

CRUDE ACCOUNTABILITY

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The Honorable Meret Orazov
Ambassador
Embassy of Turkmenistan
2207 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008
FAX: 202-280-1003
Email: Turkmen@mindspring.com

October 26, 2009

Dear Ambassador Orazov:

I am writing to express my concern about the October 20, 2009 arrest of Mr. Andrey Zatoka, who is being detained in prison in Dashovuz on charges of inflicting bodily harm. His trial is scheduled for this Thursday, October 29, and the international environmental community is concerned that he will not be given a fair trial.

Mr. Zatoka is a well respected environmentalist who has contributed enormously to the Turkmen, Central Asian and international environmental movements. He is a founding member of the International Socio-Ecological Union, founder of the Dashovuz Ecology Club, and has worked with many international environmental organizations including the United Nations. He is a biologist who graduated from Ural State University and has worked in Turkmenistan protecting the environment for over 20 years.

Mr. Zatoka's detainment causes great anxiety and concern among his friends and colleagues around the globe and creates a negative image of Turkmenistan in the eyes of the world. We are concerned for his safety and are closely monitoring his situation as well as the overall human rights situation in Turkmenistan.

We urge you to petition for and do all in your power to ensure his safety and immediate and unconditional release to his family.

We also request that the Turkmen government allow international witnesses to observe the trial.

Sincerely,



Kate Watters
Executive Director