

# Ashgabat Frees 3,700 Inmates

August 28, 2011

**The  Moscow Times**

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan — Turkmenistan pardoned more than 3,700 prisoners, including about 30 foreigners, and released them from prison early Saturday in the latest amnesty ordered by President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov.

Turkmen authorities have not disclosed the country's prison population.

Berdymukhammedov has continued the practice begun by his predecessor, Saparmurat Niyazov, of releasing large numbers of prisoners to mark significant dates. The latest release comes shortly before the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

*(Reuters)*

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