

URGENT ACTION

**RELEASE CRITICALLY ILL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER
Mansur Mingelov, sentenced to 22 years imprisonment in an unfair trial in retaliation for complaints about torture in police detention, is critically ill with tuberculosis contracted in prison. He must be immediately and unconditionally released.**

On 22 June, **Mansur Mingelov's** health suddenly deteriorated and he suffered high temperature and pain in his heart. Prison medical staff refused to treat him without payment and asserted they could not do so as they were without medication or medical equipment. On 26 June, Mansur Mingelov was transferred to a prison hospital in the city of Mary, in southeastern Turkmenistan, where he was diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB). Even though his family provided the necessary medication for his condition, Mansur Mingelov received it only on 4 July, when his family visited him in the prison hospital and insisted that prison doctors administer the medication.

Mansur Mingelov is a member of the Baloch ethnic group. He was first detained by police on 6 June 2012 and questioned about his brother, arrested a day earlier on charges of drug dealing. Mansur Mingelov was forced to witness the torture of his brother while in detention. When released on 22 June 2012, he lodged an official complaint and provided evidence of the torture of his brother to the General Prosecutor and international organizations. He also collected evidence of other cases of torture in police detention and submitted them to the Turkmenistani authorities and diplomats. Police officers threatened him with prosecution on drug-related charges should he not revoke the torture allegations. On 2 August 2012, he was rearrested. A month later, he was sentenced in an unfair trial to 22 years' imprisonment on charges of production and distribution of pornography, contraband, and production or distribution of drugs, under articles 156, 164, 254 and 292 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan. He remains held in LBK/11 prison in Seidi, Lebap province in eastern Turkmenistan.

The presiding judge informed Mansur Mingelov, following the conviction, that he had been sentenced on political grounds. Amnesty International believes that Mansur Mingelov has been detained in retaliation for his work on documenting torture in police detention.

Please write immediately in Turkmen, Russian, or your own language to the authorities:

- Calling on them to release Mansur Mingelov immediately and unconditionally as he has been detained solely for his peaceful human rights work;
- Urging the authorities, pending his release, to ensure he has access to the medical care he requires, if necessary in a medical facility outside prison;
- Urging the authorities to initiate a prompt, impartial and effective investigation into all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment reported by Mansur Mingelov, identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice in fair trials;
- Calling on the authorities to ensure that Mansur Mingelov is safe and free from reprisals.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 AUGUST 2018 TO:

Prosecutor General
Amanmyrat Khallyyev
Ul. 2005 (Seidi) 4
744000 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

President of Turkmenistan
Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov
Presidential Palace
744000 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Fax: +993 12 93 5112 (please keep
trying between 10 - 1500 GMT)
Salutation: Dear President

And copies to:
Minister of Interior
Isgender Mulikov
Ul. 2033 (pr. Mahtumkuli) 85
744000 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Fax: +993 12 39 1944 (please keep
trying between 10 - 1500 GMT)

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR YAZMURAD N. SERVAEV, Embassy of Turkmenistan, 131 Holland Park Avenue W11 4UT, 020 7610 5239, Fax 020 7751 1903, tkm-embassy-uk@btconnect.com, www.turkmenembassy.org.uk

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the fourth update of UA 97/14. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur61/005/2014/en/

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Between 22 June and 2 August 2012, Mansur Mingelov documented 11 incidents of torture and other ill-treatment against members of the Baloch ethnic community in Mary province. He recorded the information on CD disks and sent them to the US Embassy in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Prosecutor General's Office. According to Mansur Mingelov, these reports of torture and other ill-treatment included allegations of law enforcement officers using chisels on detainees' bones, using pliers on the scrotum, electric shocks, and the use of chair legs and plastic bottles for beatings. He described seeing a box with tools explicitly meant for torture at the State Service for Security Protection of Healthy Society of Turkmenistan in Ashgabat. Following his complaints, two police officers were dismissed.

During his trial, Mansur Mingelov reported that he only saw his state-appointed lawyer twice, once when they first met and then during the trial itself. He was refused a lawyer of his choice, and vital evidence proving that he was not in Turkmenistan when some of the alleged offences took place was ignored during the trial. Some of the witnesses were forced to sign statements in Turkmen which they did not understand and their oral evidence contradicted the written statements presented to the court.

According to Turkmenistani human rights defenders and journalists in exile, torture and other ill-treatment is widespread in Turkmenistan. However, the climate of fear is such that few people dare report incidents of torture and other ill-treatment that occur in detention, or even talk about it following their release from detention. Doing so, exposes them and members of their family to reprisals from the authorities.

Amnesty International has documented cases of harassment and persecution of those who dared to publicly expose such human rights violations in Turkmenistan. Please see Amnesty International's report *Turkmenistan: An "Era of Happiness" or more of the same repression?* (Index EUR 61/005/2013) for more information, accessible at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR61/005/2013/en>.

In its Concluding Observations on Turkmenistan in June 2011, the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) noted that "the absence of comprehensive or disaggregated data on complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions in cases of torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement personnel severely hampers the identification of possible patterns of abuse requiring attention", and recommended that the Turkmenistani authorities compile and provide clear statistical data on such issues.

Due to overcrowding and poor nutrition, TB is widespread in Turkmen prisons. Alternative Turkmenistan News reported in May 2016 that the authorities concealed the real levels of TB in Turkmen prisons and frequently transferred prisoners living with TB to general barracks to conceal the true extent of the problem (for more information see <https://habartm.org/archives/5097>).

Name: Mansur Mingelov
Gender: m

Further information on UA: 97/14 Index: EUR 61/8783/2018 Issue Date: 12 July 2018