



FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS

TURKMENISTAN

Introduction

These victim profiles are illustrative of those in the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief Victims List database. Mandated by the amended International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the Victims List documents individuals who are detained, imprisoned, tortured, disappeared, forced to renounce their faith, or subjected to house arrest due to their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy.

Religions of Individuals in Turkmenistan on the FoRB Victims List

Muslim – Sunni



Bahram Saparov

Religion or Belief: Muslim – Sunni
Arrested: March 9, 2013
Sentence: 15 Years' Imprisonment
Reports of Torture: Yes
Reason for Persecution: Leading an unregistered religious community



Kakadjan Halbaev

Religion or Belief: Muslim – Sunni
Arrested: February 6, 2018
Sentence: 15 Years' Imprisonment
Reason for Persecution: Discussing religion with Turkmen citizens in Russia



Myratdurdy Shamyradow

Religion or Belief: Muslim – Sunni
Arrested: May/June 2017
Sentence: 12 Years' Imprisonment
Reason for Persecution: Meeting with others to study the writings of Said Nursi

SUNNI MUSLIMS

Sunni Muslims engaging in unregistered religious activities—even if conducted outside of Turkmenistan—face decades in prison for anti-state activities. Prisoners of conscience are often forcibly disappeared in the state's prison system and subjected to harsh living conditions, where there is evidence of physical abuse.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Jehovah's Witnesses have not been granted registration in Turkmenistan and are therefore unable to operate legally. The government has arrested and imprisoned many Witnesses for their conscientious objection to military service in the past, for which there is no civilian alternative available. Recently, the government has penalized conscientious objection with periods of corrective labor.



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NOT RELEASED

Ahmet Mammedurdyew
Annamurad Atdaev
Ashyrbay Bekiev
Bahram Saparov
Begejik Begejikow
Jumanazar Hojambetow
Kakadjan Halbaev
Kemal Saparov
Meret Owezow
Myraturdy Shamyradow

RELEASED

Arslan Wepayew
Azamatjan Narkulyev
Azat Ashirov
Bahram Hemdemov
Bahtiyar Atahanov
David Petrosov
Eziz Atabayev
Gurbangylych Muhammetgulyyev
Ikhlosbek Rozmetov
Isa Sayayev
Kamiljan Ergashov
Kerven Kakabayev
Maksat Jumadurdiyev
Mekan Annayev
Muhammedali Saparmuradov
Ruslan Artykmuradov
Selim Taganov
Serdar Atayev
Serdar Dovletov
Sokhbet Agamyradov
Veniamin Genjiyev
Vepa Matyakubov