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Moldova's failure to deliver justice for police brutality

Three years on from a disproportionate police crackdown during violent demonstrations in capital of Moldova the majority of the victims of police brutality are still waiting for justice.

Many of those held – often after arbitrary arrest - were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment in police custody.

On 3 April 2012 Amnesty International is launching a briefing, *Unfinished business: Combating torture and ill-treatment in Moldova*, at a press conference in the capital Chişinău which details underlying and systemic problems exposed during the traumatic events of April 2009 - problems that facilitate torture and other ill-treatment in Moldova - and calls for improved safeguards for detainees.

It also draws attention to the long-standing problem of police impunity and calls on the authorities to consider establishing a fully-resourced independent agency to investigate all allegations of human rights abuse.

On 7 April 2009, post election demonstrations in the capital Chişinău escalated and a few hundred individuals among thousands of peaceful demonstrators violently stormed the presidential palace and the government building.

Police detained more than 600 demonstrators indiscriminately, and hundreds were beaten.

Of the 108 complaints of torture and other ill-treatment that were sent to the General Prosecutor's office, 58 cases reportedly reached the courts. Of these only three have resulted in convictions and in those cases three police officers have received suspended sentences, and one has been fined. To date 19 police officers have been acquitted.

Among the cases that did not reach the courts was that of Andrei Taraburca who was beaten at Botanica police station in Chişinău. He applied to the European Court of Human Rights, which ruled on 6 December 2011 he had been subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, and that the authorities had failed to carry out an impartial investigation into his allegations.

"The failure to deliver justice over the blatant violations that took place in April 2009 is clear evidence the fundamental problem of impunity for torture and other ill-treatment has not yet been solved," said Heather McGill.

On 23 March Nicolae Timofti was sworn in as Moldova's new president. Amnesty International will meet representatives of the Moldovan authorities and present recommendations to tackle the problem of torture and other ill-treatment and in combating impunity.

For more information, to receive an advance copy of the report and to arrange an interview please contact:

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