

Gulgeldy Annaniyazov (m)

Adoption Status: Not Adopted

Country: Turkmenistan

Occupation: Political dissident and human rights activist

Detained Since: June 24, 2008

Charges: Illegal entry into Turkmenistan.

Sentence: 11 years imprisonment



Additional: On July 12, 1995, Mr. Annaniyazov organized the first ever anti-government demonstration in Ashgabat. The Turkmen government responded to his peaceful demonstration by sentencing him to 15 years in prison. Mr. Annaniyazov was released under a presidential amnesty in January 1999. After his release, Mr. Annaniyazov received refugee status in Norway in 2002.

On June 24, 2008, Mr. Annaniyazov returned to Turkmenistan after a change in the country's leadership to work for democratic reform. That evening while visiting with friends and family at his parents' home, plain-clothed officers entered the house without presenting any identification or warrant and arrested Mr. Annaniyazov. It has been reported that Mr. Annaniyazov was charged with illegal entry into Turkmenistan and that his trial took place in July 2008. He was not represented by an attorney and all of the hearings were closed to the public. The court has also refused to provide Mr. Annaniyazov's family with a copy of the sentence, leaving them without any specific information about his conviction or where he is imprisoned.

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