zhertva vozhdya: Arestovannogo eks-ministra oborony Turkmenii razbil paralich" 29.08.2002 <http://www.vremya.ru/print/26528.html>. Accessed on 2 March 2014.

¹³¹ Vremya Novostei. "Zhertva vozhdya: Arestovannogo eks-ministra oborony Turkmenii razbil paralich" 29.08.2002 <http://www.vremya.ru/print/26528.html>. Accessed on 2 March 2014.

¹³² Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation. "04.02.2003". Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹³³ Ibid.

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.¹³⁴ The unrecognizable Boris Shikhmuradov appears along with the subtitle “terrorist.”

On December 30, 2002, however, the People’s Council (Halk Maslahaty), the then highest legislative body in Turkmenistan, 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. 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.¹³⁵

Biography: Boris Shikhmuradov was born in Ashgabat in 1949 to an Armenian mother and Turkmen father. He graduated from Moscow State University with a degree in journalism in 1971. Between 1971 and 1992 he held journalistic and diplomatic positions at the Novosti Press Agency (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) and the Ministry of External Relations of the USSR. In 1971 he had an editorial intern position in the Novosti’s Main Editorial Office for the Far East Region in Moscow; in 1975 he became editor in the Novosti’s office in Pakistan; in 1979 he was a senior editor in the Novosti’s Main Office for Asia in Moscow; in 1986 he became Deputy Head of the Novosti’s informational center in Delhi, and from April 1991 in Moscow. Since the beginning of 1992 he worked for RIA Novosti in India.

From 1983 to 1986, also he studied at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the USSR. In 1986, he held senior positions in diplomatic missions and in the Foreign Ministry of the USSR. He worked at Soviet embassies in Pakistan, India, and was sent on missions to Turkey, Afghanistan, the USA, China, Singapore and elsewhere. On May 21, 1992 he became Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan. On July 6, 1992 he became the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. On January 7, 1993 he became Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan (responsible for science, education, health and foreign policy; and from March 1994—issues of foreign affairs, armed forces and law enforcement agencies.) Before March 1995 he was also simultaneously the Chairman of the State Commission on logistics of the defense complex of Turkmenistan and the Vice Chairman of the Council of the Defense and National Security of Turkmenistan. From January 6, 1995 he served as Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

On January 8, 1999, he became the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan. On July 28, 2000 he became Ambassador at Large, Special Representative of the President for Caspian issues and settlement in Afghanistan. At the same time he was the Rector of the National Institute of Sports and Tourism of Turkmenistan and the President of the National Olympic Committee. 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 on March 11, 2001, Boris Shikhmuradov was made Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China. Niyazov told him: “travel, take a rest, and have a good think about it....”

On October 11, 2001, he flew to Moscow and on November 1, 2001, while in Moscow, he announced that he joined the opposition and created the People's Democratic Movement of Turkmenistan. In November 2001, he went to Turkey. In November 2002, he flew from Istanbul to Uzbekistan where he entered Turkmenistan illegally.

¹³⁴ Khudaykulova, Luiza. “Wife of Missing Turkmen Ex-Minister Boris Shikhmuradov Speaks Out,” BBC News Asia, December 28, 2012, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-20815114>. Accessed 29 May 2014.

¹³⁵ Decaux, Emmanuel. “OSCE Rapporteur’s Report on Turkmenistan.” OSCE, 12.3.2003. <http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372>

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.¹³⁶

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.¹³⁷ 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.

Relatives arrested/harassed/detained: 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."¹³⁸

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 Kurbanbibi Atajanova, who condemned Boris Shikhmuradov in a report on *Watan News Program*, was convicted and is currently in prison.

- Shikhmuradov, Konstantin (See p. 35)
- Shikhmuradova, Aina (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.

¹³⁶ The full extent of Mrs. Shikhmuradov's efforts as well as a full account of Boris Shikhmuradov's case is recorded in her Personal Statement on the Violation of Human Rights to the United Nations Human Rights Committee, an individual communication to the UN Human Rights Committee under Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. April 28th, 2011.

¹³⁷ Decaux, Emmanuel. "OSCE Rapporteur's Report on Turkmenistan." OSCE, 12.3.2003.

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372>

¹³⁸ Ibid.

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.

- Shikhmuradov, Aman (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.
- Shikhmuradova, Maria (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.
- Shikhmuradova, Larisa (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.
- Beknazarov, Begench (See p. 13)
- Beknazarov, Amandurdy (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 Beknazarov's passports were taken away.
- Beknazarova, Raisa (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.

- Shikhmuradov, Serdar 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.
- Akopyan, Rita and Zurab (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, President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov was asked by a graduate student about the status of Boris Shikhmuradov and Batyr Berdyev. President Berdimukhamedov responded that he is "positive they are alive."¹³⁹ However, there is no evidence either supporting or contradicting this statement.

16. Shikhmuradov, Konstantin

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 Turkmenistan¹⁴⁰.

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 against holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.¹⁴¹

Biography: brother of Boris Shikhmuradov

Relatives arrested/harassed/detained: See information on relatives of Boris Shikhmuradov.

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



17. Tyrmyev, Turkish

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

Citizenship: Turkmen



¹³⁹ Saidazimova, Gulnoza. "Turkmen President Urged To Continue Moving Forward" Report: September 28, 2007, RFE/RL, <http://www.rferl.org/content/article/1347>

¹⁴⁰ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkemenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedeli" 04.02.2003. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

Residence at time of arrest: Unknown

Date of arrest: On April 5, 2002.¹⁴²

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.^{143, 144, 145} 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.¹⁴⁶

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.¹⁴⁷ Ten days prior to the end of his initial sentence, he was charged with a crime against a prison guard.¹⁴⁸

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.¹⁴⁹ 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

¹⁴² Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty. “Ex-Security Chief And Henchmen To Face Trial In Turkmenistan.” 9 May 2002. <http://www.rferl.mobi/a/1342254.html>. Accessed on 13 January 2014.

¹⁴³ Neitralniy Turkmenistan. “Saparmurat Niyazov razjaloval v ryadoviye treh generalov spetsslujbi.” 01.04.02. <http://www.turkmenistan.ru/ru/node/13881>. Accessed on 7 January 2014.

¹⁴⁴ International Relations and Security Network. “The Prospects for Internal Unrest in Turkmenistan.” April 2003. <http://www.isn.ethz.ch/Digital-Library/Publications/Detail/?fecvnodeid=127081&groupot593=0c54e3b3-1e9c-be1e-2c24-a6a8c7060233&dom=1&fecvid=21&ots591=0c54e3b3-1e9c-be1e-2c24-a6a8c7060233&v21=127081&lng=en&id=92522>. Accessed on 7 January 2014.

¹⁴⁵ Neitralniy Turkmenistan. “Naznachen Noviy Nachalnik Pogranichniy Sluzbi Turkmenistana.” 05.05.02. <http://www.turkmenistan.ru/ru/node/14546>. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁴⁶ Neitralniy Turkmenistan. “Saparmurat Niyazov razjaloval v ryadoviye treh generalov spetsslujbi.” 01.04.02. <http://www.turkmenistan.ru/ru/node/13881>. Accessed on 7 January 2014.

¹⁴⁷ Neitralniy Turkmenistan. “Bivshie Rukovoditeli KNB Turkmenistana Obvinyautsya v Soversheniye 80 Predstupleniy.” 07.05.02, and an anonymous source. http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=3&lang_id=ru&elem_id=1259&type=event&sort=date_desc. Accessed on 15 January 2014.

¹⁴⁸ Radio Free Liberty Free Europe. “Family Appeals For Contact with Imprisoned Turkmen General” 19.04.2012. http://www.rferl.org/content/turkmenistan_general_prison_tyrmyev/24553675.html. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁴⁹ Radio Free Liberty Free Europe. “Family Appeals For Contact with Imprisoned Turkmen General” 19.04.2012. http://www.rferl.org/content/turkmenistan_general_prison_tyrmyev/24553675.html. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

and other benefits for military service, state awards, and dismissed from military service.¹⁵⁰ 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).¹⁵¹

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.¹⁵²

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 courtroom.

Members of Tyrmyev's family say they have not been allowed to see him or communicate with him since the summer of 2002.¹⁵³ 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, Turkish Tyrmyev was alive, but his health was in critical condition. According to reliable information received from a source of Shikhmuradov’s in the Turkmenistan KGB, Niyazov gave his executioners a deadline: within three months from September 2002, General Tyrmyev should disappear.¹⁵⁴

Relatives arrested/harassed/detained: His wife 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.

18. Yklymov, Amanmukhammet

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, 2002.¹⁵⁵

Charges: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. He was convicted in January 2003 on 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”,

¹⁵⁰ TsentAsia. “ Tyrmyev Turkish” <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?&st=1013880210>. Accessed on 19 January 2014.

¹⁵¹ TsentAsia. “ Tyrmyev Turkish” <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?&st=1013880210>. Accessed on 19 January 2014.

¹⁵² TsentAsia. “ Gospoda Ofitseri! B.. SHikhmuradov Obrashyaetsa k Turkenskoy Armii s Prizivom k Vosstaniyu.” 11.09.2002. <http://www.centrasia.ru/newsA.php?st=1031690460>. Accessed on 9 January 2014.

¹⁵³ Radio Free Liberty Free Europe. “Family Appeals For Contact With Imprisoned Turkmen General” 19.04.2012. http://www.rferl.org/content/turkmenistan_general_prison_tyrmyev/24553675.html. Accessed on 10.01.2014

¹⁵⁴ TsentAsia. “ Gospoda Ofitseri! B.. SHikhmuradov Obrashyaetsa k Turkenskoy Armii s Prizivom k Vosstaniyu.” 11.09.2002. <http://www.centrasia.ru/newsA.php?st=1031690460>. Accessed on 9 January 2014.

¹⁵⁵ Decaux, 2003.

"b", 254 part 4 , paragraph "a", " b", 271, part 3, part 2, 273, 275, Part 1, Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan¹⁵⁶.

Sentence: He was 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.¹⁵⁷

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 has been reportedly tortured throughout the time of his detention.¹⁵⁸ 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, 2003.¹⁵⁹

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.

- Yklymov, Orazmammet (See below);
- Yklymov, Yklym (See p.39);
- Niyazdurdyev, Davlet (See p. 48).

Current situation: Unknown.

19. Yklymov, Orazmammet

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

Citizenship: Russian and Turkmen

Residence when arrested: Ashgabat

¹⁵⁶ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyркmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation. "04.02.2003. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁵⁷ Ibid.

¹⁵⁸ Kozlova, Maria. "New Turkmen President Berdymukhamedov Moves to Consolidate Power." *World Politics Review*. 27 June 2007. <http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/888/new-turkmen-president-berdymukhamedov-moves-to-consolidate-power>. Accessed on 20 January 2014.

¹⁵⁹ Asian Human Rights Commission. "Turkmenistan: Two men tortured and died in custody after arrest." 08.09.2003. <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/forwarded-news/FA-33-2003>. Accessed on 25 January 2014.

Position when arrested: Businessman

Arrest: He was arrested on 25 November, 2002.

Charges: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. 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.¹⁶⁰

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.¹⁶¹

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.

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.

- Yklymov, Amanmukhammet (See above);
- Yklymov, Yklym (See p. 39);
- Niyazdurdyev, Davlet (See p. 48).

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

20. Yklymov, Yklym

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

Citizenship: Russian and Turkmen¹⁶²

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 of H. Annaevoy. His and all



¹⁶⁰ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabatskogo telegazeta. 04.02.2003. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² Komarovskiy, Leonid. "Nado Prekratit Lydoedskiy Regim Niyazova, i tse ne zabyt' o Niyazovskoy Reshenii." <http://www.radiolenya.com/article3/>. Accessed on 20 January 2014.

of his family's arrest happened at night, arbitrarily, without witnesses. All of the Yklymov family's possessions were confiscated.¹⁶³

Charges: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. 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.¹⁶⁴

Sentence: Sentenced to life imprisonment with confiscation of property.¹⁶⁵

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.¹⁶⁶

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.

- Yklymov, Orazmammet (See above);
- Yklymov, Amanmukhammet (See p. 37);
- Niyazdurdyev, Davlet (See p. 48).

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.

¹⁶³ Komarovskiy, Leonid. "Nado Prekratit Lydoedsky Regim Niyazova, Poka Tan Eshe Ostalis Lyudi." 12.12.2003. <http://www.radiolenta.com/article3/>. Accessed on 20 January 2014.

¹⁶⁴ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabat'skovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation." 04.02.2003. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶⁶ US Mission to the OSCE. " US Concerned about Incidents of Torture in Some OSCE States." 9.10.2003. <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2003/11/20031103181825rennefl0.7239954.html#axzz2n6fyJcFW>. Accessed on 21 January 2014.

Others Disappeared in Turkmen Prisons

21. Adov, Vladimir

Biography: Born in 1952. He was an employee of the Gosstandart, the city of Mary.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in 2003 under Article 181 Part 2 and 187 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment in a penal colony. He is being held in LBK-12 in the city of Seidi, Lebap Province.

22. Ahmedov, Geday

Biography: Born in 1940. Former Khyakim of Lebap Province, an esteemed "elder" and "Hero of Turkmenistan."

Arrest and Conviction: He was arrested in February 2006 for economic crimes, and sentenced to 17 years in prison (<http://archive.chrono-tm.org/?id=112>). According to the Turkmenistan Initiative for Human Rights, Ahmedov died in early July 2006. His body was delivered to the relatives in the Lebap Province in the trunk of a car and buried in secrecy. According to his cellmates, Ahmedov suffered from diabetes, but because he was imprisoned in Ovan Depe, did not receive the necessary medicines. About a month or two before his death, he could not walk. <http://archive.chrono-tm.org/?id=150>

23. Allakulyev, Allamyrat

Biography: Date of birth unknown. Department Head in the National Security Committee, Colonel. Dismissed from his post on March 6, 2002, deprived of military ranks, material and other benefits, as well as state awards.

Arrest and Conviction: Convicted on June 15, 2002 along with Head of the National Security Committee, M. Nazarov, and sentenced to 18 years imprisonment, to be served in a penal colony, with confiscation of property, (<http://www.fergananews.com/articles/488>).

24. Annadurdyev, Gurban

Biography: Date of birth unknown. Head of the National Security Committee of Balkan Province, Colonel. Dismissed from his duties on June 3, 2002.

Arrest and Conviction: Unknown

25. Atageldiev, Orazmuhammet

Biography: Date of birth unknown. Former Minister of State, Chairman of the State Corporation "Turkmengeologiya."

Arrest and Conviction: Relieved from duty in August 2005 for "serious shortcomings in his work."

26. Atayev, Mamour

Biography: Unknown

Arrest and conviction: He was charged with the assistance in the attempt of relatives accused in the events of November 25, 2002 to illegally cross the border. He was arrested between July and August 2004. He was sentenced on October 7, 2004, along with nine other defendants. He was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment.

27. Akmammedov, Gurbangeldy Akgaevich

Biography: Not available.

Arrest and conviction: He was convicted in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

28. Akmuradov, Annagel'dy Ovezmuradovich

Biography: Not available.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 2; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 17 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

29. Annageldyev, Djumamuhammet Durdyevich

Biography: Not available.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he was to live in a designated place for 5 years.

30. Annasahatov (Annasahedov), Annadurdy

Biography: Born in 1959. A Colonel, he was the chief of the counterintelligence division at the Ministry of National Security (MNS), Ashgabat. In the mid-90s, he worked as a Consul for Turkmenistan in Herat (Afghanistan) for three months. Between 1976 and 1981, he studied at the Turkmenistan State University's Faculty of Foreign Languages. After graduation, he worked for the Committee for State Security (KGB) in Ashgabat about a year. Then, in Minsk, he took the KGB's Higher Courses that prepared operational staff for KGB's territorial security organs. He enrolled in a postgraduate program in Moscow and graduated in 1985 with a Ph.D. in philosophy. He returned to work at the KGB: a year in Ashgabat, then in Moscow, was sent by the First Main Directorate of the KGB of the USSR to the Soviet Embassy in China. He spent about 5 to 6 years in Japan doing business. He then returned to Moscow to work in the headquarters of the FSB. Approximately in 1997, he moved to Turkmenistan, where he began to work at the National Security Committee (KNB). He spent one year in foreign intelligence and two years as head of investigation. He is married, and has 4 children.

Arrest and conviction: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. He was detained in December 2002, although other sources say 3 days after the November events. The video recording of his "confession" aired on TV on December 18, 2002. He was sentenced on January 15, 2003 by Supreme Court of Turkmenistan under Articles 14 -101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was given a life sentence with confiscation of his property.

31. Atanesian, Aram Shavashovich

Biography: Not available.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 2; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

32. Babaev, Arslan Annadurdyevich

Biography: Militia officer, from Ashgabat

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

33. Begenjov, Gurbandurdy

Biography: Born in 1956, Mary Province, Turkmenistan In 1978, he graduated from the Turkmen Agricultural Institute. Beginning in 1978, he taught at Bayramali veterinary college. Between 1981-1985, he served as Second, then as First, Secretary of the City of Bayramali Committee of the Komsomol. From March to September 1985, he was the Head of the Department of the Working and Rural Central Committee of the Communist Youth Union of Turkmenistan. From 1985, he worked in the State security bodies. Until June 2001, he served as Deputy Chairman of the National Security Committee, Head of Military Intelligence, and earned the title of Colonel. From June 26, 2001 to March 14, 2002, he served as Minister of Defense, Major General. He was dismissed "for serious shortcomings and omissions in his work, and the use of official position for personal gain." On April 1st, 2002, he was demoted to the rank of Private, and deprived of State awards.

Arrest and Conviction: He was arrested in April 2002. In May 2002, he was sentenced to 10 years. At the same time, Niyazov stated that the sentence would be commuted, and that convicted leaders would grow grain in the western region of Bereket (RIA "Novosti," 24.05.2002). In March 2003, the prosecutor's office reported that Begenjov was serving his sentence "in the form of a residence in a designated area" (Turkmenistan.ru, 19.03.2003). According to others, he died in prison on April 23, 2007.

34. Bishoev, Amirbek

Biography: A Russian citizen, an ethnic Chechen.

Arrest and conviction: He was detained on November 25, 2002 in Ashgabat. He was in possession of the documents of a Georgian citizen, Kakh Tsakashvili.

35. Buriev, Aman Djumadurdyevich

Biography: Not available

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3;

273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

36. Buriev, Esen Djumadurdyevich

Biography: Not available.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

37. Charyev, Ilyas

Biography: Date of birth unknown. Former Minister of State, Chairman of the Corporation "Turkmenneft" (Turkmenistan.ru, 23.06.2005).

Arrest and Conviction: On September 13, 2005, Niyazov stated that he was sentenced to 25 years for bribery and abuse in trade. He was charged, specifically, with the theft of US \$10 million Dollars ("Novaya Gazeta," 21.09.2005). On August 12, 2005, he was dismissed from his duties as Minister of State and Chairman of the Corporation "Turkmenneft."

38. Djumaev, Chary Rozyevich

Biography: Born on December 28, 1957, in Ashgabat. Guvanch Djumaev's brother.

Arrest and conviction: He was detained between November 25 and 26, 2002; sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years. From March to April 2007, he was held in the Ovadan Depe.

39. Djumaev, Rozy Djumaevich

Biography: Born March 11, 1929, retired, lived in the countryside in Guvanch Djumaev's house in Choganly village on the outskirts of Ashgabat. He is the father of Guvanch and Chary Djumaev. He was a former senior official of the Council of Ministers of the TSSR.

Arrest and conviction: He was detained between November 25 and 26, 2002. The video recording of his "confession" aired on TV, on December 4, 2002. He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

40. Djumaev, Rustem Byashimovich

Biography: A former managing director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

Arrest and conviction: He was detained in early December 2002. He was sentenced on January 21, 2003 by the Ashgabat City Court under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

41. Djumaev, Timur Guvanchovich

Biography: Born on April 17, 1975, in Ashgabat. Guvanch Djumaev's son. Has a dual Russian-Turkmenistan citizenship. He graduated from the National Turkmenistan Institute of Economics. He worked as an operator at "Vnesheconombank," then in the corporation "Gayrat."

Arrest and conviction: He was detained between November 25 and 26, 2002. The video recording of his "confession" aired on TV, on December 4, 2002. He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

42. Dovletov, Rovshen Dzhorageldyevich

Biography: Guvanch Djumaev's commercial director, Ashgabat.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

43. Durdyklychev, Djumagel'dy Allaberdyeovich

Biography: An employee at the district oil depot, village in the Amu-Darya District named on behalf of Niyazov, Lebap Province. He was D. Gaipov's subordinate.

Arrest and conviction: He was detained in December 2002 in the district named on behalf of Niyazov, Lebap Province. He was transported to Ashgabat. He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

44. Durdyev, Habibylla

Biography: Born in 1955 or 1956, Tejen. He graduated from the Agronomy School in Ashgabat, the Turkmen Institute of National Economy, Tashkent Higher Party School (1988). Beginning in 1974 he worked as a senior economist in the Tejen District information and Computing Station. From 1978, he worked in the Komsomol as an instructor, department head of the Tejen District Committee, Section

Head, Department of Regional Committee of Ashgabat, and as the First Secretary of the Proletarian District Committee of Youth of the Turkmen SSR. From 1988 he worked at the Central Committee of Youth of the Turkmen SSR, as chairman of the Bureau of International Youth Tourism "Sputnik," and as the Secretary of the Central Committee of Youth of the Turkmen SSR. From 1990 to 1991, he served as First Secretary of the Central Committee of Youth of the Turkmen SSR. From 1992 he served as Chairman of the Central Council of the Youth Union of Turkmenistan. At the same time, from 1992, he served as Chairman of the State Customs Committee, and later as Chairman of the Association of Bread Products, "Turkmengallaonumleri." On June 30, 1999, he was appointed khyakim of Balkan Province. On September 11, 2000 he became khyakim of Dashoguz Province. He was relieved of his post on November 15, 2002, for shortcomings in his work, including the failure to collect grain according to plan. He was a member of the CPSU (1978), the Central Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPT and the CPT (from April 16, 1991). He was awarded the "Garashsyz Turkmenistan Bolan Beyik soygusi perpetrate" in December 1999.

Arrest and Conviction: He died in prison on August 3, 2009 ([Gundogar, 04.08.2009](#)). Information on Wikipedia stating that he had been pardoned by the Decree of December 6, 2008 is incorrect. Another [version](#), according to which Durdyev was sent to a forced settlement, and then arrested on charges of trying to escape from the country and damages amounting to US \$500 thousand, cannot be confirmed. Allegedly, he was convicted due to intervention by President Niyazov's son.

45. Esenov, Guychmyrad

Biography: Date of birth unknown. Former director of the Turkmenbashi refinery (Turkmenistan.ru, 14.09.2005).

Arrest and Conviction: He was dismissed from his position as Director of Turkmenbashi refinery on September 13, 2005 (Turkmenistan.ru, 14.09.2005). President Niyazov said that Esenov had been "stealing with Gurbanmuradov" and had afterwards "returned" about 9.574 billion Manat and should return another US \$2.111 million. Niyazov stated that he had enough evidence to "put him away for 10 years," but had given him a warning instead. There is unofficial evidence that he had been convicted and imprisoned despite this public presentation of a warning.

46. Gaipov, Dovlet Odaevich

Biography: He was the Director of a district oil depot, in the village in the Amu-Darya District named on behalf of Niyazov, Lebap Province. He is Guvanch Djumaev's distant relative.

Arrest and conviction: He was detained in December 2002 in the district named on behalf Niyazov, Lebap Province, when he showed up upon request of the district department of the Ministry of National Security. According to Komarovskiy, D. Gaipov was arrested at work and led in handcuffs in the yard of the oil depot, and then he was flown from Turkmenabat to Ashgabat. The video recording of his "confession" was shown on TV, on December 18, 2002. He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

47. Garataev, Guvandyk Isaevich

Biography: Born in 1976, in the Deyhan association of “Talimardjan” in the Ovezov village, the District named on behalf of Niyazov, Lebap Province. He is Murat Garataev’s cousin.

Arrest and conviction: He was detained in December 2002 in the Niyazov district of Lebap Province. He was transported to Ashgabat. He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

48. Garataev, Isa Bektaevich

Biography: From the Deyhan association “Talimardjan” in the Ovezov village, the Niyazov District of Lebap Province. He is Guvandyk Garataev’s father.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

49. Garataev, Murat Amanovich

Biography: A militia officer, of the Niyazov District of Lebap Province. He is Guvanch Djumaev’s nephew and Guvandyk Garataev’s cousin.

Arrest and conviction: He was detained in December 2002 in the district named on behalf of Niyazov, Lebap Province. He was transported to Ashgabat. He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

50. Garayev, Atamurat Nurmuradovich

Biography: From Ashgabat. Acquainted with Amangeldy Khatamov.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

51. Gulmuradov, Ishankuli

Biography: Born in 1963, Ashgabat.

He graduated from the Turkmen Institute of National Economy in 1985.

From 1985 he worked as an economist in the planning department of the Directorate construction enterprises of the Ministry of Trade of the Turkmen SSR. From 1985 to 1987 he served in the Soviet Army. From 1987 he worked as an economist in the division of Turkmenpotrebsoyuz, and was a consultant of the Department of Analysis, Licensing and Control of the Commission for Foreign Economic Relations in the Office of the President of Turkmenistan. From 1994, he was the Head of the Registration Committee of the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange. From 1995, he was the Deputy Chairman and from 1997, Chairman, of the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange of Turkmenistan. On June 30, 1999 he became Chairman of the Association of Bread Products "Turkmengallaonumleri." On June 15, 2000 he was appointed Chairman of the State Consortium, "Turkmendokunhimiya." He was released from duty for shortcomings in his work. From March 30, 2001, he served as Deputy Minister of Agriculture for a probationary period of 6 months. From November 2002 to December 1, 2004, he was the khyakim of Dashoguz Province. He was released from duty on December 1, 2004 for malpractice. He was awarded the medal "Ghairat" in December 1999.

Arrest and Conviction: On December 1, 2004 Gulmuradov was accused by President Niyazov of embezzling US \$2 million, stealing 2.5 thousand tons of cotton, and taking bribes amounting to US \$400 thousand. According to RIA News (02.12.2014), he had returned US \$470 thousand to the defendants. (RIA "News" 02.12.2004). Later, he was accused of transferring US \$1 million in bribes to Redjep Saparov (Turkmenistan.ru, 28.07.2005). He died in Ovan Depe in 2005. The body was released to relatives.

52. Gurbanmuradov, Yelly

Biography: Born in February 25, 1960, Ashgabat. He graduated from the Turkmen Institute of National Economy (1977-1982). In 1977, he worked as a laboratory assistant and project affiliate of TNII branch "VNIIGAZ" in Ashgabat. Since 1978, he held numerous jobs in SU-1 "Turkmenneftegazstroy." Since 1982, he was the Senior Economist in the financial department. From 1983-1987 he served as the Deputy Head of Urban Management of the Office of the State Bank of the USSR in Ashgabat. Since 1988 he was the Head of Automation and Mechanization of the State Bank (Ashgabat). Later in the same year he became the Deputy Chief of the regional department of Zhilsotsbank USSR. Since 1989, he worked in the Managing Department of AgropromBank in Kulieva village. In 1990 he became the branch manager of the USSR Vnesheconombank (Ashgabat). In 1992 he was the First Deputy Chairman of the State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan. From June 15, 1993 to March 31, 2001 he was the Chairman of the State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan. At the same time, beginning in 1994, he was appointed by Turkmenistan to the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank. Also from December 27, 1995 he was the Deputy Chairman, and from June 4, 1997, Chairman of the Monetary Committee of the President of Turkmenistan. From May 28, 1996 to September 28, 2000, he was Director of the State Agency for Foreign Investments under the President of Turkmenistan. Simultaneously, from June 2, 1997 to May 20, 2005, he was the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, overseeing the fuel and energy complex and chemical industry. Also from June 2, 1997, he served as the Chairman of the Interbank Board. On June 4, 1997, he was appointed to work at the International Monetary Fund for Turkmenistan. At the same time, beginning in June 1997, he was the Deputy Chairman of the Competent Authority for Use of Hydrocarbon Resources under the President of Turkmenistan (chaired by President Niyazov). From May 1999, he was the Director of the Committee for Foreign Investment under the President of Turkmenistan. He was relieved of his post on May 20, 2005 in connection with criminal charges.

He was awarded medals “Ghairat” and “For the love of the fatherland.” He was given the honorary title, “Honored Economist of Turkmenistan.”

Arrest and Conviction: Gurbanmuradov was detained May 29, 2005, and charged with embezzlement of public funds totaling US \$60.5 million and 7.1 billion Manat (Turkmenistan.ru, 21.05.2005), with the participation of the Turkish company “Erku” and front companies. He was also charged with attempting to create an artificial shortage of gasoline in the end of 2004; and for contacts with foreign intelligence services. Soon thereafter, the size of theft was increased to US \$99.2 million and 5.9 billion Manat, of which 1.2 million and 2 billion Manat were returned by the accused. During the investigation, 20 houses and apartments, 18 cars, 450 kg of gold and silver jewelry, and more than 4,600 head of cattle were seized. According to official data, in June 2005 the case was sent to the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan (Turkmenistan.ru, 11.06.2005).

He was convicted in late July 2005 on charges of "espionage, high treason and major theft and sentenced to 25 years imprisonment with confiscation of property (Gundogar, 25.07.2005). It was reported that his cousin Begmurad Gurbanmuradov was to also appear before the court along with him. His cousin was former head of the “Turkmendenizyollary” (sea and river transport) (Turkmenistan.ru, 11.06.2005), who was accused of illegal shipment of oil from Turkmenbashi to Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan and other countries. A source confirms that Begmurad was convicted (Varna, 2014). According to unconfirmed reports, his civil wife Olga Kudratova was sentenced to 8-15 years in prison. His brother Begly, former Minister of Communications, was sentenced to 20 years in 2005 and died in prison in 2013.

After the arrest of his mother and the confiscation of the house, his minor daughter was thrown into the streets (Gundogar, 25.07.2005, 16.01.2006). In February 2007, there were rumors of Gurbanmuradov’s possible release from Ovan Depe prison (Ferghana.ru, 05.02.2007), or transfer under house arrest regime, which were never confirmed (Human Rights Watch, November 2007, unconfirmed reports, citing diplomatic sources).

In 2014, Gurbanmuradov’s sister said that the relatives had not received any information on his state (Prague, 2014). According to unconfirmed reports at the end of May 2005, his father in-law, two friends and brothers Begench and Guvanch Gurbanmuradov were in the Ministry of National Security pre-trial detention center. The latter two were suspected of money laundering involving foreign firms, including in Pakistan. Other relatives were interrogated over a month (Deutch Welle, 01.06.2005). His younger brother, Velmurad Kurbanmuradov was summoned several times to the prosecutor's office, and then arrested on July 5, 2005, but later released. In mid-December 2005, he was brutally beaten by “unknown persons” because he “did not keep his mouth shut.” According to the Gundogar website, he was soon arrested again, accused of illegal seizure of another’s property, and detained in January 2006 (Gundogar, 25.07.2005, 16.01.2006). According to others, he was brutally beaten, but was not convicted.

Gurbanmuradov’s case is linked to other business related criminal cases against a number of other high-ranking officials. On June 23, 2005 a high-ranking official, chairman of the State trading corporation “Turkmenneftegaz,” Ilyas Charyev, was fired “for serious shortcomings in his work” (Turkmenistan.ru, 23.06.2005). On September 13, 2005, Niyazov stated that he was sentenced to 25 years for bribery and abuse in trade. He was charged, specifically, with the theft of US\$ 10 million (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, 21.09.2005). On August 12, 2005 Chairman of the Corporation “Turkmenneft,” Saparmamed Valiev, was

dismissed (Turkmenistan.ru, 13.08.2005) and arrested on August 22, 2005, charged with appropriation, embezzlement and abuse of office, and deprived of State awards and honors, including the title of “Hero of Turkmenistan” (Turkmenistan.ru, 22.08.2005). On September 13, 2005, Niyazov stated that Valiev was sentenced to 20 years and that US\$25 million has been seized from his person, along with 20 cars, 19 homes and cottages. (“Nezavisimaya Gazeta,” 21.09.2005). According to Radio Liberty, he was sentenced to 24 years imprisonment with confiscation of property (Radio Liberty, 19.09.2005). On September 13, 2005, in connection with the criminal case, Director of the Turkmenbashi refinery, Guychmyrad Esenov, was also dismissed. (Turkmenistan.ru, 14.09.2005). Niyazov stated that Esenov had been “stealing with E. Gurbanmuradov,” and three days previously had “returned” about 9,574,000,000 Manat and should return an additional US\$2.111 million dollars. “What we already know is enough to put him away for 10 years.” There is unofficial evidence that he had been convicted following Niyazov’s public threat to do so.

Current situation: Gurbanmuradov’s date of death is unknown, but in December 2015, the authorities released his body to the family. According to eyewitnesses of his funeral, his body weighed less than 50 kilograms, whereas at the time of arrest, Gurbanmuradov was of sturdy build and weighed more than 120 kilograms. Despite his obvious illness and exhaustion, the authorities chose not to release him or permit relatives to say goodbye to him before he died. Gurbanmuradov’s relatives received no information about him during his detention.

53. Gurbanov, Bazar

Biography: Not available.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs “a”, “b”, “f”, “g”, “h”, “i”, “l”; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs “a”, “b”; 235 Part 2, paragraphs “a”, “b”; 254 Part 4, paragraphs “a”, “b”; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 16 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

54. Hemraev, Nepes Hemraevich

Biography: From Lebap Province. Guvanch Djumaev’s distant relative.

Arrest and conviction: He was detained on the evening of November 25, 2002 at the home of Chary Djumaev. He was sentenced in January 2003 to 25 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

55. Ilamanov, Soltan Ereshevich

Biography: Born in 1979, Orazgeldyev’s nephew (Orazgeldyev is his mother’s sister’s husband).

Arrest and conviction: He was beaten and tortured by electric current. He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs “a”, “b”, “f”, “g”, “h”, “i”, “l”; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs “a”, “b”; 235 Part 2, paragraphs “a”, “b”; 254 Part 4, paragraphs “a”, “b”; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

56. Kakaev ,Hayit

Biography: Date of birth unknown. Deputy Head of the National Security Committee, Head of the Ashgabat branch of the National Security Committee, Colonel.

Arrest and Conviction: Convicted on June 15, 2002 along with Head of the National Security Committee, M. Nazarov, and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, with 3 years in prison and the rest of the sentence in a strict regime colony with confiscation of property

(<http://www.fergananews.com/articles/488>). Kakaev died in Krasnovodsk prison in April 2003 (<http://www.memo.ru/d/304.html>).

57. Kandymov (Gandymov), Seitbay

Biography: Born in 1949, from a village in the Krach Farab district of Charjou Oblast. He graduated from the Turkmen Agricultural Institute Kalinin (1974), the Moscow Plekhanov Institute of National Economy (1987), and is a graduate of the Institute of Economics of the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan (1995).

Since 1968, he worked as an accountant in the Deynaus branch of the State Bank, and later as Deputy Chief Accountant. Since 1969 he was the Chief Accountant of the Farab branch of the State Bank. From 1973 he was the Chief Accountant and acting manager of the hydrocarbons branch of the State Bank. Since 1983 he served as the head of the city administration of the Charjou regional office of the State Bank. From 1987 he was the Head of Zhilsotsbank, and head of the regional department of Chardzhou Turkmenbank. From 1992-1998 he served as Chairman of the Joint Stock Commercial Bank "Turkmenistan" in Ashgabat. From 1999 he was the Chairman of the State Commercial Bank of Turkmenistan. From May 24, 1999 he was the Chairman of the Board of the Central Bank of Turkmenistan. At the same time from January 6, 2000, he was the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan. Simultaneously, from January 7, 2000 he served on the Board of Governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development of Turkmenistan. From January 7, 2000, he was also the national coordinator for international technical assistance for the International Monetary Fund of Turkmenistan.

Simultaneously, from January 31, 2000 he served as the Executive Director of the bank "Prezidentbank." From March 3, 2000 he was also the Chairman of the Economic Coordination Council of Turkmenistan. He was relieved of his posts on May 6, 2002 for "abuse of power." He was awarded the medals "Bitaraplyk" (December 1999), "Galkinish," "Ghairat," and "For the love of the fatherland." He received the honorary title "Honored Economist of Turkmenistan," and authored several books.

Arrest and Conviction: He was arrested in May 2002 (shortly after the arrest of the head of the Committee on National Security, M.Nazarov.) He was convicted by the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan no later than September 2002, and sentenced to imprisonment for a term not less than 10 years. According to unconfirmed reports, in 2012, he was kept in a prison in Bairam-Ali (Varna, 2014, Gundogar, October 2004). According to unconfirmed reports, he died in custody on Aug. 20, 2011. On July 4, 2002, Niyazov said that Kandymov joined the "conspiracy" with the Head of the National Security Committee, M. Nazarov, who illegally gave him US \$1 million, which he did not report, and Nazarov helped convert large amounts of currency received from banks "Senegat" and "Russian Credit" for "personal needs" (Neitralnyi Turkmenistan, 24.07.2002). Kandymov was also accused of abuse of power and the lack of proper control over the circulation of hard currency (Turkmenistan.ru, 07.05.2002).

58. Kerimkulov, Yeldashev

Biography: Date of birth unknown. Head of the central office of the National Security Committee. Dismissed from duties on January 4, 2002.

Arrest and conviction: Unknown

59. Khalykov, Khudaykuly

Biography: Born in 1942, in the village of Kodzh Kizilarvatskiy Etrap, Balkanskiy Velyat. Turkmen citizen. Began his career as a station dispatcher, and then as deputy manager of the railroad station “Ashgabat”. Graduated from the Tashkent Institute of Engineering and Railroad transport. In 1970-80 worked in the Chardzhou department of the Central Asian railroad. In 1980-91 managed this department. In 1991-92, he was the first deputy head of the Turkmenistan Railroad. He was released from duty in January 2001 for ‘serious shortcomings’ in his work and was under investigation.

Arrest and conviction: Arrested in 2001, charged with economic crimes

60. Khatamov, Amangeldy Akhmedovich

Biography: From Ashgabat. He is Annamurad Khatamov’s younger brother and a former police officer.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

61. Khatamov, Paltakgul Achilovich

Biography: From the Amu-Darya village the Niyazov District of, Lebap Province. He is he older brother of D. Gaipov.

Arrest and conviction: He was detained in December 2002 in the Niyazov District, Lebap Province. He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

62. Khodzhanazarov, Allanazar

Biography: Born in 1966. He was a Lieutenant Colonel, a Commander of Motorized Infantry Division, the city of Serdar, Balkan Province. He was also an Afghanistan War veteran, awarded the Order of the Red Banner.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in February or March 2003 under Article 358 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. He was deprived of awards.

Current situation: According to official information from the Government of Turkmenistan, he was released on 13 October 2012.

63. Khommaev, Suleiman Bajramovich

Biography: Not available.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

64. Khudaykulov, Bayramkuli

Biography: Date of birth unknown. Colonel, head of the National Security Committee of the Mary Velayat. Dismissed from his post on March 6, 2002, deprived of military ranks, material and other benefits, as well as state awards.

Arrest and conviction: Unknown

65. Kurbanov, Iskander

Biography: He was a Colonel (perhaps a Lieutenant Colonel), Head of the Ministry of National Security Department for Protection of the Constitutional order in Ashgabat. In publications from 2000 to 2002, he is referred to as the Head of Counterintelligence Division, the Head of the Third Division, and the Chief of the Ideological Department,

Arrest and conviction: He was arrested and sentenced at the end of April 2003 and sentenced to 12 years in prison in May 2003 for his alleged participation in the coup. According to unconfirmed reports, in 2003, he was held in Ovadan Depe.

66. Lyaskin, Yuriy Gennad'evich

Biography: Born in 1966. He was a Major at the Ministry of Defense of Turkmenistan. He is Beknazarov's colleague. He was a radio specialist.

Arrest and conviction: Wanted from November 2002. He was arrested in early December 2002 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced in January 2003 to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

67. Mamedov, Seyran

Biography: From Ashgabat

Arrest and conviction: He was charged with the assistance in the attempt of relatives accused in the events of November 25, 2002 to illegally cross the border. He was arrested between July and August 2004. He was sentenced on October 7, 2004, along with 9 other defendants to 18 years imprisonment.

68. Movlyamov, Muhammetberdy Yagmurovich

Biography: Unavailable

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment to be served in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

69. Mukhammedov, Saparmurat Djumagel'dyevich

Biography: Not available.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231

Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

70. Nazargulyev, Dovletguly Mammedovich

Biography: Not available.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment to be served in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

71. Niyazdurdyev, Davlet

Biography: Born in 1980, in Ashgabat. The son of Kyakilik Yklymova (sister of the Yklymov brothers)

Arrest and conviction: He was charged with the assistance in the attempt of relatives accused in the events of November 25, 2002 to illegally cross the border. He was detained in August 2004. He was sentenced on October 7, 2004, along with 9 other defendants. He was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

Current Situation: According to official information from the Government of Turkmenistan, he was released on 29 September 2007 under Presidential Amnesty.

72. Novozhilov, Vladislav Stanislavovich

Biography: Unknown

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

73. Nuraliev, Magomet Saidahmetovich

Biography: Born in 1971 in Russia. A Russian citizen, and an ethnic Chechen.

Arrest and conviction: He was detained on November 25, 2002 in Ashgabat. He was in possession of the documents of a Georgian citizen, Merab Puhauri. Allegedly there was a request for the extradition to Russian for previous involvement in 'bloody crimes'.

74. Nurgeldyev, Redzhepgeldy

Biography: He is the Director of the headquarters of "Tamponazh," the trust fund of "Turkmenburgaz," in the Shatlyk village in Mary Province. He is a friend of and came from the same village as Orazgeldyev.

Arrest and conviction: He was detained in December 2002. He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 22 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony.

His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

75. Pavlinov, Aleksander Konstantinovich

Biography: Unknown

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

76. Redjepov, Akmurad

Biography: Born in 1952 (or 1948), in Sakars region of Charjou Oblast. He graduated from the Higher School of the KGB of the USSR (1974-1979). After graduating, he returned to Turkmenistan and served in the KGB in Charjou region. From 1980, he served in Ashgabat as an officer on special assignment with the first secretary of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Turkmenistan, Mukhammetnazar Gapurov, and after his retirement in 1985, in the detail of the new Head of the Republic, Saparmurat Niyazov. From 1990 to May 15, 2007, he was the Head of the Security Service of the President of Turkmenistan. He earned the rank of Lieutenant-General. He was dismissed "in connection with his transfer to another job."

Arrest and Conviction: On May 17, 2007 it became known that Redjepov had been arrested along with his son, Colonel of the MNS, Nurmurat Redjepov, who was called in to Ashgabat from the UAE, where he served as a counselor in the Embassy of Turkmenistan. ("Vremya Novostei," 18.05.2007). According to unconfirmed reports, Redjepov was suddenly arrested the day after a meeting on May 12, 2007, in the city of Turkmenbashi, of the presidents of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Russia ("Vremya Novostei," 31.07.2007). According to another source, he was summoned to a meeting and arrested even before the signing of the decree on the resignation was sentenced in July 2007 to 20 years imprisonment. Along with him, his son Nurmurat was convicted and sentenced to 13 years imprisonment, and businessman Murad Agayev, former head of the firm "Oriental" was sentenced to 17 years. In March 2015, Redjepov's relatives had no information about his fate. After the arrest of Murad Agayev, the Turkmen authorities did not allow his ex-wife, residing in Moscow, to bring to Russia their common children, twin sons ("Vremya Novostei," 31.07.2007). Before the death of President Niyazov, the three convicts were associated with the business of his son Murad Niyazov, who was living abroad (importing alcohol and tobacco products on the basis of a special license, without paying taxes and customs duties). The arrested were charged with corrupt dealings, and crimes related to abuse of official position. According to Amnesty international (AI International Secretariat, 08.04.2008, EUR 04/001/2008), Nurmurat Redjepov was released under an amnesty in October 2007.

77. Reimov, Dzhora Behremovich

Biography: Lieutenant Colonel of the KNB, from Ashgabat. Graduated from the Tomsk State University's Department of Philosophy and worked in the KNB's private security.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years.

78. Sadullaev, Ruslan Saidovich

Biography: A Russian citizen, and an ethnic Chechen.

Arrest and conviction: He was detained on November 25, 2002 in Ashgabat. He was in possession of the documents of a Georgian citizen, Zaza Legushaidze.

79. Safarov, Honsait Sagatovich

Biography: Born in 1976, District Council Secretary of B.Ovezov, the city of Tallimarzhon, Nishon District, Qashqadaryo Province, Uzbekistan. He is an Uzbek citizen.

Arrest and conviction: Turkmenistan special services staff lured him on the pretext of selling cheap gasoline. He was arrested in December 2002, but according to another version of the events, he was kidnapped in Uzbekistan. The video recording of his "confession" was aired on TV, on December 18, 2002. He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated.

80. Saparov, Redjep

Biography: Born in 1947, in the village of Isric-Kara, Ilyalin district of Dashoguz region. He graduated from Djambul Technological Institute of Service and Food Industry (1971). He was awarded a Master of Economic Sciences degree. He worked as an assistant engineer in the Bezmein cement plant, and was a concrete worker. After graduation in 1971, he held various positions in the light industry sector of the republic. From 1980, he was the Chief of Staff of the Ministry of the Light Industry Sector of the Turkmen SSR. Beginning in 1983, he was a senior lecturer, deputy head of the Office of the Council of Ministers of the Turkmen SSR. From 1986, he was the Head of the Department of Light Industry, from 1987, he was the Deputy Chairman of the State Planning Commission of the Turkmen SSR. From 1989, he was the Minister of Local Industry of the Turkmen SSR. On November 25, 1990 he became Director General of the National Republican Association "Turkmenhaly" (Turkmen carpet). From June 26, 1992 to November 2002, he served as Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan. Initially, he oversaw the spheres of trade, production of consumer goods and services, cross-sectoral and international relations. Later, he was in charge of issues concerning small enterprises and businesses, and from June 2000, agriculture. Simultaneously, on December 8, 1993, he was appointed Chairman of the Turkmen-Japanese Economic Commission. At the same time from January 16, 2001 to September 10, 2010, he was the Minister of Agriculture of Turkmenistan. From November 2002 to July 2, 2005, he was the Managing Director of the Office of the President of Turkmenistan. From 2003 to July 2, 2005, he served as the Coordinator of Turkmenistan in the CIS countries. From August 15, 2003, he was also Deputy Chairman of the People's National Council.

Saparov was relieved of his post on July 2, 2005 "for serious shortcomings in work." He was awarded with the honors "Garashsyz Turkmenistan Bolan Beyik soygusi perpetrate" (December 1999) and the medal "For the love of the fatherland" (October 1996).

Arrest and Conviction: Saparov was convicted July 25, 2005 by the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan in accordance with Part 1 of Articles 181, 182 n. "G," 184, 229, part 2 p. "A," "b," "d," and "h," 4 p. "a," 287, part 2, 4 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment with confiscation of property. The official report mentions numerous bribes received from heads of regions, companies and Turkish firms totaling US \$2.161 million, 107 kilograms of gold and silver jewelry inlaid with precious stones (total cost of US \$10 million), 114 Turkmen carpets of special generation, 4 units of illegally acquired firearms and ammunition (Turkmenistan.ru, 27.07.2005, 28.07.2005). According to unconfirmed reports, in 2005 he was held in Ovan Depe, where he died at the end of October 2009. The body was released to relatives in a zinc coffin. Despite an official ban, the family opened the coffin to wash the body (*Chronicles of Turkmenistan*, 03.11.2009). On September 5, 2005, the website "Gundogar" stated that his foster daughter, 22-year-old Aydjemal Saparova, left the country and was allegedly hiding in one of the countries of the CIS.

81. Shagalov, Vepa Gurbandurdyevich

Biography: Not available.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: 5 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years and would be prohibited from holding substantive and responsible management positions for 3 years.

82. Soltanov, Annamurat

Biography: Born in 1943, in the village Hilaire of the Turkmen-Kale district of Mary Oblast.

He graduated from the Turkmen Agricultural Institute (1969), the Tashkent Lenin Higher Military School (1971-1973) and the Frunze Military Academy (1974-1977). In 1961, he worked as a livestock specialist. After graduation, he served in the Soviet Army (1969-1971). From 1977 he worked as the Deputy Chief of Staff of the compound, the commander of the 373rd Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment of the 5th Guards Motorized Rifle Division in Tahtabazar, which entered Afghanistan (1979-1980). Soltanov was commander of the 70th Separate Motorized Infantry Brigade in Kandahar (Afghanistan). He then served as the Commander of training regiment in Ashgabat (May 1980), Military Adviser in Cuba, the Military Commissar in Dzhizak, Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, and the Military Commissar of the Soviet district of the city of Ashgabat. From October 1991, he served as the Military Commissar of Turkmenistan. From January 27, 1992, he served as the Deputy Minister of Defense of Turkmenistan. From 1994 to February 12, 1997, he was the First Deputy Minister of Defense and Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Turkmenistan. On Jan. 27, 1992, he was promoted to the rank of Major General, and later, Colonel-General.

Until June 2001, he served as the Military Commissar of Balkan province. He was relieved of his duties and stripped of his rank and privileges, in connection with the investigation into the supply of military equipment in 1994. Boris Shikhmuradov was later charged in connection with the same investigation.

Arrest and Conviction: He was convicted in 2001 (Varna, 2014). According to unconfirmed reports, in February 2015 he was being held in a secret detention area (commentary on the [biography](#) on [centrasia.ru](#)).

83. Tachnazarov, Guychnazar

Biography: Date of birth unknown. Former Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources

Arrest and Conviction: Tachnazarov was dismissed on October 31, 2005 from his post as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources in connection with allegations of serious financial abuse, including the theft of more than US \$266 million Dollars and 1 billion Manat. On December 31, 2005, President Niyazov stated that Tachnazarov had admitted taking bribes of US \$5 million and that US \$5-10 million were seized from Tachnazarov upon conviction (Radio Azattyk, 2011).

84. Tajmazov, Chary

Biography: Born in 1958, a customs officer, in Mary Province.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in 2003 under Articles 181 Part 2, and 187 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment in a penal colony. He was detained in LBK-12 in the city of Seidi, Lebap Province.

85. Valiev, Saparmamed

Biography: Date of birth unknown. Valiev was previously director of the Turkmenbashi refinery (Turkmenistan.ru, 13.08.2005)

Arrest and Conviction: He was arrested on August 22, 2005, accused of misappropriation, embezzlement and abuse of office, deprived of state awards and honorary titles, including the title of "Hero of Turkmenistan" (Turkmenistan.ru, 22.08.2005). On September 13, 2005, President Niyazov stated that Valiev had been sentenced to 20 years, and that he had seized US \$25 million, 20 cars, 19 homes and cottages. (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, 21.09.2005). According to others, he was sentenced to 24 years imprisonment with confiscation of property (Radio Liberty, 19.09.2005). On September 13, 2005, in connection with the criminal case, he was dismissed as director of the Turkmenbashi refinery (Turkmenistan.ru, 13.08.2005)

86. Volmuradov, Kurbangeldy

Biography: Born in 1958, Ashgabat. Volmuradov graduated from the Turkmen Institute of National Economy (1990). In 1976, he worked as a technician at the local police department. From 1977-1981, he served in the Soviet Army. From 1981, he worked as an Engineer and Senior Engineer at the Goskomselhoztehniki Turkmen SSR. From 1982, he was the Senior Engineer, and Head of the Ministry of Water Resources. From 1986, he was the Chief Engineer of the department and Deputy Head of the State Agricultural Committee of the Turkmen SSR. In 1988 he became Deputy, then First Deputy General Director of Regional Trade Organization "Turkmenagropromsnab." In 1990 he was appointed Head of Department and then Deputy Director General of RPO "Turkmenagropromtehsnab." From 1992, he was the Deputy Chairman of the State Corporation "Turkmenselhozpromservis." From 1993, he served as Head of Logistics Minselhozproma Turkmenistan. In 1995 he became Deputy Chairman of the Association of Production and Maintenance, "Selservis," Ministry of Agriculture of Turkmenistan. On April 24, 1996, he became Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Chairman of the Association of Production and Maintenance "Selservis." In December of the same year he was appointed Acting Chairman of the Association of Joint Stock Companies on Production and Technical and Agrochemical Service of Agriculture, "Turkmenobahyzmat." From July 16, 1998 to January 26, 1999 he served as Minister of

Agriculture and Water Resources of Turkmenistan. He was also Executive Director of the State Fund for Development of Agriculture of Turkmenistan.

He was relieved of his duties for serious shortcomings in work and abuse of power. He had been awarded medals "Ghairat," and "For the love of the fatherland" (October 1996).

Arrest and Conviction: In November 2003 he was prosecuted for abuse of office, including involvement in the theft of more than 30 billion Manat (RIA "Novosti," 15.11.2003). He was convicted in early March 2004 by the Ashgabat City Court. He was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment (Credo.ru, 10.03.2004). According to unconfirmed reports, he was still in prison in 2012.

87. Yazmuradov, Ovezmurat

Biography: Born in 1946, in Chohatta village, Halaç District, Chardzhou Oblast. He was a Deputy Director at the pedagogical college named after Aman Kekilov, Ashgabat. Timur Djumaev is his wife's father. According to Rozinazara Khudoiberdiev, in 1971, he graduated from the Faculty of Philology of the Turkmenistan State University. For about 20 years he worked as a journalist, first at an Ashgabat's local newspaper, and then in the regional newspaper "Oktyabr Yalkymy," Ashgabat Oblast. He was a member of the Union of Journalists of the USSR. In 1991, he became a teacher.

Arrest and conviction: He was sentenced in January 2003 under Articles 14-101 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l"; 129 Part 3; 169 Part 1, 2; 174 Part 2; 176 Part 1; 214 Part 2; 218 Part 1, 2, 3; 231 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 235 Part 2, paragraphs "a", "b"; 254 Part 4, paragraphs "a", "b"; 271 Part 3; 273 Part 1; 275 Part 1; 287 Part 3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code. He was sentenced to 19 years imprisonment: 3 years in prison, the rest in a penal colony. His property would be confiscated. Following the sentence, he would live in a designated place for 5 years. His relatives do not have any information about his fate.

Prison Conditions

The Novemberists and high level officials were initially held in two prisons: in Krasnovodsk and Ovadan Depe; while those serving life sentences were initially held in the Ministry of National Security (KNB) Detention Center. The prison in Krasnovodsk, as is Ovadan Depe, were notorious for their high rates of torture and death. In all three, these prisoners were kept separate from other convicts, and were forbidden to receive letters, parcels, or have meetings with relatives or lawyers. After the death of Niyazov, women and some of the officials were transferred from Ovadan Depe to regular colonies. Then, all of the men were transferred to Ovadan Depe, and the prison in Krasnovodsk was dismantled in the late 2000s. Ovadan Depe remains one of the most notorious, dark and opaque of Turkmenistan's penitentiary institutions.

The Ovadan Depe prison, located roughly 50 kilometers (30 miles) northwest of Ashgabat in Turkmenistan, is not only meant to house inmates, but was designed specifically to terminally erode the physical and mental wellbeing of the political prisoners it contains. Until now, little has been known about this prison as no international monitors, including the International Red Cross, have been allowed inside. Through partnership with the Geospatial Technologies and Human Rights Project of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the Russia based Human Rights Center 'Memorial', Crude Accountability was able to uncover gross violations of human rights of the inmates, including many accounts of torture, appalling living conditions and corruption.

According to geospatial information provided by AAAS, Ovadan Depe prison, resembling the Cyrillic letter "Ж," was already under construction in 2002, with visible wings of the structure holding 16 cells 5x6 meters each and 10 cells of 6.5 x 6 meters each. Some wings already had a roof constructed, so the specifics of the structures could not be determined from satellite imagery. Imagery from 2009 showed the prison to be mostly complete, with an outer perimeter trench with a checkpoint, crossed by an access road, and a fenced, double-walled inner perimeter with guard towers surrounding the actual prison facilities, as well as a potential administration building and barracks for the guards and support personnel. In 2010, the prison complex continued to expand, indicating that the prison continued to be active and important for the government. Also, a village of 107 settlements, which was located 5 kilometers northwest of Ovadan Depe in 2002 was completely abandoned under unknown circumstances.

Much of the information about the living conditions of the prison was obtained from a Turkmen dissident and entrepreneur, Akmuhammed Bayhanov, who is now living in Turkey, and who had served a part of his politically motivated sentence in Ovadan Depe. Other sources of information for this report remain anonymous for security reasons for themselves and their families.

Bayhanov described the living conditions in Ovadan Depe to be a form of torture in their own right. The cells were completely isolated, so that the inmates could not see anything outside of the cell. Vocal communication between cells was strictly forbidden. Bayhanov lived in a cell with 11 other inmates, but heard that the Novemberists, held in an especially guarded block of the prison, spent their sentences in 2 and 4 person cells or in solitary confinement (25 year or life sentences). The cells of the Novemberists had covered up windows, and they could do nothing except yell in an attempt to let others know of their existence.

The exercise rooms were located on the third and top floor of the prison, and Bayhanov and his cellmates had access to these rooms with fresh air on an irregular basis. Sometimes it was once every two weeks, other times it was every other day, and on other occasions they spent a whole month

without exercise. He had heard stories that the Novemberists were never allowed to use this outside area, although one Novemberist who was serving a 5 year sentence was able to use this space once. The Novemberists were required to march in their cell the entire day, with a guard checking on movement every 15 minutes.

Temperatures in the Karakum desert can spike to 50 degrees Centigrade (122 degrees Fahrenheit) in the summer, and drop to -20 centigrade (-4 Fahrenheit) in the winter, with wide fluctuations from day- to nighttime. There is no air conditioning in the prison, and heating during the winter was reported to often not function, and windows without glass and concrete walls provided no insulation. Bayhanov also spoke of the severe mosquito problem in the prison.

Food in Ovadan Depe was scarce and of poor quality. A source reported to never have received anything but porridge and pumpkin, while Bayhanov said that he had two pieces of bread and a lump of spaghetti or carrot or potato, and some tea per meal. Water inside the cells was filthy. The toilet was inside the cell without any privacy for the inmates.

Yelling was the only source of communication for the Novemberists, and they were often beaten for doing so. There was also the informal daily prison hearsay, leaking information about new arrivals, deaths and punishment. While Wahhabists and criminals were allowed to receive packages, and occasional meetings with relatives, the Novemberists and other political prisoners were not allowed any sort of communication or packages with the outside world. Only way to get a message out in this case, was to give a bribe of up to 100USD per message, and often even this was not possible.

Torture is widespread in Ovadan Depe. It begins in detention, with Novemberists reported to have been tortured with long needles, beatings, and other methods before they were even convicted. Beatings are a regular occurrence, sometimes as a mass occurrence, sometimes as an initiation of new inmates, and other times at a whim or an order from above. Sources describe the use of dogs, batons, and subsequent loss of consciousness, damage to the kidneys, and the inability to walk. Kartzers, or cylindrical dark solitary confinement cells are also used as a means of torture. The miniscule amounts of food and water, combined with mosquito infestations and extreme temperatures made the stays in the kartzers a psychologically and physically impossible form of torture. There have been numerous reports and rumors of hunchback cells in Ovadan Depe, which are 1.5 meters tall, requiring inmates to be permanently hunched. Some say they were used as punishment, and others indicate that they were destroyed after the death of President Niyazov, but the existence of these cells has not been verified through geospatial imaging. There have also been rumors of a cemetery on or near the territory of the prison.

Virtually everything known about the Ovadan Depe prison is in violation of either Turkmen or international law, often times both. This includes the contemporary (2003) and current (2008) Constitution of Turkmenistan, the Criminal Enforcement Code of Turkmenistan, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant for Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions, Body of Principles on Detention or Imprisonment, and the UNOHCHR Standard Minimal Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Overview of Violations of National and International Law and Standards

Violations of National Legislation

Until 2011, the Correctional Labor Code of the Turkmen SSR of 1971 regulated the service of sentences in prisons of Turkmenistan. However, after independence, this Code had undergone a number of corrections and changes, and departmental instructions were created for its implementation. These instructions were never made public as they had the status "for official use only", or remain unavailable for other reasons.

Nevertheless, the majority of the formal and the existing regulations until 2011 can be found in the official document prepared by the Turkmen government within the framework of the reports submitted by States parties in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (hereinafter, the Report).¹⁶⁷ Currently, this document remains one of the few verified sources that allows us to estimate the presence of certain norms in the legislation. This is particularly important in the current context, as the Corrective Labor Code of 1971 was in force at the time of violations of prisoners' rights, that is, before the adoption of the Criminal Enforcement Code in 2011. Summarized below is an analysis of the legislation defining the rules in detention as sentenced of the court, as well as the categories of rights that existed in Turkmenistan during the reign of Niyazov, and which led to massive human rights violations, including a complete disappearance in prisons.

Living Conditions

The vast majority of those missing in Turkmen prisons were sentenced to long prison terms (over 10 years) or life imprisonment. For some individuals, verdicts involved serving first 3 or 5 years in prison, followed by a less strict penitentiary regime. However, according to available information, no prisoners have been transferred to a less strict regime after the 5 initial years. This is a violation of the law.

In Turkmenistan, convicts are placed either in labor colonies or in prisons. "Under Article 390 of the Report, Correctional labor facilities are distinguished into general regime, strict regime and special regime correctional labor colonies, and correctional labor settlements are designed for those convicted for reckless acts constituting a crime." General-regime prisons house inmates are first-time offenders, and persons transferred from strict regime prisons; while strict-regime prisons are generally used as an instrument for disciplinary punishment, and service in them is limited to 2-6 months only (Article 410, 411, 412). Communication is limited depending on the type of regime a convict is held in. (Articles 411, 412 of the Report).

Prisoners are to reside in communal cells, unless the prison director, with the approval of the Prosecutor, makes a special decision for solitary confinement. Those serving a sentence longer than 8 years, and recidivists whose new offense is particularly grave, may serve up to five years in a prison (Article 391 of the Report, and Article 67 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan). Convicts that have committed particularly grave crimes against the State are detained separately. "Inmates of special-regime correctional labor colonies are detained in single cells and wear distinct standard clothes," (Article 389 of the Report).

¹⁶⁷ Human Rights Committee. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under the Covenant: Initial periodic report Turkmenistan. 19 February 2010. CCPR/C/TKM/1.

Regarding prisoners held in solitary confinement, Article 288 of the Report states that this is reserved for those who are deemed “especially dangerous persons who have committed especially dangerous state crimes, violent crimes, for crimes committed while serving a sentence of imprisonment.”

Communication

The receipt of packages, letters, and the frequency of visits for convicts are explained in Article 290 of the Report. Convicts in reinforced regime colonies are allowed 6 short and 3 long visits per year, in addition to unlimited sending and receipt of letters and packages. Prisoners serving sentences in strict regime colonies are allowed 4 short and 2 long visits per year, in addition to unlimited sending and receipt of letters and packages.

Those serving sentences in prisons are allowed to have 3 short visits of up to 2 hours per year, and unlimited sending and receipt of letters and packages. While all of the disappeared were entitled to these rights, all available information points to the fact that all were denied any visits, letters parcels or packages after the court hearings.

Article 291 of the Report defined the cases where inmates are forbidden to engage in correspondence, to receive parcels and have meetings with relatives. “Convicts held in disciplinary confinement and punishment cells are deprived of the rights of visits, receipt of parcels and packages, sending of letters, purchasing food and other essentials.” However, deprivation of these rights for over a decade cannot be explained by this Article.

Access to unlimited legal aid is protected under Article 294 of the Report. “In order to provide legal assistance to prisoners serving a sentence of imprisonment, upon written request of the prisoners themselves or their relatives or members of the public, lawyers are permitted to visit the convicted. The number and duration of meetings between a lawyer and the prisoner is not limited. The lawyer may enter the penal institution upon presentation of the permission for a legal consultation and an identification document. At the request of the convicted person or the lawyer, their meetings may be held in private.” There is no evidence that anyone was able to take advantage of this right.

Respect for Human Rights

The Report repeatedly referenced to the standards of humanity and the rule of law as part of Turkmenistan's implementation of its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Specifically, Article 384 states that, “The enforcement of a sentence is not aimed at causing physical suffering, or destroying human dignity through humiliation” and Article 416 reinforces, “All persons deprived of freedom are entitled to humane treatment and respect for the inherent dignity of a human being.” In Article 282, the Report states, “According to the Corrective Labor Code, execution of criminal penalties should be enforced so as to avoid causing physical suffering or humiliation of human dignity.”

The fact that there are prisoners in the country with whom no one has had any contact for over a decade, calls into question not only these declarative statements, but also the ability of the government to comply with the basic norms of the national legislation. Relatives who have had no contact with them for over 10 years confirm the fact of enforced disappearances in Turkmen prisons. The Correctional Labor Code, however, which was in effect until 2011, stipulates that correspondence and visits may be denied only to persons subjected to imprisonment in a punishment cell (kartser). The Criminal Enforcement (Penal) Code) was adopted in 2011, which replaced all the regulations of the Corrective Labor Code. Despite this, the fates of the disappeared remained unknown.

Special Decree of the People's Council regarding 'Traitors of the Nation'

Moving away from a purely formal assessment of the legislation, it becomes apparent that the Decree of the People's Council (Halk Maslahaty), "On declaring as treason separate illegal actions, as well as penalties for traitors of the nation"¹⁶⁸ played a huge role in the gross violations of the regular criminal law and regulations within the penitentiary system of Turkmenistan.

This Decree establishes the criteria for citizens to be classified as 'traitors of the Nation,' establishes life imprisonment as a potential sentence for 'high treason,' and introduces the possibility of exemptions from the law, including from the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, of those deemed as traitors. These exceptions to the generally accepted laws were aimed at increasing the punishment for such offenses, and had to have a certain set of Regulations on the order of serving such sentences of life imprisonment, as the maximum sentence in Turkmenistan was 25 years. The Decree itself stipulates only a few exceptions, including: those convicted of treason are not subject to amnesty or pardon; and are not subject to the benefits, stipulated in the Criminal Procedure Code of Turkmenistan), of conditional sentence, criminal probation, or lightening of the conditions of detention (paragraph 3). It should be noted, however, that the authorities contradicted this Decree in 2007 when several prisoners convicted for the November 2002 events, and thus deemed 'traitors of the Nation' were released under amnesty. If the offender who is declared a traitor of the Nation and was sentenced to life in prison, while serving his sentence fall seriously ill or dies, actions in relation to this are carried out in accordance with the Regulations concerning this Decree (paragraph 4). However, the Regulations associated with this Decree were never made public. As the current 2011 Criminal Enforcement Code does not have any mention of either the 'traitor of the Nation' or life sentences, the current existence of prisoners under these two provisions is contrary to current law.

Despite the fact that according to official information, only 5 of the prisoners have been sentenced to life in prison, there is every reason to believe that other prisoners convicted in the case of the alleged coup on President Niyazov in November 2002 were punished in accordance with this Decree, as 'traitors of the Nation.'

It is worth noting that some of the convicts in the case of the coup were re-sentenced contrary to the Constitution by a non-judicial organ to life imprisonment, when such a measure did not exist in the Criminal Code. This was a non-judicial procedure, carried out without any involvement of the accused or their lawyers. The status of 'traitor to the Nation' was approved by the Decree of the People's Council only a month after (3 February 2003) the oral sentencing by the members of the People's Council (30 December 2002), and the necessary amendments to the Criminal Code were introduced still much later.

There is nothing in the Criminal Code and the Criminal Enforcement Code that allowed then or allows now for life sentence. However, the August 2003 version of the Constitution for the first time did include a description of the powers of the People's Council (Halk Maslahaty) (Article 48), where, amongst other things, there are special powers with regards to labeling individuals as 'traitors of the Nation', and adopting towards them special measures of life imprisonment. The Article goes on to say that "the Supreme Court exclusively holds the right to the use of punishment in the form of life imprisonment, with subsequent consideration at a meeting of the Halk Maslahaty, and its approval of such sentences imposed by court. However, the legal processes are completely backwards. The alleged coup happened in November 2002, and the People's Council created special provision of life sentences for 'traitors of the Nation' only in December 2002; and what's more, such authority to address 'traitors

¹⁶⁸ The Decree is not available online through official sources, but can be found here: <http://provetheyarealive.org/appeals/>

of the Nation’ is only provided by the Constitution in August 2003. Nevertheless, President Berdymukhamedov liquidated the People’s Council after he took office in 2006; and there is no reference to it in the 2008 version of the Constitution. Despite this, there has not been any review or reassessment of the politically motivated sentencing of the previous years, despite the fact that it contradicts the current law.

Violations of International Legal Standards

Prohibition against Torture

In several cases documented in this report, Turkmen authorities have subjected detained individuals or their relatives other individuals close to them to treatment that amounts to torture or inhuman and degrading treatment. Both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (“Convention against Torture”), which Turkmenistan has ratified, prohibit torture.¹⁶⁹

Specifically, the Convention against Torture prohibits “any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.”¹⁷⁰ Torture is also closely linked to enforced disappearance, both for the individual disappeared, as well as those close to the person disappeared, as described below.

Turkmenistan has not ratified the Optional Protocol of the UN Convention against Torture, which obligates states to create an independent inspectorate empowered to monitor all places of detention, among other obligations.¹⁷¹

The Right to Liberty and Security of Person

In many if not all of the cases documented in this report, there is strong evidence pointing to the arbitrary nature of the arrest of victims of enforced disappearances as well as in some cases their relatives or other people close to them. The ICCPR provides detailed protections concerning the right to liberty and security of person, including that:

- No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law;
- Anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him;

¹⁶⁹ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by Turkmenistan on May 1, 1997, G.A. res. 2200A (XXI), U.N. Doc. A/6316 (1966), entered into force March 23, 1976 and Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, ratified by Turkmenistan on June 25, 1999, G.A. Res. 39/46, U.N. Doc. A/39/51, entered into force June 26, 1987.

¹⁷⁰ CAT, art. 1.

¹⁷¹ See: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-9-b&chapter=4&lang=en.

- Anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release...;
- Anyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings before a court, in order that court may decide without delay on the lawfulness of his detention and order his release if the detention is not lawful.¹⁷²

The Right to a Fair Trial

Information available indicates that in many, if not all, cases documented in this report the authorities denied detainees the right to a fair trial, including given the close relationship between right to a fair trial and enforced disappearance (as described below). The ICCPR also guarantees the right to “a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law.”¹⁷³ The press and the public may be excluded from all or part of a trial only in exceptional circumstances, and in any case, any judgment rendered in a criminal case or in a suit at law shall be made public, except in the case of children. The ICCPR also provides that everyone charged with a criminal offence shall have the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.¹⁷⁴

In the determination of any criminal charge against him, everyone shall be entitled to the following minimum guarantees: (a) To be informed promptly and in detail in a language which he understands of the nature and cause of the charge against him; (b) To have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defense and to communicate with counsel of his own choosing; (c) To be tried without undue delay; (d) To be tried in his presence, and to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing... (e) To examine, or have examined, the witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him; (f) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court; and (g) Not to be compelled to testify against himself or to confess guilt. In addition, everyone convicted of a crime shall have the right to his conviction and sentence being reviewed by a higher tribunal according to law.¹⁷⁵

On the guarantee not to be compelled to testify against oneself, the U.N. Human Rights Committee’s General Comment states: “This safeguard must be understood in terms of the absence of any direct or indirect physical or undue psychological pressure from the investigating authorities on the accused, with a view to obtaining a confession of guilt....”¹⁷⁶ Similarly, the Convention against Torture provides that governments should “ensure that any statement which is established to have been made as a result of torture shall not be invoked as evidence in any proceedings.”¹⁷⁷

Enforced Disappearances

All of the cases documented in this report in which Turkmen authorities have detained individuals for extended periods of time, without providing any information about the individuals’ whereabouts or fate,

¹⁷² ICCPR, art. 9.

¹⁷³ ICCPR, art. 14(1).

¹⁷⁴ ICCPR, art. 14.

¹⁷⁵ ICCPR, art. 14.

¹⁷⁶ Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 32, art.14: Right to equality before courts and tribunals and to a fair trial, arts. 41 and 39, U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/GC/32, 2007, <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G07/437/71/PDF/G0743771.pdf?OpenElement>.

¹⁷⁷ Convention against Torture, art. 15.

constitute enforced disappearances. Enforced disappearances are defined under international law as “the arrest, detention or abduction of an individual by state authorities or their agents followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealing the fate or whereabouts of the person, which places the person outside the protection of the law.”¹⁷⁸ Although Turkmenistan has not ratified the UN Convention against Enforced Disappearance, the prohibition on enforced disappearances is part of customary international law and has roots in both international human rights law and humanitarian law.¹⁷⁹ There are also multiple human rights instruments that address enforced disappearances, dating back to the 1978 General Assembly Resolution on Disappeared Persons and the 1992 Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.¹⁸⁰

Enforced disappearances are not the violation of merely one right, but constitute “a multiple human rights violation.”¹⁸¹ An enforced disappearance constitutes a violation of, or great threat to, the right to life; the right to freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; the right to liberty and security; the right to recognition as a person before the law; the right to a prompt, fair, and public trial, and the right of all detained persons to be treated with humanity.¹⁸² The practice of enforced disappearances is often directly linked to the practice of arbitrary arrests. These rights are protected by the ICCPR and the Convention against Torture, among other instruments.¹⁸³ The Human Rights Committee has found that being held indefinitely without contact with one’s family and with the outside

¹⁷⁸ Under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (“Convention against Enforced Disappearance”), an enforced disappearance is defined as the “arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty by agents of the State or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the State, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, which place such a person outside the protection of the law.” Convention against Enforced Disappearance, adopted September 23, 2005, E/CN.4/2005/WG.22/WP.1/Rev.4 (2005), art. 2. The convention took effect on December 23, 2010. Turkmenistan is not yet a party to the convention. See also United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Declaration against Enforced Disappearances), adopted December 18, 1992, G.A. res. 47/133, 47 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 49) at 207, U.N. Doc. A/47/49 (1992), preamble.

¹⁷⁹ It is codified in the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and is recognized as part of customary international humanitarian law. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Rome Statute), A/CONF.183/9, July 17, 1998 entered into force July 1, 2002, arts. 7(1)(i) and 7(2)(i). Article 7(1)(i). See also: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Henckaerts & Doswald-Beck, eds., Customary International Humanitarian Law (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press 2005), pp. 340-343, and Brian Finucane, “Enforced Disappearance as a Crime Under International Law: A Neglected Origin in the Laws of War”, The Yale Journal of International Law, Vol. 35 (2010), p. 171.

¹⁸⁰ United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Disappeared Persons, adopted December 20, 1978, G.A. Res. /33/173, <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/33/ares33r173.pdf> and Declaration against Enforced Disappearances).

¹⁸¹ United Nations Commission on Human Rights, “Report submitted January 8, 2002, by Mr. Manfred Nowak, independent expert charged with examining the existing international criminal and human rights framework for the protection of persons from enforced or involuntary disappearance, pursuant to paragraph 11 of Commission Resolution 2001/46” (New York: United Nations, 2002), E/CN.4/2002/71, 36.

¹⁸² Ibid., and, see also Human Rights Committee jurisprudence, inter alia: Edriss El Hassy v. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Communication No. 1422/2005, CCPR/C/91/D/1422/2005 (2007) para. 6.6; Sarma v. Sri Lanka, Communication No. 950/2000, CCPR/C/78/D/950/2000 (2003), para. 9.3; and Mojica v. Dominican Republic, Communication No. 449/1991, CCPR/C/51/D/449/1991 (1994), para 6; Boucherf v Algeria, Communication No. 1196/2003, CCPR/C/86/D/1196/2003 (2006), para. 10; Medjnoune v. Algeria, Communication No. 1422/2005, CCPR/C/87/D/1297/2004 (2006), para. 9.

¹⁸³ ICCPR and Convention against Torture).

world constitutes inhuman and degrading treatment, in violation of the ICCPR.¹⁸⁴

The United Nations Declaration on Enforced Disappearances contains numerous specific injunctions on preventing “disappearances,” including that a state must detain individuals in officially recognized places of detention, of which their families must be promptly informed, and that each detention facility must maintain an official up-to-date register of all persons deprived of their liberty.¹⁸⁵

The Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, an authoritative United Nations standard summarizing international human rights principles in relation to detention, specifies, that, in addition to reinforcing all of the basic human rights protections detailed above, “A detained or imprisoned person shall have the right to be visited by and to correspond with, in particular, members of his family and shall be given adequate opportunity to communicate with the outside world...,” among other obligations.¹⁸⁶

An enforced disappearance is a “continuing crime”—that is it continues to take place so long as the disappeared person remains missing, and information about his or her fate or whereabouts has not been provided.¹⁸⁷ An enforced disappearance may also have multiple victims beyond the disappeared person or persons, including individuals close to the disappeared person who suffer direct harm as a result of the crime. Apart from the immediate loss of a loved one, family and those close to a disappeared person typically suffer severe anguish from not knowing the fate of the disappeared person, which can amount to inhuman and degrading treatment. They may also be further treated in an inhuman and degrading manner by the authorities who fail to investigate or provide information on the whereabouts and fate of the disappeared person.¹⁸⁸ In addition, they may suffer direct material loss in the form of loss of income or loss of social services.

Right to an Effective Remedy

Under international law, states have an obligation to provide victims of human rights violations with an effective remedy—including justice, truth, and adequate reparations. This includes binding obligations on states to investigate, prosecute, punish, and remedy violations of human rights. For example, the ICCPR requires states “to ensure that any person whose rights or freedoms as herein recognized are violated shall have an effective remedy.”¹⁸⁹

Similarly, the Convention against Torture requires states to “ensure that its competent authorities proceed to a prompt and impartial investigation, wherever there is reasonable ground to believe that an act of torture has been committed...” and that “any individual who alleges he has been subjected to torture in any territory under its jurisdiction has the right to complain to, and to have his case promptly

¹⁸⁴ Human Rights Committee, *Boucherf v. Algeria*.

¹⁸⁵ Declaration against Enforced Disappearances, art. 10. These provisions are reinforced in article 17 of the Convention against Enforced Disappearance.

¹⁸⁶ Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, adopted December 9, 1988, G.A. Res. 43/173, annex, 43 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 49) at 298, U.N. Doc. A/43/49 (1988), principle 19, <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/43/a43r173.htm>.

¹⁸⁷ Convention against Enforced Disappearance, art. 8(1)(b); UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, “General Comment on Enforced Disappearance as a Continuous Crime,” Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, January 26, 2011, UN Doc. A/HRC/16/48, <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Disappearances/GC-EDCC.pdf>.

¹⁸⁸ See for example, Human Rights Committee, *Boucherf v. Algeria*, para. 10.

¹⁸⁹ ICCPR, art. 2(3)(a).

and impartially examined by, its competent authorities..."¹⁹⁰ This also includes protections for the complainant and witnesses against all ill-treatment or intimidation as a consequence of a complaint or any evidence given.¹⁹¹

The International Convention on Disappearances also codifies states' obligation to ensure that there is effective investigation and prosecution and a proper remedy for the victim and the right of individuals to report the fact of enforced disappearance to the competent authorities without fear of repercussions.¹⁹²

The UN Human Rights Committee has also made clear that a state has an obligation to provide an effective remedy, "including a thorough and effective investigation into the disappearance and fate" of the disappeared, "adequate information resulting from its investigation," and "adequate compensation...for the violations suffered." The remedy must be accessible, effective and enforceable, and the state "duty-bound...to prosecute, try and punish those held responsible for such violations" and "to take measures to prevent similar violations in the future."¹⁹³

There is no evidence available indicating that the authorities of Turkmenistan have taken any measures to provide victims or their relatives with an effective remedy for the violations documented in this report or that the state has taken measures to prevent similar violations from continuing to happen.

¹⁹⁰ Convention against Torture, arts. 12-13.

¹⁹¹ Convention against Torture, art. 13.

¹⁹² International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, arts. 12 and 24.

¹⁹³ *Edriss El Hassy v. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*, para. 8; *Boucherf v. Algeria* paras. 9.9 and 11; *Medjnoune v. Algeria*, para. 10.

Recommendations

Within the framework of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Office of the High Commissioner for Human rights, and relevant Special Procedures:

1. Given that following the second cycle of the UPR in April 2013 Turkmenistan voluntarily accepted a number of recommendations, including recommendations on access to persons serving long-term prison sentences, on combatting torture and on improving conditions in the penitentiary system, we call on the government of Turkmenistan to:

- clarify the fate of persons serving long-term prison sentences and communicate this information to relatives of the prisoners and the international community;
- provide a substantive reply to the requests by the UN special procedures regarding persons serving long-term prison terms;
- allow access to the imprisoned by representatives of appropriate independent bodies, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, relevant mandate holders of the UN special procedures, and ensure that lawyers and relatives have full and repeated access to the detainees;
- allow international inspection of the penitentiary facilities, including the special prison, Ovadan Depe.

2. Member States of the Human Rights Council should publicly express concern about the human rights situation in Turkmenistan, particularly about the fate of the disappeared in Turkmenistan's prisons, during the next session of the Human Rights Council by raising concerns about the situation in Turkmenistan under item 4 of the HRC agenda and/or adopting a group statement by several UN member states on the situation of the disappeared in Turkmenistan's prisons, calling on Turkmenistan to provide information about their fate in a timely manner.

3. In any dialogue with Turkmenistan, UN Member States should insist on real progress in demonstrating tangible results in the implementation of concluding observations of the Committee against Torture. This should include clarification of the fate of the persons serving long-term sentences.

4. UN Member States should urge Turkmenistan to join the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

5. UN Member States should raise these issues during bilateral meetings and consultations with the government of Turkmenistan.

6. The Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights should act on the issue of the disappeared in Turkmenistan's prisons, taking into account that the situation with a number of the disappeared persons remains unresolved since 2003 and 2004, when the issue was addressed in the UN General Assembly resolutions. In particular, OHCHR could request information about the disappeared from the Turkmenistan government and request visits to the prisoners by representatives of OHCHR.

Within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe:

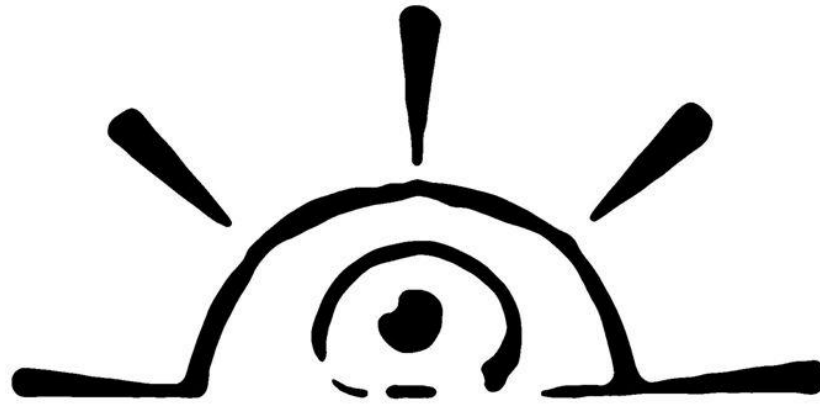
1. OSCE Participating States should assist Turkmenistan in combating the crime of enforced disappearances by applying the mechanism of universal jurisdiction to apprehend individuals from other countries suspected in or responsible for committing the crime of enforced disappearance, effectively investigate allegations brought against them, and bring perpetrators to justice.
2. OSCE political bodies, institutions and Participating States should start working without delay on drafting an explicit OSCE commitment on enforced disappearances with the aim of adopting such commitment in the nearest future. The OSCE Chairmanship should take a lead in this process.
3. OSCE political bodies, institutions and Participating States should immediately review and update existing OSCE commitments related to torture, and in the process recognize enforced disappearance as a crime and a form of torture. The OSCE Chairmanship should organize the process of preparing updated OSCE commitments on torture that would include enforced disappearance as a form of torture.
4. Continued application of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism regarding a human dimension situation in Turkmenistan should not be considered finished until substantial progress in the implementation of recommendations contained in the Moscow Mechanism report has happened. This progress should be documented in subsequent reports by a working group or a rapporteur established by the OSCE Chairmanship or the HDC Chair, or a group of concerned participating States (with a more informal status). An absolute minimum requirement for continued application of the Moscow Mechanism should be the continuation of such gross violations of human dimension commitments as continued abductions and enforced disappearances, lack of effective investigation of the past cases of abductions and enforced disappearances, continued incarceration of political prisoners, repeated and widespread use of force against participants of peaceful assemblies, and systematic use of torture against political prisoners, victims of abductions and participants of peaceful assemblies.
5. OSCE PA should consider establishing a Working Group on Turkmenistan. Alternatively, a personal representative of the Chair of OSCE PA on the human rights situation in Turkmenistan could be appointed.
6. OSCE PA should adopt a resolution on Turkmenistan or, alternatively, adopt a resolution on enforced disappearances and abductions in the OSCE region, specifically referring to the cases of Turkmenistan, amongst others.
7. Members of OSCE PA delegations should urge their governments to raise questions to government of Turkmenistan on the fates of the disappeared, and request visits to political prisoners.

The Government of Turkmenistan should:

1. take all the necessary practical steps to investigate the facts of enforced disappearances of individuals in the prison system of Turkmenistan and provide proper compensation to the victims and their families;
2. ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and recognize the competence of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances;
3. enact domestic legislation criminalizing enforced disappearances based on the provisions of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;

4. appoint a relevant government body, such as the Ministry of Justice, and within it, a specific office, to be the government liaison for relatives, lawyers, International Red Cross Federation and other relevant parties with regards to cases of enforced disappearances.

5. repeal the 'Decree of the People's Council on Traitors of the Nation,' as it violates and overrides the citizens' rights to protection under the Criminal Procedure and Penal Codes.



PROVE THEY ARE ALIVE!

P.O. Box 2345

Alexandria, VA 22301 USA

Tel/Fax: 703-299-0854

Email: info@crudeaccountability.org, provetheyarealive@gmail.com

Web: www.crudeaccountability.org, www.provetheyarealive.org

CRUDE ACCOUNTABILITY