

**EXTERNAL**

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**GERMANY: @ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT OF THIYAGARAJAH P.**

The following information is based on a statement made by Thiyagarajah P. and on a doctor's certificate.

At 5:20pm on the evening of 14 July 1992 Thiyagarajah P. was cycling to work when he was stopped by two plainclothes police officers in the Tiergarten district of Berlin. One of the officers examined Thiyagarajah P's bicycle in order to check the number on the frame. Unable to locate the number in the accustomed place, the officer accused the 25-year-old Sri Lankan Tamil of theft. Thiyagarajah P. denied this, and was able to show the officer the receipt he had been given upon purchasing the bike. However, the officer screwed up the receipt while his colleague handcuffed Thiyagarajah P. This act was carried out with such violence that Thiyagarajah P. immediately felt intense pain in his left arm.

After confirming his identify by radio, the two officers began to verbally abuse Thiyagarajah P., saying that it was only foreigners who committed such acts of theft. Thiyagarajah P. was then taken to a nearby police station and was questioned in front of several other officers about the alleged theft. At one point the officer who had handcuffed him in the street raised his hand as if to strike him, and was only prevented from so doing by a colleague. Shortly afterwards the two officers who had arrested Thiyagarajah P. took him to another police station. There the handcuffs were removed and he was placed in a cell. At approximately 8:00pm he was allowed to leave the station.

Thiyagarajah P. alleges that during the time he spent in police custody the injury to his now swollen hand was not noted, nor was he permitted to ring his employer to explain his absence from work.

Because of the pain he was still experiencing in his left arm, Thiyagarajah P. consulted his family doctor the next day. It was diagnosed that he had suffered a fracture to his left wrist (*Bruch des linken Handgelenks*). On 28 July 1992 Thiyagarajah P.'s lawyer made a written complaint to the Chief Constable of Berlin (*Polizeipräsident in Berlin*), alleging that his client had been ill-treated.

Amnesty International is seeking information about the outcome of the investigation into Thiyagarajah P.'s allegations of ill-treatment.