Mr Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov

President of the Republic of Turkmenistan

Presidential Palace

744000 Ashgabat

Turkmenistan

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Dear President,

Having been alerted by ACAT-Luxembourg (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture), a human rights organisation affiliated to the ACAT international federation (FIACAT), with consultative status at the UN, I wish to convey to you my deep concern with regard to the current situation of **Mansur Mingelov**.

According to the information I have received, Mansur Mingelov, a member of the Baloch ethnic group, was arrested by police on 6 June 2012 and questioned about his brother, arrested a day earlier. Mansur Mingelov was forced to witness acts of torture inflicted on his brother while in detention. When released on 22 June 2012, he lodged an official complaint and provided evidence of the torture inflicted on his brother, as well as on a number of other people. Police officers apparently threatened him with prosecution on drug-related charges should he not revoke the torture allegations. On 2 August 2012, he was rearrested. A month later, he was sentenced to 22 years’ imprisonment. According to the information available, he is still being held in LBK/11 prison in Seidi, Lebap Province. He suffers from tuberculosis and therefore requires medical treatment as a matter of urgency.

I believe Mansur Mingelov was sentenced solely in retaliation for his peaceful work on documenting torture in police detention.

I urge the Turkmen authorities to:

* release him immediately and unconditionally;
* ensure that he is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment and is safe and free from reprisals;
* ensure that, pending his release, he has access to the medical care he requires, in a medical facility outside the prison if necessary, and that he has regular access to a lawyer of his choice;
* initiate a prompt, impartial and effective investigation into all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment reported by Mansur Mingelov, prosecute the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

These rights are enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and in the UN Convention against Torture (CAT), to which the Republic of Turkmenistan is a party and with which it is bound to comply.

Yours respectfully,

Name, Surname:

Address:

Signature