

President Berdymukhammedov  
Presidential Palace  
744000 Ashgabat  
Turkmenistan  
Via Fax: 011-993-12-35-51-12

Dear President Berdymukhammedov,

I am writing to express my grave concern for Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhiyev, who were detained along with their colleague Ogulsapar Muradova on 16 and 19 June 2006. They appear to have been held solely because they are members or relatives of members of the non-governmental human rights organization, the Turkmenistan Helsinki Foundation (THF), which has publicized human rights violations in Turkmenistan.

On September 14, 2006, Ogulsapar Muradova's family was informed by the Ministry of National Security that she had died in custody. This is very disturbing, and I call on you not to delay any further in conducting a thorough, prompt, and independent investigation into the cause of her death; to keep Ogulsapar Muradova's relatives informed of all steps of the investigation and to make the results public.

Amnesty International regards Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhiyev to be prisoners of conscience, detained for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression in defense of human rights. I therefore call on you to promptly and unconditionally release Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhiyev, and respectfully urge you to give Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhiyev's relatives regular access to them in prison.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

*copies to:*

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