



Prove They Are Alive!

The Disappeared in Turkmenistan



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The international human rights campaign “Prove They Are Alive!” has been working since 2013 with the goal of eradicating enforced disappearances in Turkmenistan’s prisons. The campaign members include non-governmental organisations Crude Accountability (USA), Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights (Russia), Analytical Center Freedom Files (Russia), Human Rights Center “Memorial” (Russia), Norwegian Helsinki Committee, and Turkmen civic activists. The campaign acts with the support of the international Civic Solidarity Platform and Human Rights Watch, actively interacts with a broad range of human rights defenders, experts, and inter-governmental organisations, including the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations, and the European Union. For additional information, please see the campaign’s website <http://provetheyarealive.org>.

The Prove They Are Alive! campaign thanks 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.

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Introduction

Situation in the Country

Turkmenistan has one of the most repressive governments in the world; it is regularly on the list of the Worst of the Worst, published by Freedom House, and is among the most dangerous countries for journalists. It is among the worst ranked in Transparency International's Corruption Index, and is ranked 154, down from 109 last year, out of 178 countries for most environmentally polluted in a study conducted by Yale University.¹

Led by President Berdymukhamedov, an autocratic leader who follows in the dictatorial footsteps of the previous President Niyazov, Turkmenistan's government is authoritarian, non-transparent and isolated, and purposely cuts off contact with the outside world to its approximately five million citizens. Human rights defenders and other civil society activists are not able to work openly, and according to the U.S. State Department's 2015 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."² Turkmenistan continues on a downward trend in all important measures of transparency and accountability, as well as in environmental stewardship.

Serious and systematic human rights violations include severe restrictions on freedom of expression. The media is under total and pervasive government control, as demonstrated yet again by the government decision to take down all privately owned satellite antennas;³ independent journalists suffer heavy harassment, as demonstrated by the case of Saparmamed Nepeskuliyev;⁴ political pluralism is absent, repressive government policies make it extremely difficult for independent non-governmental organizations to operate, freedom of association and religion are also unreasonably limited. There are credible reports of widespread torture and ill-treatment in detention places, including of suspects during investigation. Arbitrary restrictions on freedom of movement, particularly on travel abroad, are still practiced, affecting an estimated 17,000, many of whom have received lifelong travel bans. *This measure is enforced in a completely arbitrary and non-transparent fashion, with the subjects often being informed about the restriction on their travel only when they try to leave the country.*

¹ See <http://epi.yale.edu/> and https://issuu.com/2016yaleepi/docs/epi2016_final/1?e=23270481/32968129

² <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/253191.pdf>

³ See reports from Human Rights Watch (<http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/04/24/turkmenistan-war-satellite-dishes>) and Radio Free Europe (<http://www.rferl.mobi/a/qishlog-ovozi-turkmenistan-satellite-campaign/26969998.html>), and a joint letter by "Prove!" and other NGOs (<http://provetheyarealive.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Joint-letter-to-HRVP-Mogherini-on-Turkmenistan-11.pdf>).

⁴ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/07/05/joint-letter-detention-saparmamed-nepeskuliev>.

Among the numerous violations of human rights in Turkmenistan, **enforced disappearances of people sentenced to long prison terms** is one of the most acute. Since the 1990s, a growing number of prisoners sentenced to long prison terms have been kept in full isolation, without no contact whatsoever with the external world. This report provides evidence about 88 cases, but there are indications that there may be up to 150 prisoners kept in full isolation. The largest group of victims were those convicted of an alleged attempt to assassinate the then President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurat Niyazov, in November 2002 – although many others were convicted for other alleged crimes. *In addition, hundreds of relatives and acquaintances of the disappeared are banned from traveling abroad regardless of any connection or involvement in the crimes with which the disappeared are charged.*

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 U.S. entities. Hence there have been a growing number of discussions and initiatives on trade, investment and energy, including the major project of a trans-Caspian gas pipeline.

Simultaneously, however, we can observe increased discussions and activities about human rights issues in Turkmenistan. As the situation deteriorates before our eyes, international organizations and Western governments continue to speak up and take initiative about human rights violations in Turkmenistan. For example:

- The European Union and the USA lead regular Human Rights Dialogues with Turkmenistan.
- A direct reference to the situation of enforced disappearances in Turkmen prisons was included in the Baku Declaration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (June 2014).⁶
- In October 2014 the UN Human Rights Committee adopted a decision⁷ on an individual complaint concerning Boris Shikhmuradov (former Minister of Foreign Affairs and alleged leader of the 2002 coup attempt).⁸ The Committee acknowledged that Shikhmuradov is a victim of enforced disappearance and of a number of other human

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

⁶ Paragraphs 108, 125 and 134, see <http://www.oscepa.org/meetings/annual-sessions/2014-baku-annual-session/2014-baku-final-declaration/1838-05>.

⁷ <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/006/17/PDF/G1500617.pdf?OpenElement>

⁸ Information on Boris Shikhmuradov's case can be found here, <http://provetheyarealive.org/the-disappeared/59-shikhmuradov-boris/>. The full report on the disappeared can be found at <http://provetheyarealive.org/prove-they-are-alive-the-disappeared-in-turkmenistan/>.

rights violations⁹ and ruled that Turkmenistan is under obligation to provide Boris Shikhmuradov and his family with an effective remedy¹⁰ as well as to take steps to prevent similar violations in the future. Turkmenistan should have provided a substantive reply by 7 November 2015, which it has not yet done.¹¹ This is the first ever case of enforced disappearance in Turkmenistan reviewed by an inter-governmental body.

- In May 2015 and again in May 2016, the European Parliament suspended its approval of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and Turkmenistan on the basis of human rights concerns.¹² This decision came as a result of consistent pressure by civil society organizations, including the campaign “Prove They Are Alive!”.
- High-level Western politicians, including Angela Merkel and John Kerry, raised human rights issues during State visits.¹³

In 2015-2016, NGOs and other observers noticed two parallel and interrelated processes ongoing in Turkmenistan. On the one hand, the government has significantly increased its engagement with Western governments and international organizations. On the other hand, it has tightened its grip on society in an attempt to quash any internal threats, whether real or imagined, to social and political stability.

According to our assessment, both processes have been triggered by the country’s sharply deteriorating economic situation and security threats along the border with Afghanistan. Amid economic and security concerns, Turkmenistan’s leadership is afraid of losing control and perceives the situation as an imminent threat to its power. Faced with a drop in global gas

⁹ These include the right to life (art. 6.1 of ICCPR), protection from torture (art. 7), protection from arbitrary detention (art. 9), the right to a fair trial (art. 14.1 and 14.5), and punishment by a penalty heavier than the one that was applicable at the time when the criminal offence was committed (art. 15.1).

¹⁰ “In accordance with article 2, paragraph 3, of the Covenant, the State party is under an obligation to provide Mr. Shikhmuradov and the author [of the complaint] with an effective remedy including by (a) releasing him immediately; (b) conducting a ... investigation into his detention, disappearance and unfair trial; (c) providing...the author with detailed information on the results of the investigation; (d) in the event that Mr. Shikhmuradov is deceased, handing over his remains to the author; (e) prosecuting, trying and, if convicted, punishing those responsible for the violations committed; and (f) providing adequate compensation to the author and Mr. Shikhmuradov for the violations suffered.”

¹¹ See statement from “Prove they are Alive!”, <http://provetheyarealive.org/on-forced-disappearances-in-turkmenistan-and-the-case-of-boris-shikhmuradov/>

¹² [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_ATA\(2016\)583846](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_ATA(2016)583846)

¹³ See <http://www.rferl.org/content/turkmeinstan-president-german-visit-berdymukammedov-merkel/27951895.html> and <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/08/29/turkmenistan-not-free-after-all> for the recent visit of President Berdymukhamedov to Berlin; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/kerry-in-talks-n-tajikistan-a-country-enforcing-a-heavy-handed-crackdown-on-some-muslims/2015/11/03/ccf5d790-81ee-11e5-a7ca-6ab6ec20f839_story.html for Kerry’s visit to Turkmenistan in November 2015.

prices and problems in trade relations with Russia and China, the authorities made a strategic decision to develop gas exports to Europe and focus on energy cooperation in their interactions with the West. At the same time, in order to respond to growing international criticism and facilitate much-needed economic cooperation, Turkmen authorities try to demonstrate progress in human rights, and declare their commitment to collaboration in this area with international partners. Relevant developments, which have been flagged as “modest progress” by some international actors, include:

- In 2010-2011, Turkmenistan reformed its Criminal and Criminal Procedural Codes, bringing them mostly in line with the UN human rights law.¹⁴ This, and the fact that Turkmenistan ratified most UN human rights treaties¹⁵ provides a legal basis for advocating changes and reforms based on these norms.
- In the framework of the Universal Periodic Review in 2013, Turkmenistan agreed to fully implement the rights of persons serving long prison sentences according to international standards¹⁶ and accepted other relevant recommendations.¹⁷
- At the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Basel in December 2014, the Turkmen statement at the closing plenary, although cautious, included an unusually elaborated vision on cooperation with the OSCE in the human dimension.
- Within the framework of a reform of the Constitution, the President announced in January 2015 the creation of the Ombudsman institute. According to the European External Action Service, Turkmen official attending seminars organized within the “EU-Central Asia Rule of Law Platform” showed a strong interest in the actual implementation of such an institute.
- Also within the reform of the Constitution, Turkmenistan sought and obtained expert assistance from the OSCE/ODIHR, the UNDP and the German GTZ.

¹⁴ The Criminal Code does not include any provision for absolute isolation of prisoners, and also provides for retroactive application of the progressive amendments, thus giving legal ground for a review of the relevant court cases and even the release of a number of persons serving long-term sentences. See art. 6 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan (in Russian) with comments by the OSCE at <http://www.osce.org/ashgabat/117368>.

¹⁵ See http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=180&Lang=EN. The only missing treaties are the UN Convention on Enforced Disappearances and the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture.

¹⁶ Recommendation 113.72: “Fully implement the rights of convicts serving long-term imprisonment to communicate with their lawyers and their relatives, and to have access to health care.” Reply: “Turkmenistan accepts the recommendation and notes that legislation of Turkmenistan provides convicts serving long prison sentences with the right to communicate with their lawyers, their families and to have access to health care.” See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/TMSession16.aspx>

¹⁷ These include recommendations regarding prevention of torture, establishing oversight mechanisms of places of detention, bringing to justice perpetrators of torture and ratifying OPCAT (Recommendations 113.30-113.47, 113.1-113.6, 113.58, 113.60-113.66, and 113.69-113.70).

- In September 2015 the government of Turkmenistan organized a visit of foreign diplomats to a detention facility, albeit with the “escort” of government officials. Although it was a showcase visit, such initiative is unprecedented.
- Also in September 2015, Turkmenistan sent a delegation to the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting after an absence of 12 years. This alone can be seen as a step forward, but in addition, their statement at the opening plenary included a direct reference to the campaign and to “*people sentenced to long prison terms.*” Such reference was also unprecedented.
- In January 2016, Turkmenistan adopted a National Action Plan on Human Rights, which was prepared in cooperation with the UNDP and with significant EU funding.¹⁸
- Turkmenistan also stepped up its involvement in human rights dialogue with the EU and U.S., where according to different sources Turkmen participants maintain a constructive attitude and never refuse to discuss issues, even the most acute, including enforced disappearances.

In reality this new engagement at the international level is not matched by any real positive changes inside the country. There has been no real and substantial progress in human rights, and repression has further increased. The campaign’s assessment of the current situation is that all the “modest progress” described above consists mostly of empty declarations not matched by practical steps, or, worse, represents negative, repressive laws and policies. Specifically:

- A number of new laws adopted since 2012 — on political parties, media, the Internet, public associations, and assemblies which the authorities claim to be aimed at improving compliance with international human rights standards—have in reality introduced new restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms.
- The disappeared are still kept in full isolation, with no contact with their families and with no official public information available.
- There has been no case of application of the amendments to the Criminal Code on the disappeared. None of the relevant court cases has been reviewed.
- This also applies to voluntary commitments on improvement of conditions of people serving long-term sentences, taken up by Turkmenistan in the framework of the UPR in 2014. In addition, Turkmenistan did not accept recommendations to inform relatives and the public about the whereabouts of all persons who have been under arrest and whose fate is currently unknown.¹⁹

¹⁸ <http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2016/01/22/turkmenistan-adopts-national-action-plan-on-human-rights-.html>

¹⁹ Recommendations 14.2-14.6.

- The draft of the new Constitution presents some points of serious concern, particularly with respect to the independence of the Ombudsman, freedom of movement and prevalence of international law, and according to many, it paves the way for lifelong rule by President Berdymukhamedov.²⁰ According to our information, the drafting process did not include any public participation. There were assessments by the UNDP, the GTZ and the OSCE/ODIHR,²¹ however the new text was approved on 14 September 2016,²² and to date there is no indication that the international recommendations have been included.²³
- Visits to prisons by diplomats have been limited to recently constructed or freshly renovated colonies, which are usually empty of inmates. This is no more than a Potemkin village.

In our opinion, these facts prove that that the Turkmen authorities' promises to address the problems of human rights and democratic institutions are nothing more than an **"imitation game"** and a rhetorical exercise designed to impress Western interlocutors and defy criticism at a time when the government is in dire need of foreign economic and security assistance. This "game" is intended to further reinforce the façade, which hides a system of continuous and increasing repression alongside a flourishing personality cult, increased authoritarianism and widespread control.

The Disappeared

Since independence in 1991, Turkmenistan's first President Saparmurat Niyazov completely suppressed dissent and eliminated all voices of opposition. By the early 2000s, civil society, independent journalism, and political opposition had been completely destroyed.

An important component of this crackdown and one of the most acute human rights violations in Turkmenistan is the issue of **enforced disappearances of people sentenced to long prison terms**. This report indicates evidence of continuous application of this practice since the 1990s, with 88 documented cases of people disappeared without a trace in Turkmen prisons. Excluding conflict-related disappearances (Chechnya, former Yugoslavia, Eastern Ukraine), this is the largest number of enforced disappearances in a country in the Eurasian space (EU, EEA, Central Europe and the former Soviet Union).

²⁰ <http://www.osce.org/odihr/262336>

²¹ <http://www.osce.org/odihr/262476>

²² See <http://www.eurasianet.org/node/80526>, <http://www.rferl.org/content/turkmenistan-constitution-amended-presidential-powers/27987567.html>, and <http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/?id=11789>.

²³ <https://www.neweurope.eu/article/osce-suspicious-turkmenistans-new-constitution/>

The largest group of victims were those convicted of an alleged attempt to assassinate the then President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurat Niyazov, in 2002, although many others were convicted of non-political crimes. The general feature of the victims is that they held high level positions in the government of Turkmenistan, were prominent in national politics, and were perceived as a threat to the regime, or were relatives or close associates of such people.

As a consequence, a large number of public officials, civic activists and others have been kept incommunicado in prison for a long time; most of them for more than 12 years. The last time anyone saw them was at the time of their arrest. Families have not received any information about their whereabouts since then, with a few recent exceptions when the authorities returned the bodies of some deceased prisoners to their families.²⁴

The authorities do not let their relatives see the disappeared, 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. The only information available comes from a few witnesses, ordinary prisoners that by chance or other reasons saw or heard about the disappeared. Some witnesses reported that some of the disappeared have not had any idea about what happened in the world in the past 5 to 10 years.

Evidence obtained by the campaign indicates that the prisoners have likely been subjected to torture and ill-treatment during pre-trial detention and in prison. There is unconfirmed information that some of them have died.

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.

There are also other individuals who have been in prison longer than those allegedly involved in the failed coup attempt.²⁵

25 November 2002 – Mass Repressions, Human Rights Abuses and Ignoring the Rule of Law

²⁴ See <http://provetheyarealive.org/1534-2/> and

²⁵ Some of these individuals include Tirkish Tyrmyev and Mukhamet Nazarov. Information about them and others arrested prior to the alleged coup attempt are in the report. <http://provetheyarealive.org/the-disappeared/>

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 (between one and four days), closed 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 Atajanova.²⁶ 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.

After the trials, the government organized an extraordinary session of the so-called “People’s Council” (*Halk Maslahaty*), an organ composed of representatives of the central and local governments. A stream of public and government figures took the floor to condemn the attempt and call for death penalty for its leaders, while their filmed “confessions” were regularly shown on a giant screen.²⁷ Referring to the abolition of the death penalty since 1999, President Niyazov proposed instead to sentence the ringleaders of the attempt to life imprisonment, which was unanimously “approved” by the large public present. In March 2003, the Council adopted a law “On Traitors of the Motherland” that stipulated life imprisonment, a penalty which was not foreseen by the Turkmen Criminal Code. The law was applied retroactively on Boris Shikhmuradov and four other individuals.²⁸

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:

²⁶ 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

²⁷ See <https://youtu.be/TYh9NEM9zc>, minutes 1:07 to 1:34 for part of the “confession” of Boris Shikhmuradov.

²⁸ See http://eng.yabloko.ru/Activities/statement_290103.html; for the Russian text of the law see <http://provetheyarealive.org/the-decree-of-the-peoples-council-halk-maslakhati-on-declaring-as-treason-separate-illegal-actions-as-well-as-penalties-for-traitors-of-the-nation/>

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. 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.

Regardless of how one views the events around the failed coup attempt, no facts related to those events could in any way justify enforced disappearances of the people the government believes were involved.

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 its Moscow Mechanism.²⁹ Within the framework of this Mechanism, the 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 attempt³⁰ and issuing recommendations that to date, have been ignored by the Turkmen authorities, which also ignored resolutions by the UN General Assembly and the UN Commission on Human Rights³¹ adopted in 2003 and 2004.

There was no follow-up in the following years. After the death of Saparmurat Niyazov in late 2006, there were hopes that at least some of the alleged conspirators could have been granted pardon; and in a September 2007 speech at Columbia University, when asked by a graduate student about the fate of Boris Shikmuradov and Batyr Berdyev, two of the alleged

²⁹ The OSCE Moscow Mechanism allows OSCE participating States to raise questions related to the human dimension in other OSCE states and the establishment of ad hoc missions of independent experts to resolve a human dimension problem in an OSCE state, see <http://www.osce.org/odihr/43666>.

³⁰ See the report here: Professor Emmanuel Decaux, "OSCE Rapporteur's Report on Turkmenistan," 12 March 2003, <http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372>

³¹ For a list of relevant resolutions see <http://www.refworld.org/publisher,UNCHR,,TKM,,,0.html> and <http://www.refworld.org/type,RESOLUTION,,TKM,,,0.html>. These links include the documents.

conspirators, President Berdymukhamedov stated, "...I am positive they are alive."³² However, none of their relatives ever had a chance to see them, and nothing else happened until the beginning of the campaign.

Conclusion

The "Prove They Are Alive!" campaign is asking that the government of Turkmenistan inform the families of the disappeared about their whereabouts and conditions, allow the disappeared access to their families through visits and correspondence, and to health care and legal representation, because its own legislation and the international standards it adheres to stipulate this for all prisoners, regardless of the crimes of which they have been accused.

The campaign aims also at preventing additional disappearances in the Turkmen prison system by demanding independent prison monitoring and improving detention conditions in general.

The campaign has invited the Turkmen government to engage in a direct dialogue, but sadly, there has been no response to date.

By disclosing information about the disappeared, the Turkmen government can take a step away from its totalitarian past and its legacy of mass repression, and give its international partners concrete and visible proof of its goodwill. In contrast, by failing to acknowledge, let alone address, the problem of enforced disappearances, the Turkmen government blatantly disregards its human rights obligations under domestic and international law.

It is time for increased international pressure on the government of Turkmenistan to change this situation. It is therefore essential that international organizations and western governments prioritize progress in human rights in their cooperation with Turkmenistan's authorities. In developing their strategies for cooperation with Turkmenistan and prior to ratification of any new agreements they must establish clear and measurable benchmarks for assessing the Turkmen authorities' specific steps in addressing human rights issues, and inform the Turkmen government of such indicators as required conditions for cooperation.³³

³²Deirdre 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.

³³ For the benchmarks proposed by a group of 29 NGOs as conditions for the European Parliament's ratification of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Turkmenistan see <https://www.fidh.org/en/international-advocacy/european-union/joint-ngo-letter-on-the-eu-turkmenistan-partnership-and-cooperation>

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).

Detailed Profiles of the Disappeared in Turkmenistan

The initial report published by the Prove They Are Alive! campaign in 2014 included 66 names in the list of cases of enforced disappearances in Turkmenistan.

In the updated report released in February 2015, the list grew from 66 to 87 names.

In the new release of the report in April 2016, we updated information on Gulgeldy Annaniyazov, Allanazar Khodzhanazarov and Davlet Niyazdurdyev based on official information received from the Government of Turkmenistan, and on Yelly Gurbanmuradov (died in prison on 1 December 2015) from verified sources.

In the current September 2016 update of the report, we have updated information on the following people, based on the official information received from the Government of Turkmenistan, the UN Committee on Human Rights and our own information from verified sources: Annadurdy Annasahatov (died in prison in February 2016), Mamour Atayev, Orazmuhammet Atageldiyev, Rustem Djumaev, Vekil Durdyev (died in prison in August 2016), Ishankuly Gulmuradov, Seyran Mamedov, Muhammetberdy Movlyamov, Dovletguly Nazargullyev, Davlet Niyazdurdyev, and Boris Shikhmuradov. We have also added a new case of Shikhmurat Rejepdurdyev, thus bringing the number of names in the list of the disappeared to 88.

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.³⁴ 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.

³⁴ The Free Library. “TURKMENISTAN - Profile – Redzhepbai Arazov.”

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

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, 2002.³⁵ 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.^{36,37,38}

He was awarded the honors "Galkinish" (December 1999), "The Star President," and the medal "For the love of the Fatherland."³⁹

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

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.⁴⁰

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.



³⁵ Wikipedia. "Predsedatel' Medzhliisa Turkmenistana"

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

³⁶ Tsentrasia.ru. "Arazov, Redjepbai." <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?&st=1013880026>. Accessed on 1 April 2014.

³⁷ Lenta.ru. "Mamedgel'dyyev, Agagel'dy: Byvshiy ministr oborony i sekretar' Gosudarstvennogo soveta bezopasnosti" Turkmeni <http://lenta.ru/lib/14175263/>. Accessed on 1 April 2014.

³⁸ Turkmenistan.ru. "Predsedatelem Parlamenta Turkmenistana Izbran Tagandurdy Khallyyev" <http://www.turkmenistan.ru/ru/node/14528>. 14.03.02. Accessed on 1 April 2014.

³⁹ Biography from official paper, Neitralniy Turkmenistan.

⁴⁰ 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.

Charges: He was charged in association with the alleged assassination attempt of Niyazov. ^{41,42} In the first half of June 2005 he was tried in closed court on charges of conspiring to assassinate Niyazov and was convicted of ^{43,44}Article 275, Part 2; Article 14, Part 2; article 101.⁴⁵

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.⁴⁶ 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.⁴⁷ According to unconfirmed sources, he also previously served in the KNB.⁴⁸ He is the nephew of Aina Shikhmuradova.

Beknazarov disappeared after the events of November 25, 2002. His parents say that early in the morning of the 26th of November, he was urgently called into work, after which he disappeared. On the 27th, the secret services began a search for him on the grounds of involvement in the alleged assassination attempt against Niyazov.⁴⁹

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."⁵⁰

⁴¹ 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.

⁴² Amnesty International. "Amnesty International Report 2006 – Turkmenistan" 23.05.2014.

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

⁴³ 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.

⁴⁴ Amnesty International. "Amnesty International Report 2006 – Turkmenistan" 23.05.2014.

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

⁴⁵ Federalniy Rozisk. "Beknazarov Begench Amandurdyevich" 07.03.2003. <http://vroziske.com/person121049>. Accessed on 20 March 2014.

⁴⁶ 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.

⁴⁷ Broadcast on National Turkmen Television on 31.03.2003

⁴⁸ 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.

⁴⁹ 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.

⁵⁰ 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.

Current situation: Unknown. His relatives were unable to visit him or obtain official trial documents. They do not know of his whereabouts.^{51,52}

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.⁵³

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.^{54,55} Other sources indicate that the three were held up for 2 days.⁵⁶ 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 were released shortly after midnight Aman Shikhmuradov was reportedly in a state of shock and began to speak with a stammer.⁵⁷

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

⁵¹ 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.

⁵² Tsentrasia.Ru. «Mayor Begench Beknazarov Prigovoren K Pozhiznennomu Za "Pokusheniye" Na S.Turkmenbashi" 7.06.2005 [Http://Www.Centrasia.Ru/Newsa.Php?St=1118208120](http://www.centrasia.ru/newsA.php?st=1118208120). Accessed On 15 February 2014.

⁵³ Tsentrasia.Ru. «Mayor Begench Beknazarov Prigovoren K Pozhiznennomu Za "Pokusheniye" Na S.Turkmenbashi" 7.06.2005 [Http://Www.Centrasia.Ru/Newsa.Php?St=1118208120](http://www.centrasia.ru/newsA.php?st=1118208120). Accessed On 15 February 2014.

⁵⁴ Amnesty International. "Amnesty International Report 2006 – Turkmenistan" 23.05.2014.

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

⁵⁵ Decaux, Emmanuel. "OSCE Rapporteur's Report on Turkmenistan." OSCE, 12.3.2003.

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

⁵⁶ 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.

⁵⁷ Turkmenistan Helsinki Foundation. «Amnesty International: Turkmenistan-2003»

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

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, 2002.⁵⁸

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.⁵⁹

Sentence: His trial, along with that of others was held on January 20-21, 2003,⁶⁰ 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.⁶¹

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 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.



⁵⁸Ferghana.ru. Istochniki v Turkmenistane soobshchayut o provedennykh novykh arestakh <http://www.ferghananews.com/articles/1191>, 15.12.2002. Accessed on 22 December 2013.

⁵⁹ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation. " [04.02.2003](http://www.memorial.ru/04.02.2003). Accessed on 10 January 2014.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

Batyr Berdyev was nominated for, but did not win, the European Parliament's Sakharov prize in 2003 following his imprisonment.⁶²

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.⁶³ 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.⁶⁴ 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."⁶⁵

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.⁶⁶ 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.⁶⁷ 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.⁶⁸ 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.

⁶²http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdf/cardoc/14402_CARDOC_11_INLAY_EN_7.pdf, page 121. Accessed on 8 February 2014.

⁶³ Komarovsky, Leonid. (2003). Notes from his interview with Vitaliy Ponomarev of Human Rights Center Memorial.

⁶⁴ "BERDYEV Batyr Atayevich" <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?&st=1013880066>. Accessed on 18 December 2013.

⁶⁵ Gundogar, 2012.

⁶⁶Kompromat.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.

⁶⁷Human 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.

⁶⁸Fergana.ru " Prezident Turkmenii: Eks-ministry Boris Shikhmuradov i Batyr Berdyev zhivy." <http://www.fergananews.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.⁶⁹

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.⁷⁰

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.⁷¹

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, 1953⁷²

Citizenship: Russian, Turkmen⁷³

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



⁶⁹ Decaux, Emmanuel. "OSCE Rapporteur's Report on Turkmenistan." OSCE, 12.03.2003.

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

⁷⁰ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabatskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation." [04.02.2003](http://www.memo.ru/d/262.html). Accessed on 10 January 2014.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² 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.

⁷³ Komarovskiy, Leonid. "Nado prekratit' lyudoyedskiy rezhim Niyazova, poka tam yeshche ostalis' zhivyye lyudi" 12.12.2003. <http://www.radiolenya.com/article3/>. Accessed on 15 January 2014.

never returned.⁷⁴ The video of Guvanch's "confession" was shown on TV on December 29, 2002.⁷⁵

Charges: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. He was convicted January 15, 2003 by the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan of violating Articles 14-101, part 2, paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l", 129 h .3, 169 part 1, 2, 174, part 2, 176 part 1, part 2, 214, 218 Part 1, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 235 h .2 paragraph "a", "b", 254 part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 271 Part 3, Part 1 273 275 Part 1 and Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan.⁷⁶

Sentence: He was sentenced to life imprisonment with confiscation of property.⁷⁷

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.⁷⁸ In June 2001, he was extradited to Turkmenistan, but was almost immediately released at the request of the Ministry of National Security to transfer a part of his business. There was an international campaign requesting his release, including appeals by Ludmilla Alexeeva of the Moscow Helsinki Group and Valentin Gefter of the Institute of Human Rights.^{79,80}

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

⁷⁴ *Izvestia*. "Leonid KOMAROVSKIY: "Ubivat' Niyazova nikto ne sobiralsya" 11.05.2003. <http://izvestia.ru/news/276418>. Accessed on 15 January 2014.

⁷⁵ Decaux, Emmanuel. "OSCE Rapporteur's Report on Turkmenistan." OSCE, 12.3.2003. <http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372>

⁷⁶ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenского) na stranitsah Ashgabat'skovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation." [04.02.2003](http://www.memorial.ru/04.02.2003). Accessed on 10 January 2014.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ 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.

⁷⁹ Moscow Helsinki Group. "Rossiya vydala svoego grazhdanina Turkmenistanu" <http://www.cornelius.ru/GB/viewsm.php?id=241791>. Accessed on 15 January 2014.

⁸⁰ *Izvestia*. "Leonid KOMAROVSKIY: "Ubivat' Niyazova nikto ne sobiralsya" 11.05.2003. <http://izvestia.ru/news/276418>. Accessed on 15 January 2014.

living conditions in the country, and accused the government of carrying out the wrong socio-economic policies. Over the years, he was said to be in communication with the opposition living abroad.

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

Current situation: Unknown

Relatives arrested/harassed/detained: Several of Djumaev's relatives were harassed, arrested, detained, have undergone ill treatment and were possibly tortured.⁸¹ His son Timur and his 70 year old father were arrested on the same day, and his wife and daughter were later questioned about the events on the evening of November 24th. The authorities wanted to take away his mother, but they could not because she had trouble walking. Djumaev family members were not allowed to visit any of the prisoners, their property was confiscated and they lost their jobs. They are also under surveillance 24 hours a day.⁸²

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.

Relatives arrested/harassed/detained:

- Djumaev, Rozy Djumaevich (See p. 43)
- Djumaev, Timur Guvanchevych (See p. 43)
- Djumaev, Chary Rozyevich (See p. 43)
- Djumaev, Magtim Brother of Guvanch Djumaev. He was kept in pre-trial detention for over two months and was subject to torture.
- Djumaev, Begench Older brother of Guvanch Djumaev. His factory for the production of oxygen was taken away by the authorities, which included equipment worth \$1.5 million. His wife, a gynecologist, was fired from her job.
- Dovletov, Rovshan Dzhorageldyevich
- Gaipov, Devlet Odaevich
- Hemraev, Nepes Hemraevich
- Garataev, Murat Amanovich

7. Durdyev, Vekil Ataevich

Date of Birth: Unknown

Citizenship: Turkmen

Residence at time of arrest: Unknown

Position when arrested: Retired

⁸¹ World Organization against Torture. "Mezhdunarodnyy Sekretariat Vsemirnoy Organizatsii Protiv Primeneniya Pytok poluchil novuyu informatsiyu po povodu obstanovki v Turkmenistane." 11.06.2003.

http://www.kchr.org/documents/iol/omct/20030611_ru.html. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

⁸² Ibid.

Date of arrest: He was arrested on December 9, 2002 in Ashgabat on suspicion of links with those associated with the alleged November 2002 coup attempt. After his arrest, Durdyev was placed in solitary confinement in the pre-trial detention center of the Ministry of National Security.^{83, 84}

Charges: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. He was convicted in January 2003 of violating Article 14-101 Part 2, paragraph "a", "b", "f", "g", "h", "i", "l", 129 Part 3, Part 1 169, 2 174, part 2, 176 part 1, part 2, 214, 218 Part 1, 2.3, 231 Part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 235 part 2, paragraph "a", "b", 254 part 4, paragraph "a", "b", 271, part 3, 273 part 1, part 1 275 287 h .3 of the Turkmenistan Criminal Code.⁸⁵

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.⁸⁶

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: Died in prison in the beginning of August 2016. His body was released to the family by the authorities for burial. Prior to that, no information on his whereabouts and condition had been available.⁸⁷

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.⁸⁸

⁸³ Ferghana.ru. "Istochniki v Turkmenistane soobshchayut o provedennykh novykh arestakh." 15.12.2002 <http://www.ferghananews.com/articles/1191>. Accessed on 15 April 2014.

⁸⁴ Gundogar. "Ashkhabadskaya tragediya. Sledstviye, aresty, pytki" 19.11.2012. <http://www.gundogar.org/?01205130810000000000000013000000>. Accessed on 15 April 2014.

⁸⁵ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabatskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation. "04.02.2003". Accessed on 10 January 2014.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Gundogar. "Skonchalsya politzaklyuchennyi po delu "25 noyabrya" Vekil Durdyev" 26.08.2016. <http://www.gundogar.org/?02250000000000000011062016080000>. Accessed on 30.08.2016.

⁸⁸ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabatskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation. "04.02.2003". Accessed on 10 January 2014.

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.⁸⁹

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).^{90,91} On September 11, 2000, he was dismissed for 'serious shortcomings in his work.' He was awarded the "Garashsyz Turkmenistan Bolan Beyik Soygusi Ychin" Prize in December 1999.

Current situation: It was announced that he was released on October 20, 2006 under an amnesty in connection with his failing health (on October 16, 2006, Niyazov announced the release of 8 "Novemberists," other names were unknown⁹²) and sent to a remote village in Dashoguz province.⁹³ In May 2008, a relative of Gundogdyev told Amnesty International that he was still in prison.⁹⁴ 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.⁹⁵

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

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Tsentral'no-Aziatskiy Tolstyy Zhurnal "Turkmenskaya Elita - Vzglyad Iznutri" <http://www.Ctaj.Elcat.Kg/Tolsty/A/A063.Htm>. Accessed on 15 January 2014.

⁹¹ Tsentrasia.ru "GUNDOGDYYEV Yazgel'dy Potayevich" <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?&st=1013880083>. Accessed on 13 January 2014.

⁹² <http://archive.chrono-tm.org/?id=176>

⁹³ Tsentrasia.ru "GUNDOGDYYEV Yazgel'dy Potayevich" <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?&st=1013880083>. Accessed on 13 January 2014.

⁹⁴ 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.

⁹⁵ 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.

Mejlis due to "health reasons."⁹⁶ 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.⁹⁷

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.⁹⁸ 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, 2002.⁹⁹

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.¹⁰⁰

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.¹⁰¹

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.¹⁰²

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

⁹⁶ 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.

⁹⁷ Kommersant. "Protokol: Turkmenbashi pomenyal glavu parlamenta." 14.11.2002, <http://www.kommersant.ru/doc/350850>. Accessed on 16 January 2014.

⁹⁸Human Rights Center Memorial. "Turkmenistan: Arest Durdyeva i ostal'nykh" 15.12.2002. <http://www.memo.ru/d/264.html>. Accessed on 16 January 2014.

⁹⁹ Tsentrasia. "Hallyev Tagandurdy" <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?st=1013880214>. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁰⁰ 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.

¹⁰¹ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabat'skovo Ejedel'nika 'Adolat'" Translation." [04.02.2003](http://www.memo.ru/d/264.html). Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁰² Ibid.

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).¹⁰³

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.”¹⁰⁴

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 Vitaly Ponomarev of Memorial, Khallyev is among those who died in prison. Another source says he died on September 24, 2004.

According to a WikiLeaks source, Tagandurdy Khallyev is included in a list of 20 prisoners who died between 2002-2007 in a special block of Ovadan Depe.¹⁰⁵

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

Current situation: Unknown

¹⁰³TsentrAsia. “Hallyev Tagandurdy” <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?&st=1013880214>. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁰⁴ 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.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

10. Khatamov, Annamurad Akhmedovich

Date of Birth: January 14, 1954

Citizenship: Turkmen

Residence at time of arrest: 1 Beki Seytakova St., Ashgabat, Turkmenistan¹⁰⁶

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, 2002.¹⁰⁷

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.¹⁰⁸

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.¹⁰⁹

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,”¹¹⁰ and a GEF funded project on “Management of water resources and the environment in the Aral Sea Basin.”¹¹¹



¹⁰⁶ List of Participants Central Asia Natural Resources Management Project, United States Agency for International Development (nrmp/usaid). <http://uz.denemetr.com/docs/312/index-971-1.html>. Accessed on 15 April 2014.

¹⁰⁷ Decaux, Emmanuel. “OSCE Rapporteur’s Report on Turkmenistan.” OSCE, 12.3.2003. <http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372>

¹⁰⁸ Memorial. “Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabatskovo Ejedelnika ‘Adolat’” Translation. “04.02.2003. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Spisok uchastnikov Proyekt sovershenstvovaniye upravleniyem prirodnyimi resursami v Tsentral'noy Azii, Amerikanskoye agentstvo mezhdunarodnogo razvitiya (nrmp/usaid), Universitet MakGill, <http://uz.denemetr.com/docs/312/index-970-1.html>. Accessed on 13 January 2014.

¹¹¹ Upravleniye vodnymi resursami i okruzhayushchey sredoy v bassejne 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.'¹¹² He also has a number of publications including a report, "Reusing water in Turkmenistan."¹¹³

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.
- 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.

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.¹¹⁴ 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.¹¹⁵

Some sources indicate that Nazarov was placed under house arrest until trial.¹¹⁶ On June 15, 2002 he and his key deputies were tried, and Nazarov was given a 20 year sentence.¹¹⁷

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

¹¹² Sposob razrabotki grunta pri stroitel'stve profil'noy vyyemki i ustroystvo dlya yego osushchestvleniya <http://www.findpatent.ru/patent/180/1809066.html>. Accessed on 13 January 2014.

¹¹³ CA-Water Info. "Natsional'naya vodokhozyaystvennaya politika Turkmenistana." <http://www.cawater-info.net/bk/iwrm/0614.htm>. Accessed on 13 January 2014.

¹¹⁴ 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.

¹¹⁵ Turkmenistan.ru. "Saparmurat Niyazov razzhaloval v rjadovye treh generalov specslyuzhby." 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.

¹¹⁶ Turkmenskiye spets sluzbi. <http://www.agentura.ru/dossier/turkmen/>. Accessed on 11 November 2013.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

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.¹¹⁸

Sentence: Nazarov was given a twenty year sentence, 3 of which must be spent in prison.¹¹⁹ Other sources say he was sentenced to 25 years.¹²⁰

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.¹²¹

¹¹⁸ 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.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Ferghana.ru. "Odin iz byvshih rukovoditelej Centrobanka Turkmenii rasskazal o prestuplenijah rezhima" 21 June 2004. <http://www.ferghananews.com/articles/2960>. Accessed on 20 November 2013.

¹²¹ Turkmenistan Initiative for Human Rights, International Labor Organization. *Compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment: Turkmenistan*. Vienna/Paris 2011. http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/CAT_Turkmenistan_alternative_report_TIHR_-_ILA_-_FIDH_.pdf. Accessed on 18 November 2013.

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 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 7.¹²²



Charges: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. His public "confession" was broadcast on December 18, 2002.¹²³ 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.¹²⁴

Sentence: He was given a life sentence with confiscation of property.¹²⁵

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,¹²⁶ 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.¹²⁷

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

Relatives arrested/harassed/detained:

¹²² Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty. "Turkmen Report: January 2, 2003" 02.01.2003.<http://www.rferl.org/content/article/1346986.html>. Accessed on 18 January 2014.

¹²³ Decaux, Emmanuel. "OSCE Rapporteur's Report on Turkmenistan." OSCE, 12.3.2003. <http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372>

¹²⁴ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyркmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabat'skovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation." 04.02.2003. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹²⁵ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyркmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabat'skovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation." 04.02.2003. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹²⁶ Decaux, Emmanuel. "OSCE Rapporteur's Report On Turkmenistan." OSCE, 12.3.2003. [Http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372](http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372)

¹²⁷ 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.

- 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

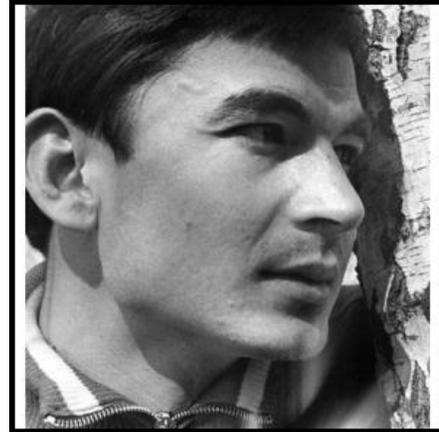
Date of arrest: He was arrested on December 2, 2002 and then released on December 4, 2002. He was arrested for the second time on December 5, 2002. The video of his “confession” was shown on TV on December 18, 2002.¹²⁸

Charges: Participation in the alleged assassination attempt on President Niyazov. He was accused of intending to announce on television the assassination of President Niyazov.¹²⁹ 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:^{130, 131} 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.¹³²

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



¹²⁸ Decaux, Emmanuel. “OSCE Rapporteur’s Report on Turkmenistan.” OSCE, 12.3.2003.

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372> pp. 21, 18.

¹²⁹ RIA Novosti. “Turkmeniya: "predateley Rodiny" lishili zvaniy”

21.12.2002. <http://ria.ru/politics/20021221/286859.html#ixzz2tAL0lh2k> Accessed on 10 February 2014.

¹³⁰ “Solidarnost’ s turkmenskimi politzaklyuchonnymi kommunistom” 1 January 2007.

<http://www.trudoros.narod.ru/akm/2013/07/trkm.htm>. Accessed on 1 February 2014.

¹³¹ Memorial “Vragi Naroda” from the Turkmenistan publication “Adolat”

¹³² RIA Novosti. “Turkmeniya: "predateley Rodiny" lishili zvaniy”

21.12.2002. <http://ria.ru/politics/20021221/286859.html#ixzz2tAL0lh2k>. Accessed on 10 February 2014.

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.^{133,134,135}

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.¹³⁶

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

On August 18, 2009, a group of journalists who graduated from Moscow State University appealed to their colleagues and human rights activists to support an action in defense of Boris Shikhmuradov and Serdar Rakhimov, both graduates of the Faculty of Journalism of Moscow State University. In their initiative, the journalists asked President Medvedev to act as guarantor of compliance with the mandate of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs to seek a meeting of the representatives of the Russian Embassy in Turkmenistan with the detainees, in order to assist them. The group reminded Medvedev of his own words that "an absolute priority for us is to protect the life and dignity of our citizens, wherever they may be" and asked him to take matters of the two Russian citizens under his personal control.^{137,138}

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.¹³⁹

¹³³ Wikipedia. «Rakhimov Serdar Seitmuradovich», http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Рахимов,_Сердар_Сейтмурадович. Accessed on 5 January 2014.

¹³⁴ "Solidarnost's turkmenskimi politzaklyuchonnyim kommunistom" 1 January 2007.
<http://www.trudoros.narod.ru/akm/2013/07/trkm.htm>. Accessed on 1 February 2014.

¹³⁵ Notes from Vitaliy Ponomarev, Memorial.

¹³⁶ Novaya Gazeta. "Zaklyuchennyye v ashkhabade" 10.9.2009. <http://novayagazeta.spb.ru/articles/5278/>. Accessed on 1 March 2014.

¹³⁷ Chronika Turkmenistana. "Medvedeva prosyat pomoch' rossiyanam, osuzhdennym v Turkmenii" 17.08.2009. <http://archive.chrono-tm.org/?id=2091>. Accessed on 20 February 2014.

¹³⁸ Ferghana.News. "Rossiya-Turkmenistan: Initsiativnaya gruppa zhurnalistov trebuet vnimaniya k delu Borisa Shikhmuradova i Serdara Rakhimova" 18.08.2009. <http://www.ferghananews.com/news.php?id=12733>. Accessed on 10 February 2014.

¹³⁹ "Solidarnost' s turkmenskimi politzaklyuchonnyim kommunistom" 1 January 2007.
<http://www.trudoros.narod.ru/akm/2013/07/trkm.htm>. Accessed on 1 February 2014.

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, "Turkmen demiryollary."¹⁴⁰

Date of Arrest: He was arrested on August 5, before the start of the Halk Maslahat (People's Council) of Turkmenistan.¹⁴¹

Charges: He was charged with "unclean affairs in the railway industry," including embezzlement.^{142,143}

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

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

From 1964-1967 he served in the Soviet Army. From 1973-1979 he worked as a miller in the railroad service. He was a depot master of the Ashgabat Vocational Industrial Institute Number 6. He was also the head of the technical control department, and chief engineer of the Ashgabat repair plant Number 1. From 1979-1980, he was the Deputy Chief of Operations, and Chief Engineer of the Ashgabat Industrial Motor Association 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 until June 2001 he served as the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Defense Minister, and Rector of the Military Institute of



¹⁴⁰ Institute for War and Peace Reporting. "Turkmenbashi Otpravil V Otvstavku Populyarnogo Ministra" 21.02.2005. <http://iwpr.net/ru/report-news/туркменбаши-отправил-в-отставку-популярного-министра>. Accessed on 5 March 2014.

¹⁴¹ 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.

¹⁴² 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.

¹⁴³ 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.

Defense (assigned to coordinate all Security Departments).¹⁴⁴ 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.¹⁴⁵ 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.¹⁴⁶

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 "Turkmenemiryollary." 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.^{147,148}

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.¹⁴⁹ 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 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."¹⁵⁰

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).¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁴ CentrAsia "Batyr Kurbanovich Sardzhaev." <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?st=1013880204>. Accessed on 20 February 2014.

¹⁴⁵ 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.

¹⁴⁶ 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.

¹⁴⁷ Kommersant. "Turkmenbashi zanyalsya perestanovkami." 31.07.2002. <http://www.kommersant.ru/doc/334417>. Accessed on 7 March 2014.

¹⁴⁸ CentrAsia "Batyr Kurbanovich Sardzhaev." <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?st=1013880204>. Accessed on 20 February 2014.

¹⁴⁹ 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.

¹⁵⁰ 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.

¹⁵¹ 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.

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.¹⁵²

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.¹⁵³ On December 29th, 2002, Mr. Shikhmuradov's public confession was broadcast. On tape he recited his confession in a monotone, using wooden phrases. He was quite clearly under the influence of drugs, or otherwise under a great amount of psychological duress. He said that he was not in fact an opposition leader, but a Mafioso, and that he took drugs, drank alcohol, and deserved the harshest punishment.¹⁵⁴ 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



¹⁵² Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation." [04.02.2003](#). Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁵³ Ibid.

¹⁵⁴ 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.

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.¹⁵⁵

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.

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.”

¹⁵⁵ Decaux, Emmanuel. “OSCE Rapporteur’s Report on Turkmenistan.” OSCE, 12.3.2003.
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372>

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.¹⁵⁶

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 Human Rights Center "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.¹⁵⁷ 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 Komarovskiy 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."¹⁵⁸

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
- 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

¹⁵⁶ 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.

¹⁵⁷ Decaux, Emmanuel. "OSCE Rapporteur's Report on Turkmenistan." OSCE, 12.3.2003.

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

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

and abuse. Their house was seized and sealed on December 22, 2002. Although Aina managed to reclaim the house, it was demolished.

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

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

- 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
- 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 Beknarazov'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 Berdymukhamedov was asked by a graduate student about the status of Boris Shikhmuradov and Batyr Berdyev. President Berdymukhamedov responded that he is "positive they are alive."¹⁵⁹ However, there is no evidence either supporting or contradicting this statement.

On 17 October 2014, the UN Human Rights Committee issued a decision regarding violation of the rights of Boris Shikhmuradov, on a complaint filed by his wife, Tatiana Shikhmuradova. The Committee determined that Shikhmuradov is the victim of an enforced disappearance and that the government of Turkmenistan failed to protect Boris Shikhmuradov's life, violated his right to be free from torture, his right to a fair trial, and his right not to be subject to a retroactive penalty. The Committee also found that the government violated Tatiana Shikhmuradova's right to be free from torture, in light of the suffering she has endured due to the long-term lack of information about her husband. The Committee said that the government of Turkmenistan is obligated to provide a remedy to Boris Shikhmuradov, including by immediately releasing him and granting him just compensation, or, in the event that he has died, by giving Shikhmuradov's remains to his family, and that the family should be compensated. Regrettably, neither the Committee, nor Shikhmuradov's family have received a response from the government of Turkmenistan.

¹⁵⁹ Saidazimova, Gulnoza. "Turkmen President Urged To Continue Moving Forward On Human Rights," Central Asia Report: September 28, 2007, RFE/RL, <http://www.rferl.org/content/article/1347651.html>. Accessed 29 May 2014.

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 Turkmenistan¹⁶⁰.

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.¹⁶¹

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

Residence at time of arrest: Unknown

Date of arrest: On April 5, 2002.¹⁶²

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



¹⁶⁰ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation." [04.02.2003](http://www.memoir.ru/04.02.2003). Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² 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.

serving as Head of the Border Service on March 5, 2002.^{163, 164, 165} 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.¹⁶⁶

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.¹⁶⁷ Ten days prior to the end of his initial sentence, he was charged with a crime against a prison guard.¹⁶⁸

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.¹⁶⁹ He was sentenced in accordance with article 213 (part 1) of the new criminal code of Turkmenistan. According to this article, he should be imprisoned in a penal colony, but he is in the AT 2 prison in Akhalsk Velayat.

Biography: Graduated from the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute (1971), The KGB Institute (1985). Tyrmyev began his career in 1971 at the Institute “TurkmenNIPIneft” where he held various positions including in management.

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

On April 1, 2002, he was dismissed as Head of the Mary administration of the KNB due to “serious” shortcomings in his the work, stripped of his military rank of Major General, and all material and other benefits for military service, state awards, and dismissed from military service.¹⁷⁰ He held the

¹⁶³Neitralniy Turkmenistan. “Saparmurat Niyazov razjaloval v ryadoviye treh generalov spetsslujbi.” 01.04.02.

<http://www.turkmenistan.ru/ru/node/13881>. Accessed on 7 January 2014.

¹⁶⁴ International Relations and Security Network. “The Prospects for Internal Unrest in Turkmensitan.” 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.

¹⁶⁵ Neitralniy Turkmenistan. “Naznachen Noviy Nachalnik Pogranichniy Sluzbi Turkmenistana.” 05.05.02.

<http://www.turkmenistan.ru/ru/node/14546>. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁶⁶ 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.

¹⁶⁷ 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.

¹⁶⁸ Radio Free Liberty Free Europe. “Family Appeals For Contact with Imprisoned Turkmen General” 19.04.2012.

http://www.rferl.org/content/turkmenistan_general_prison_tyrmeyev/24553675.html. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁶⁹ Radio Free Liberty Free Europe. “Family Appeals For Contact with Imprisoned Turkmen General” 19.04.2012.

http://www.rferl.org/content/turkmenistan_general_prison_tyrmeyev/24553675.html. Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁷⁰ Tsentrasia. “Tyrmeyev Turkish” <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?&st=1013880210>. Accessed on 19 January 2014.

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 beýik soýgusi ucın” in January 2001 and medals “Edermenlik,” “For the Love of the Fatherland,” and “Gayrat” (December 1999).¹⁷¹

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.¹⁷²

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 2002.¹⁷³ 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 14 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 KNB, Niyazov gave his executioners a deadline: within three months from September 2002, General Tyrmyev should disappear.¹⁷⁴

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, 2002.¹⁷⁵

¹⁷¹ TsentrAsia. “Tyrmyev Turkish” <http://www.centrasia.ru/person2.php?&st=1013880210>. Accessed on 19 January 2014.

¹⁷² TsentrAsia. “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.

¹⁷³ 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

¹⁷⁴ TsentrAsia. “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.

¹⁷⁵ Decaux, 2003.

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", "b", 254 part 4 , paragraph "a", " b", 271, part 3, part 2, 273, 275, Part 1, Part 3 287 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan¹⁷⁶.

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.¹⁷⁷

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.¹⁷⁸ 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, 2003.¹⁷⁹

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);

¹⁷⁶ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation." [04.02.2003](#). Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁷⁷ Ibid.

¹⁷⁸ 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.

¹⁷⁹ 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.

- Yklymov, Yklym
- Niyazdurdyev, Davlet

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

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.¹⁸⁰

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.¹⁸¹

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 the 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
- Niyazdurdyev, Davlet

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

¹⁸⁰ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation." [04.02.2003](#). Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁸¹ Ibid.

20. Yklymov, Yklym

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

Citizenship: Russian and Turkmen¹⁸²

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 of his family's arrest happened at night, arbitrarily, without witnesses. All of the Yklymov family's possessions were confiscated.¹⁸³

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.¹⁸⁴

Sentence: Sentenced to life imprisonment with confiscation of property.¹⁸⁵

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.



¹⁸² Komarovskiy, Leonid. "Nado Prekratit Lydoedsky Regim Niyazova, Poka Tan Eshe Ostalis Lyudi." 12.12.2003. <http://www.radiolenya.com/article3/>. Accessed on 20 January 2014.

¹⁸³ Komarovskiy, Leonid. "Nado Prekratit Lydoedsky Regim Niyazova, Poka Tan Eshe Ostalis Lyudi." 12.12.2003. <http://www.radiolenya.com/article3/>. Accessed on 20 January 2014.

¹⁸⁴ Memorial. "Vragi naroda (Tyrkmenskogo) na stranitsah Ashgabataskovo Ejedelnika 'Adolat'" Translation." [04.02.2003](http://www.memo.ru/doc/04.02.2003/). Accessed on 10 January 2014.

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

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.¹⁸⁶

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
- Yklymov, Amanmukhammet
- Niyazdurdyev, Davlet

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.

¹⁸⁶US Mission to the OSCE. "US Concerned about Incidents of Torture in Some OSCE States." 9.10.2003. <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2003/11/20031103181825rennef10.7239954.html#axzz2n6fyJcFW>. Accessed on 21 January 2014.

Short Information on Other Persons 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 “elde” 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” in the framework of a famous “oil rigger” case, along with two dozen other officials at a high level in the oil and gas industry, including four other people in the ministerial positions. It is assumed that all of them, including Atageldiev, were convicted for long-term sentences on corruption and, possibly, treason charges, and are still serving their prisons terms.

Current situation: Unknown. According to official information from the Government of Turkmenistan, presented at the annual EU-Turkmenistan Human Rights Dialogue in May 2016 in Ashgabat, he was

never arrested and he is still a government official. However, there is no confirmation of this information from independent sources.

26. Atayev, Mamour Tangeberianovich

Biography: Born on 13.11.1961 in Dashoguz. Lived in Ashgabat. Ethnic Uzbek. Has a university degree.

Arrest and conviction: Detained in July 2004 on suspicion of assistance in the illegal crossing of the border with Uzbekistan by a group of people convicted for participation in the events of November 25, 2002, including relatives of the Yklymov brothers. Arrested on July 19, 2004. Sentenced on October 5, 2004 by a court in Ashgabat under 214 p.2 and p.13 of the Criminal Code, along with 9 other defendants. Sentenced to 15 years imprisonment in a strict regime colony.

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, Djumamuhmet 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-1990s, 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: Charged with 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" was 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.

Current situation: Relatives informed the Turkmen service of RFE/RL that he died in prison, and his body was released by the authorities to the family for burial in the Ashgabat city morgue. He was buried by the family in Sakarchagiysky district of Mary region on February 9, 2016. He had been incarcerated in the Ovadan Depe prison.

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: Born on 02.02.1947 in Stalinabad (Dushanbe), Tajikistan. In 1965-1971 studied in Azerbaijani Medical Institute in Baku. After graduation, he returned to Tajikistan where he worked for two years at an anti-plague station and then until 1993 on different positions in the Ministry of Health of Tajikistan (his last position was the Deputy Chief Sanitary Physician of Tajikistan). In 1993, by invitation of Deputy Prime Minister Boris Shikhmuradov he moved to Turkmenistan, entered army service, received the rank of major of medical service, and worked in the epidemiological service of the Ministry of Defense. In 1999-2001, he served as the Managing Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan. Approximately from March until August 2001 he served as the Second Secretary of the Embassy of Turkmenistan in Belarus.



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 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 Allaberdyevich

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 in 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, "Turkengallaonumleri." 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.

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 Novosti (02.12.2014), he had returned US \$470 thousand to the defendants. Later, he was accused of transferring US \$1 million in bribes to Redjep Saparov (Turkmenistan.ru, 28.07.2005). According to information from the government, he was convicted for 20 years. He served his term in Ovadan Depe prison. Based on unconfirmed information, in 2005 he was released from prison due to poor health condition and died soon.

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 “Turkmenenizyollary” (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 died in prison on 1 December 2015 and the authorities released his body to the family on 2 December. He was buried the next day, 3 December. According to eyewitnesses of his funeral (information received by the Prove They Are Alive! campaign), his body weighed less than 50 kilograms. At the time of arrest, Gurbanmuradov was of sturdy build and weighed more than 120 kilograms. 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 he worked in the Chardzhou department of the Central Asian railroad. In 1980-91 he 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 the 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. Khodhanazarov, 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, presented at the annual EU-Turkmenistan Human Rights Dialogue in June 2015 in Brussels, he was released on 13 October 2012. However, there is no confirmation of this information from independent sources.

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: Born on 21 November 1957 in Ashgabat. Lived in Ashgabat. Ethnic Azeri. Has a university degree.

Arrest and conviction: Detained in July 2004 on suspicion of assisting in the illegal crossing of the border with Uzbekistan by a group of persons, including relatives of the Yklymov brothers, convicted in the 25 November 2002 case. Arrested on 19 July 2004. Convicted on 5 October 2004 by a court in Ashgabat under art. 33, pp.3 and 12, and art. 214, p. 2 of the Criminal Code, along with nine other defendants. Convicted to 15 years of imprisonment in a high security colony.

Current Situation: According to official information from the government of Turkmenistan, presented at the annual EU-Turkmenistan Human Rights Dialogue in May 2016 in Ashgabat, he was alive and still imprisoned but had been visited by relatives 26 times. However, there is no confirmation of this information from independent sources.

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.

Current Situation: According to official information from the Government of Turkmenistan, presented at the annual EU-Turkmenistan Human Rights Dialogue in May 2016 in Ashgabat, he is alive and was transferred from prison to a designated place in 2014, relatives visit him and he can travel within the country upon prior authorisation. However, there is no confirmation of this information from independent sources.

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. Nazargullyev, 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.

Current Situation: According to official information from the Government of Turkmenistan, presented at the annual EU-Turkmenistan Human Rights Dialogue in May 2016 in Ashgabat, he is alive and was transferred from prison to a designated place in 2014, relatives visit him and he can travel within the

country upon prior authorization. However, there is no confirmation of this information from independent sources.

71. Niyazdurdyev, Davlet Toilyevich

Biography: Born on June 29, 1980 in Ashgabat. The son of Kyakilik Yklymova (sister of the Yklymov brothers). Lived in Ashgabat. Studied in a university but did not complete his studies. Worked as an administrator of a computer games hall. Was not married.

Arrest and conviction: Detained in July 2004 on suspicion of assistance in the illegal crossing of the border with Uzbekistan by a group of people convicted for participation in the events of November 25, 2002, including relatives of the Yklymov brothers. Sentenced on October 5, 2004, by a court in Ashgabat under art.33 p.5, 214 p.2 and p. 13, and 214 p.2 of the Criminal Code, along with 9 other defendants. Sentenced to 15 years imprisonment in a strict regime colony.

Current situation: According to official information from the Government of Turkmenistan presented at the annual EU-Turkmenistan Human Rights Dialogue in June 2015 in Brussels, he was released on 29 September 2007 under Presidential Amnesty. However, there is no confirmation of this information from independent sources.

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. As of 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. Rejepdurdyev, Shikhmurat

Biography: Born in 1983 in Gubadag etrap of the Dashoguz velayat (former Baidak collective farm). While serving in the army, started reading namaz. Starting in 2005-06, he was regularly summoned to

khakimlik (local administration) for questioning as a “Wahhabi.” In summer 2009, he moved to Saint Petersburg (Russia) where he entered Saint Petersburg State Forest Technical Academy. During vacations in the beginning of 2010 he traveled home for marriage. Upon arrival in the Ashgabat airport, officers of the Ministry of National Security (MNS) took away his passport. He traveled home after spending a day in Ashgabat. Soon a ban on traveling outside of Turkmenistan was imposed on him. Arrest and conviction: In 4-5 months he was summoned to the MNS Department in Dashoguz and arrested there. On the same day a search was conducted in his home; three gun ammunitions were discovered in the basement which were planted, according to his relatives. In summer 2010 he was convicted by the court of Ilialinsky etrap along with several local residents, charged in “Wahhabism”. Sentenced to 3.5 years for illegal possession of ammunition and participation in an illegal religious group. After the sentence entered into force, he was transferred to Lebap velayat where he spent half a year or a year. On one occasion, his mother went to see him but was denied the visit due to quarantine. He was able to call his family once and send one letter. After that he was moved to Ovadan Depe There was no more letters or visits. Parcels were allowed, however (they were accepted in the building of the Ministry of the Interior in Ashgabat). A Muslim who was serving his term in Ovadan Depe saw him there, and upon his release visited his family and provided this information. After the end of his term, he was not released; a new prison term was added. There is no information on what charges and for how long he was sentenced for the second time. According to unconfirmed information, in the summer of 2016 he was transferred to the Abdushukur prison in Chardzhou.

78. 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.

79. 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.

80. 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.

81. 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.

82. 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.

83. 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](#)).

84. 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 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).

85. 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.

86. 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)

87. 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.

88. 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 Turkmenbashi (formerly Krasnovodsk) and Ovadan Depe; while those serving life sentences were initially held in the Ministry of National Security (KNB) Detention Center. The prison in Turkmenbashi, 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 Turkmenbashi 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.¹⁸⁷ 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.

Originally, 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 Russia, and who had served a part of his politically motivated sentence in Ovadan Depe. Later, a lot of detailed information became available from a former political prisoner and famous horse breeder Geldy Kyarizov, currently living in Europe, and who had served a part of his politically motivated sentence in

¹⁸⁷ <https://www.aaas.org/page/evaluation-ovadan-depe-prison-using-high-resolution-satellite-imagery> and "The Ovadan Depe Prison: Medieval Torture in Modern Day Turkmenistan, Prove They Are Alive!, September 2014.

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. 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 (until 2008 when the regime for them became much stricter) 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. Kartsers, 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 kartsers 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).¹⁸⁸ 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

¹⁸⁸ Human Rights Committee. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under the Covenant: Initial periodic report Turkmenistan. 19 February 2010. CCPR/C/TKM/1.

(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).

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”¹⁸⁹ 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.’

¹⁸⁹ The Decree is not available online through official sources, but can be found here: <http://provetheyarealive.org/appeals/>

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 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.¹⁹⁰

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

¹⁹⁰ 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.

capacity.”¹⁹¹ 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.¹⁹²

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;
- 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.¹⁹³

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.”¹⁹⁴ 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.¹⁹⁵

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

¹⁹¹ CAT, art. 1.

¹⁹² See: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-9-b&chapter=4&lang=en.

¹⁹³ ICCPR, art. 9.

¹⁹⁴ ICCPR, art. 14(1).

¹⁹⁵ ICCPR, art. 14.

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.¹⁹⁶

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...."¹⁹⁷ 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."¹⁹⁸

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, 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."¹⁹⁹ 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.²⁰⁰ There are also multiple human rights instruments that address enforced

¹⁹⁶ ICCPR, art. 14.

¹⁹⁷ 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>.

¹⁹⁸ Convention against Torture, art. 15.

¹⁹⁹ 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.

²⁰⁰ 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

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.²⁰¹

Enforced disappearances are not the violation of merely one right, but constitute “a multiple human rights violation.”²⁰² 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.²⁰³ 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.²⁰⁴ The Human Rights Committee has found that being held indefinitely without contact with one’s family and with the outside world constitutes inhuman and degrading treatment, in violation of the ICCPR.²⁰⁵

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.²⁰⁶

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

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.

²⁰¹ 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).

²⁰² 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.

²⁰³ *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.

²⁰⁴ ICCPR and Convention against Torture).

²⁰⁵ Human Rights Committee, *Boucherf v. Algeria*.

²⁰⁶ Declaration against Enforced Disappearances, art. 10. These provisions are reinforced in article 17 of the Convention against Enforced Disappearance.

particular, members of his family and shall be given adequate opportunity to communicate with the outside world...,” among other obligations.²⁰⁷

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.²⁰⁸ 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.²⁰⁹ 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.”²¹⁰

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 and impartially examined by, its competent authorities...”²¹¹ 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.²¹²

²⁰⁷ 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>.

²⁰⁸ 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>.

²⁰⁹ See for example, Human Rights Committee, *Boucherf v. Algeria*, para. 10.

²¹⁰ ICCPR, art. 2(3)(a).

²¹¹ Convention against Torture, arts. 12-13.

²¹² Convention against Torture, art. 13.

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.²¹³

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."²¹⁴

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.

²¹³ International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, arts. 12 and 24.

²¹⁴ *Edriss El Hassy v. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*, para. 8; *Boucherf v. Algeria* paras. 9.9 and 11; *Medjnoune v. Algeria*, para. 10.

Recommendations

The “Prove They Are Alive!” campaign urges the government of Turkmenistan to address without delay the following issues:

1. Enforced disappearances in prisons

- a. Cease the practice of total isolation of prisoner, cease the practice of enforced disappearance, and hold those responsible for disappearances accountable.
- b. Provide information to the relatives of the disappeared included in the list published by the campaign “Prove They Are Alive!”²¹⁵ about their fate, health, and whereabouts.
- c. Allow family members of the disappeared regular visits, delivery of letters and parcels, etc., in line with the amended Code of Criminal Procedure and the obligations undertaken by Turkmenistan within the Universal Periodic Review.²¹⁶
- d. If any individual in the disappeared list has died, provide family members with the death certificate and location of the remains.
- e. Allow access to the disappeared by lawyers and independent monitors such as the ICRC, mandate holders of UN Special Procedures and the OSCE/ODIHR.
- f. Provide international monitoring bodies, including the UN, the ICRC and the OSCE, with a list of all persons convicted in closed trials, including their whereabouts, the exact duration of their prison terms and expected release date. The list should be accessible to relatives.
- g. Initiate judicial reviews of all the court cases of the disappeared in light of the 2010 amendments to the Criminal Code, allowing international monitors to observe the proceedings.
- h. Implement the UN Human Rights Committee decision on Boris Shikhmuradov.²¹⁷
- i. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, enact domestic legislation based on its provisions and recognize the competence of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances.
- j. Abolish the 2003 decree of the Halk Maslakhaty (People’s Council) “On High Treason,”²¹⁸ which introduced imprisonment for life as punishment for treason. This decree contradicts the 2010 Criminal Code.

2. Prison Access

- a. Ensure access to Turkmen prisons, including the high security Ovadan Depe prison,²¹⁹ for such independent observers as the ICRC, relevant mandate holders of UN Special Procedures and other authoritative international bodies such as the OSCE/ODIHR.
- b. Publish the names of all persons released from prisons on amnesty or pardon.

²¹⁵<http://provetheyarealive.org/the-disappeared/>

²¹⁶<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/TMSession16.aspx>

²¹⁷ <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/006/17/PDF/G1500617.pdf?OpenElement>. See also <https://provetheyarealive.org/on-forced-disappearances-in-turkmenistan-and-the-case-of-boris-shikhmuradov/>

²¹⁸<http://provetheyarealive.org/the-decree-of-the-peoples-council-halk-maslakhati-on-declaring-as-treason-separate-illegal-actions-as-well-as-penalties-for-traitors-of-the-nation/>

²¹⁹<http://provetheyarealive.org/ovadan-depe-medieval-torture-in-modern-turkmenistan/>

In order to achieve these objectives, the campaign “Prove They Are Alive!” recommends the following actions to the international community:

- 1. Within the framework of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Office of the High Commissioner for Human rights, and relevant Special Procedures:**
 - a. On the basis of the obligations voluntarily accepted by Turkmenistan within the UPR framework, 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, and/or adopt a group statement at the Human Rights Council, calling on Turkmenistan to implement the recommendations by “Prove They Are Alive!” campaign.
 - b. In any dialogue, bilateral meetings and consultations 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.
 - c. UN Member States should urge Turkmenistan to join the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
 - d. The Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights should take all possible action to prevail on the government of Turkmenistan to implement the decision of the UN Human Rights Committee on the case of Boris Shikhmuradov, and should take action to end all disappearances, taking into account that the situation remains unresolved since the General Assembly resolutions of 2003 and 2004.²²⁰ In particular, OHCHR could request information about the disappeared and request visits to the prisoners by international monitors that are trained and expert in carrying out such visits.
 - e. Should there be no substantial progress in the human rights situation in Turkmenistan in the next two years, particularly in the fate of the disappeared, Member States of the Human Rights Council should adopt a resolution on the human rights situation in Turkmenistan and establish a mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Turkmenistan.

- 2. Within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe:**
 - a. The OSCE Chairmanship should raise the problem of enforced disappearances directly with Turkmen authorities, including public statements at high-level OSCE meetings such as the HDIM and the Ministerial Council.
 - b. OSCE institutions and participating States should draft an explicit OSCE commitment on enforced disappearances to adopt in the nearest future. The Chairmanship should take the lead in this process.
 - c. Alternatively, OSCE institutions and participating States should review and update existing OSCE commitments on torture, and in the process recognize enforced disappearance as a crime and a

²²⁰For a list of relevant resolutions see <http://www.refworld.org/publisher,UNCHR,,TKM,,,0.html> and <http://www.refworld.org/type,RESOLUTION,,TKM,,,0.html>. These links include the documents.

form of torture. The OSCE Chairmanship should initiate the updating OSCE commitments on torture that would include enforced disappearance as a form of torture.

- d. OSCE institutions and participating States should follow up to the Moscow Mechanism by demanding the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2003 Decaux report.²²¹ Implementation should be documented in subsequent reports by a working group or a rapporteur established by the OSCE Chairmanship or the Chair of the Human Dimension Committee, or a group of concerned participating States. 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 enforced disappearances, lack of effective investigation of the past cases, continued incarceration of political prisoners, repeated and widespread use of force against participants of peaceful assemblies, systematic use of torture against detained persons, and travel bans.
- e. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly should follow up to the Baku Declaration of June 2014,²²² by adopting a resolution specifically on Turkmenistan or, alternatively, on enforced disappearances and abductions in the OSCE region including a reference to Turkmenistan.
- f. Members of OSCE PA delegations should urge their governments to raise questions to the government of Turkmenistan on the fates of the disappeared, and request visits to the disappeared in the “Prove They Are Alive!” list and other political prisoners.
- g. Embassies of participating States as well as the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat should closely follow and monitor the human rights situation and regularly meet with local independent civic activists, relatives of the disappeared, and prisoners from the list of the disappeared during prison visits.

3. Within the framework of the relations between the EU and its Member States with Turkmenistan:

- a. Prioritize human rights in relations with Turkmenistan; make cooperation and approval of new agreements, including ratification of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Turkmenistan, conditional on measurable progress in human rights.
- b. Monitor progress in human rights on the basis of concrete, realistic, and measurable benchmarks, developed in cooperation with civil society.²²³
- c. Through the existing frameworks of the Human Rights Dialogue, the Human Rights Country Strategy, the Rule of Law Platform and the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, engage in a consistent, principle-driven dialogue with Turkmenistan's authorities concerning the problem of disappearances in prisons, and cooperate with civil society initiatives in addressing the issue.

²²¹<http://www.osce.org/odihr/18372?download=true>

²²²Paragraphs 108, 125 and 134, see <http://www.oscepa.org/meetings/annual-sessions/2014-baku-annual-session/2014-baku-final-declaration/1838-05>.

²²³ For the benchmarks proposed by a group of 29 NGOs as conditions for the European Parliament's ratification of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Turkmenistan see <https://www.fidh.org/en/international-advocacy/european-union/joint-ngo-letter-on-the-eu-turkmenistan-partnership-and-cooperation>.

- d. Promote access to prisons by ICRC, OSCE/ODIHR, relevant mandate holders of UN Special Procedures and civil society organizations.
- e. Request prison visits and insist on visiting high security prisons and seeing people from the list of the disappeared.
- f. Urge the Turkmen authorities to stop the current practice of travel bans, including the compilation of “black lists” of people suspected of “disloyalty” to the regime and their relatives, including the relatives of the disappeared.
- g. Ensure that Member States’ Embassies as well as the EU Office in Ashgabat closely follow and monitor the human rights situation and regularly meet with local independent civic activists, relatives of the disappeared, and prisoners from the list of the disappeared during prison visits.



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