

38

UPR 16, April 22, 2013  
Recommendations by Canada

## Turkmenistan

### Question

In response to Canada's 2008 recommendation, Turkmenistan agreed to bring its laws into line with articles 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Could the delegation of Turkmenistan inform us on the status of the legal review process, responsible institutions, consultations underway, progress achieved so far, benchmarks for remaining steps and deadline set for completion of this reform process?

Turkmenistan also indicated in 2008 that a number of recommendations made by Canada would be further considered by the Turkmen Government. In the area of media freedom, could the Delegation of Turkmenistan inform us on the status of the implementation and enforcement processes, specifically as regards the removal of restrictions on the ability of journalists to report freely and criticize government policy without fear of repression; and the government's related practice of directly appointing editors and senior managers to media outlets?

### Recommendations

Canada recommends that Turkmenistan:

1. Facilitate participation by civil society groups, in particular by reforming the system of registration for NGOs working in the country to allow organizations to be established by non-citizens, remove the obligation of having a minimal number of members in order to register, reduce the registration fees, and remove the obligation to notify the authorities of the NGOs' activities.
2. Release all political prisoners, including Gulgeldy Annaniazov, and account for those prisoners whose fate is unknown.
3. Abolish incommunicado detention, investigate death in custody incidents and prosecute those responsible, allow frequent visits by recognized international humanitarian organizations to all detention places, and establish an independent monitoring system for detention facilities.
4. Remove from its Religious Organizations Law prohibition on unregistered religious activities, and undue restrictions on religious material, education, and attire.

