

TURKMENISTAN

Jehovah's Witness

Bahram HEMDEMOV

Age: 52 years

Date and place of arrest: He was arrested in Turkmenabad on 6th February 2015 and imprisoned since the 14th of March, 2015.

Charges: Fomenting of social, national or religious strife

Statement of the defendant: He hosted a religious meeting.

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code of Turkmenistan Article 177

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

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

Place of detention: LB-K 12 labour camp in the town of Seydi

Mansur MASHARIPOV

Age: 32 years

Date and place of arrest: On 30th of June 2016, in Ashgabad

Charges: For assaulting a police officer

Statement of the defendant: He completely denies the charges and says that he was targeted for his faith.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 211, Part 1

First court decision: He was sentenced to one year of imprisonment on 18th August, 2016.

Place of detention: Dashoguz

Other information: In 2014 police had raided Masharipov's home and destroyed Bibles and other religious literature.

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

Sanjarbek SABUROV

Date and place of arrest: On 17th July, 2016 in Dashoguz.

Charges: Refusal to perform compulsory military service

Statement of the defendant: He is a conscientious objector to military service because it is incompatible with his faith.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 219 "refusal to serve in the armed forces in peacetime"

First court decision: After being detained for 3 weeks, Saburov received a suspended sentence of 2-years in prison.

Place of detention: Pre-trial detention in Dashoguz

Other information:

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2220

Artur YANGIBAYEV

Date and place of arrest: On 16th June, 2016 at his home in Seydi.

Charges: Refusal to perform compulsory military service

Statement of the defendant: He is a conscientious objector to military service because it is incompatible with his faith.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 219 "refusal to serve in the armed forces in peacetime."

First court decision: After being detained from 8th August to 30th August 2016 Yangibayev was released with a suspended 2-year sentence.

Place of detention: Pre-trial detention in Seydi

Other information:

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2220

Sunni Muslims

Bahram SAPAROV and 20 others

Age: 35 years

Place of residence: Turkmenabad

Date and place of arrest: He was arrested in Turkmenabad in May of 2014

Charges: Wahhabism

First court decision: He was sentenced as guilty by the Lebap Regional Court in Turkmenabad, but the sentence is unknown.

Place of detention: He was originally detained at the high security Ovadan-Depe Prison, but since the closure of their facility his whereabouts have been unknown.

Other information: Saparov was arrested alongside 20 other persons whose names have not been disclosed. Five of them (and subsequently sentenced with Saparov) were **Adylbek, Meylis, Atajan, Kamiljan** (who went by the Muslim name Hamza) and **Allaberdi** (last names unknown). They are supposed to have been detained with Bahram Saparov.

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