

# URGENT ACTION

## EX-MINISTER RELEASED FROM 'MEDICAL' TREATMENT

**Former Turkmenistan government minister Geldimurat Nurmammedov has been released after nine months of forced medical treatment. It is likely he was targeted because of his criticism of the authorities.**

**Geldimurat Nurmammedov** was detained on 5 October 2012 in the capital, Ashgabat, where he lives. He was transferred to a drug rehabilitation centre in the northern province of Dashoguz, some 600km from his home. No charges against him were ever announced. The Turkmen Initiative for Human Rights reported that Geldimurat Nurmammedov was released in early July and is now at home.

Amnesty International's research has revealed no evidence that Geldimurat Nurmammedov has any history of drug use. Geldimurat Nurmammedov may have been targeted for his political activities and criticism of the Turkmenistan government, as he has been previously. In December 2011, in an interview with the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Turkmen service, he criticized the Turkmenistan government for the absence of democracy and human rights in the country and called the ruling Democratic Party of Turkmenistan an "unlawful institution". A few days after the interview, the authorities closed the construction company owned by Geldimurat Nurmammedov's family. The company had never experienced any problems with the tax and financial authorities.

Geldimurat Nurmammedov served as Minister of Tourism and Culture in Turkmenistan from 1992 to 1995. Before his detention he worked as a lawyer, advising international companies.

**No further action is requested from the UA network. Amnesty International will continue to monitor the situation, and take further action as necessary.**

This is the first update of UA 318/12. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR61/005/2012/en>

Name: Geldimurat Nurmammedov

Gender m/f: m

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