



United States Mission to the OSCE

Pardon of Turkmen Civil Society Activist Tukhbatullin

Delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes to the
Permanent Council, Vienna
April 3, 2003

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States welcomes the release of Turkmen environmental activist Tukhbatullin. Since Mr. Tukhbatullin's trial was neither transparent nor in accordance with Turkmen or international standards of due process, his "confession" is similarly open to question. Nevertheless, this was a welcome step by the Government of Turkmenistan. The United States hopes that the Government of Turkmenistan will also respond positively to recommendations made by the United Nations and the OSCE.

Thank you.