

President of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov
The Permanent Mission of Turkmenistan to the United Nations
866 UN Plaza, Suite 540
New York, NY
10017 USA

Noordwijk, the Netherlands, December 2021

Dear President of Turkmenistan,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern over the safety of Turkmen opposition activist Azat Isakov whose whereabouts are unknown since he went missing on 20 October 2021 from Nikonovo in the Moscow region of Russia. He is believed to be held by the Ministry of National Security of Turkmenistan. On 9 November a member of opposition movement 'Turkmenia, Unite!' received a formal response to their inquiry from the Russian Ministry of Interior indicating that Isakov left the country on 22 October. Isakov could not have left the country through his own means because he did not possess the necessary travel documents.

In light of the above, I respectfully urge you to do everything in your power to ensure the urgent disclosure of information on the fate and whereabouts of Azat Isakov. If he is in the custody of Turkmenistani law enforcement, please ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and that he has access to his family and any medical care he might require. Moreover, I urge you to ensure that Azat Isakov is released immediately unless there is sufficient credible evidence to charge him with an internationally recognized criminal offence.

Thank you for your attention. I am looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,