

ROMANIA

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The alleged ill-treatment of Gheorghe and Dorin ANGHEL

AI CONCERN: Amnesty International is concerned that Gheorghe and Dorin ANGHEL were allegedly ill-treated by police officers.

BACKGROUND: On the morning of the 1 August 1994 three police officers arrived by car at the home of Gheorghe Anghel in the village of Dobra, in _ugag commune. Gheorghe Anghel was absent at the time.

Without a proper warrant or the consent of the family, the police officers entered the Anghel home to serve Gheorghe Anghel with a court ruling on a civil matter. Mrs Anghel could not find her identity card and was fined 10,000 lei.

Two days later, on the morning of 3 August 1994, a police officer came for the second time to serve Gheorghe Angel with the civil suit court decision. Gheorghe Angel explained that the ruling was not final and that an appeal was pending. Reportedly the officer then grabbed Gheorghe Angel by the chest and struck him, breaking his spectacles. Hearing his cries for help, Dorin Anghel, his 22-year-old son, came to the courtyard and the police officer threw him on the ground and kicked him several times.

Dorin Anghel was later examined by a forensic doctor in Alba Iulia who issued a medical certificate describing multiple body lesions caused by blows with a hard object and requiring eight to nine days of medical treatment.

Amnesty International is concerned that the alleged beating and other ill-treatment by police officers of Gheorghe and Dorin Anghel would represent a violation of the international human rights standards to which Romania has acceded. These include Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 3 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which state that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

As a State Party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Romania is bound to initiate a prompt and impartial investigation wherever there is evidence that torture or other ill-treatment has occurred. Amnesty International urges the Romanian authorities to initiate a full and impartial inquiry into the alleged beating and other ill-treatment of Gheorghe and Dorin Anghel, to make public their findings and to bring to justice anyone found responsible for human rights violations.