

# CRUDE ACCOUNTABILITY

P.O. Box 2345, Alexandria, VA 22301, 703.299.0854  
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October 26, 2009

Ms. Sylvia Reed Curran  
Charge d'Affairs a.i.  
United States Embassy  
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan  
Fax: 99312-39-26-14  
E-mail: [irc-ashgabat@state.gov](mailto:irc-ashgabat@state.gov)

Dear Ms. Curran:

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 politically motivated charges of inflicting bodily harm. His trial is scheduled for this Thursday, October 29, and the international environmental and human rights community is concerned that he will not be given a fair trial.

Mr. Zatoka is a renowned environmentalist, colleague and friend, who has contributed enormously to the Turkmen, Central Asian and international environmental movements. Mr. Zatoka is a peaceful, law abiding citizen who has been arrested because he is an environmental activist in a country that has a broken legal system, refuses to allow the existence of public organizations, allows no freedom of the press and tolerates no political opposition.

I am writing to respectfully request that the US Embassy send a representative to Andrey Zatoka's trial later this week. As you know, the presence of an international witness at the trial will be extremely important, and may have a profound impact on Mr. Zatoka's fate and welfare. I ask that a US Embassy representative request to speak with Mr. Zatoka and to his lawyer, to be present at the trial, to observe whether he has been treated properly, his human rights protected and that he has been provided with a proper defense in this case.

I am enclosing a copy of the letter that Crude Accountability sent to Secretary of State Clinton on October 22, 2009, requesting that the US Department of State act on Mr. Zatoka's behalf. Additional background information on Mr. Zatoka and the international campaign for his release is accessible at [www.crudeaccountability.org/en](http://www.crudeaccountability.org/en).

Thank you for your time and prompt attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Michelle Kinman  
Deputy Director

Cc: Natasha Basley, Turkmenistan Desk Office, US Department of State