

URGENT ACTION

KASYMBERDI GARAEV RETURNED HOME

Kasymberdi Garaev was summoned by police and went missing on 24 October after the publication of an online article in which he was cited describing the problems he faced as a gay man in Turkmenistan. On the evening of 6 November, he contacted Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty to say he had been able to return home.

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.

Kasymberdi Garaev, a 24-year-old doctor from Turkmenistan, was featured in an interview by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL)'s Turkmen Service on 21 October describing the predicament of being gay in Turkmenistan, a country where consensual same-sex relations between men are a crime. On 24 October he was summoned to a police station and was not heard of until he called RFE/RL on 6 November to say he was home. He sounded very distressed, and during the call he described the earlier reports about him as false.

His reappearance may be due to the fact that while Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov was in Italy on 6-7 November for a business forum, Italian Senator Monica Cirinnà spoke in defence of Kasymberdi Garaev and demanded that the Italian government should raise his case with the President of Turkmenistan. This indicates that the Turkmenistani authorities are sensitive to international pressure.

Kasymberdi Garaev remains in a vulnerable situation but no further action on his case should be taken until further notice.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Kasymberdi Garaev (he/him)

THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 151/19

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