Reviewer's report

Title: The effects of dictatorship on health: the case of Turkmenistan

Version: Date: 16 October 2006

Reviewer: carlos alvarez-dardet

Reviewer's report:

General
The manuscript is a potential valuable contribution to the growing field of democracy and health, and also a vivid description of the political pressures suffered by Turkmenistan, its political institutions and its inhabitants.
At times the piece seems a bit acontextual and ahistorical and hence evolving to discourse a bit anecdotal and with reiterations, this could be avoided in several ways. The references should be updated, and the electronic links checked

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Another major point is the updating of the references, a paper from 2004 is quoted as "in press". The authors should as well check carefully all the electronic references as the accession time of them is 2004, there are near to no references for 2005 and 2006.

Carlos Alvarez-Dardet & Tomas Pascual

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests