

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 121/01 (EUR 61/010/2001, 18 May 2001) and follow-up (EUR 61/011/2001, 8 June 2001) - Torture and ill-treatment

TURKMENISTAN Dmitry Melnichenko (??????? ???????????), aged 18

Conscientious objector Dmitry Melnichenko, is now serving in an army medical unit in the town of Serdar (formerly Kizyl-Arvat) in western Turkmenistan. He has been visited by a group of fellow Baptists who report that he is content with his situation because he does not have to carry arms. No criminal charges have been brought against him despite his refusal to swear an oath of military allegiance.

According Baptist sources, the appeals from the Urgent Action network played a decisive role in the case of Dmitry Melnichenko. They report that: "Had there not been such broad international attention to the case, a criminal case may well have been brought against him and he would have been imprisoned for refusing to swear the oath as well as to carry arms on conscientious grounds."

Dmitry Melnichenko reportedly told Baptist sources not to draw further attention to his case.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action by the UA Network is requested at present.