

TURKMENISTAN

Jehovah's Witnesses

Arslan BEGENJOV

Age: 19 years

Date and place of arrest: On 2nd January 2018 in Lebab, Eastern Turkmenistan

Charges: Refusing to perform compulsory military service on grounds of religious conscience.

Article of criminal / civil / administrative code: Article 2019, Part 1.

First Court decision: On 17th January 2018 He was sentenced to one year imprisonment; appeal was denied.

Other information: In December 2014 he had received a sentence of two years imprisonment and a fee of twenty percent of his salary for on the same grounds.

Sources: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2363 and <https://bit.ly/2Lp3Tvi>

Bahram HEMDEMOV

Age: 53 years

Date and place of arrest: On 14th March 2015, in Turkmenabad

Charges: Fomenting of social, national or religious strife

Statement of the defendant: He claims he hosted a religious meeting.

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 177 (Establishes criminal responsibility for incitement to social, ethnic or religious hatred where the acts are intended to incite racial hatred or discord, or to promote exclusiveness or inferiority of citizens on the basis of racial origin. The article establishes more severe penalties where such acts are committed with the use of mass media, or the use or threat of physical violence, or in the context of an organized group)

First court decision: On 19th May 2015, he was sentenced to four years in a labor camp by the Lebab Region Court.

Last court decision: On 25th August 2015, the Supreme Court denied an appeal by his attorney.

Place of detention: LB-K 12 Seydi Labour Camp

Other information: HEMDEMOV has been tortured. Along with him, his son Serdar was jailed for 15 days and tortured. In February 2016, the government of Turkmenistan declared an amnesty that set free hundreds of prisoners but did not release Bahram HEMDEMOV. On August 15, 2016, Mr. HEMDEMOV's attorney filed a complaint on his behalf with the UN Human Rights Committee.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2063 ,

<https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/2015/sca/256321.htm>

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/5704bd904.html>

Kerven KAKABAYEV

Age: 22 years

Date and place of arrest: On 28th January 2018, Dashoguz region

Charges: Refusing to perform compulsory military service on grounds of religious conscience.

Article of criminal / civil / administrative code: Article 2019, Part 1.

First court decision: On 29th January 2018 he was sentenced to one year imprisonment.

Place of detention: Seyedi Labour camp in Eastern Lebap Region.

Sources: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2363

Sunni Muslims

Annamurad Nurmammedovich ATDAEV

Date of birth: On 17th July 1986 in Arzuv village of Gyavers District of Ahal Province

Date and place of arrest: On 27th September 2016

Charges: Administrative offense (minor hooliganism), and later charged with criminal involvement in an extremist Islamic group

Statement of the defendant: He denies the charges

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 174, Part 1 (Conspiracy to seize power), Article 175, Part 2 (Calls to violent change of the constitutional order), Article 177, Part 1 (Inciting social, ethnic or religious hatred), and Article 275, Part 1 (Creating an organised criminal group).

First court decision: He was sentenced to fifteen days imprisonment. Two new fifteen-day sentences were then handed down.

Last court decision: On 13th December 2016, he was sentenced to a fifteen-year strict regime prison term by the Ashgabad City Court.

Place of detention: Unknown

Other information: Atdaev was denied a lawyer of his choice, only being provided with a state lawyer. His trial was closed. Since January 2017, Atdaev has ‘disappeared’ (his location is unknown). He was arrested after returning to Turkmenistan to renew his passport from Egypt, where he was studying Islam at Al-Azhar University. As Atdaev had an old-style Turkmen passport whose validity was annulled when new passports were introduced, he was required to return to Turkmenistan which he had not visited since 2008. While in Egypt he married a Russian convert to Islam, Daria, and they have two young children.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2318, http://provetheyarealive.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/List-of-the-disappeared-in-TM-prisons_Prove_Sept-2017_eng.pdf

Collective Arrest

The authorities arrested more than 100 Muslims in and around the eastern city of Turkmenabad who had participated in an informal Sunni Muslim study group led by Bahram Saparov. Saparov and 19 others were arrested in March 2013 and sentenced to long prison terms in May 2013. After the first group was tried and sentenced to long terms, further large groups were sentenced at closed trials.

Bahram SAPAROV and 19 others

Age: 35 years

Place of residence: Turkmenabad

Date and place of arrest: In March 2013, in Turkmenabad

Charges: Wahhabism

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 174, Part 1 (Conspiracy to seize power), Article 175, Part 2 (Calls to violent change of the constitutional order), Article 177, Part 3 (Incitement of social, ethnic or religious hatred), Article 275, Parts 1 and 2 (Creation of an organised group, criminal association or other criminal structures or participation in their activity) and Article 291 (Theft of extortion of weapons, military material, explosive substances and explosive devices". This last charge was subject to Article 14, which covers cases where an individual did not manage to carry out the crime through circumstances that did not depend on themselves.

First court decision: On 22nd May 2013, SAPAROV was sentenced to a long prison term by the Lebap Regional Court in Turkmenabad. The Judge sentenced twenty of the Muslims to long prison terms. One was acquitted and released.

Last court decision: On 24th November 2016, SAPAROV was sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment. The sentences the others received are unknown.

Place of detention: Top-security Ovadan-Depe Prison, in the Karakum Desert 70 kilometres (45 miles) north of the capital Ashgabat [Ashgabat]

Other information: SAPAROV was arrested alongside Mekan Nurmamedovich JOMARTOV, Lukman YAYLANOV, Agamamet Meretgulyevich GAIPOV, Yusup Atajanovich AKYYEV, Azamat Charyevich KURBANOV, Tahir Sharipovich DAVLETOV, Babajan Dovletdurdyevich KADYROV, Maylis Muhammedovich MEJIDOV, Allaberdi Maratovich KURBANOV, Umarkuly Dovrankulyevich JUMASHOV, Hasan Saburbayevich YUSUPOV, Mansur Ishanmuradovich ISLAMOV, Guvanch Myradovich GURBANOV, Dovletmyrat Kakyshovich AHIPOV, Nuritdin Kamilovich JURAYEV, Atajan Imitjanovich RAIMOV, Ahmet Ergeshevich MIRZAYEV, Sultan Ahmetovich BEBITOV and Adylbek Erkinovich ATAJANOV. Lukman YAYLANOV died in summer 2016, possibly as a result of torture. Narkuly BALTAYEV died several months later. Aziz GAFUROV died in the summer 2017.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2218

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2249
http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2244
http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2318