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ALBANIA

Enrik Pajtim ISLAMI, aged 28, from Vlora

Enrik Islami, aged 28, from the town of Vlora, was reportedly arrested by police in June 1993 and remained in detention pending trial until his death on 23 November 1994. Amnesty International does not know what charges were brought against him, but his trial was reportedly postponed three times.

It is alleged that during pre-trial detention Enrik Islami was repeatedly physically ill-treated. On the last occasion, on 23 November 1994, his hands and legs were reportedly bound while police beat him in full view of a number of other prisoners. He apparently died after being severely beaten for about 10 minutes. He was taken to a hospital and examined by forensic specialists, who filed a report on 24 November (the contents of this report are not known to Amnesty International).

His family collected his body the following day and reportedly made a video-film showing the marks of his injuries.

Background

There have been numerous allegations of police abuses reported in the Albanian press this year and at least eight people are reported to have died as a result of being shot by police or from ill-treatment in police custody.

In a statement published at the beginning of October 1994, a local human rights organization, the Albanian Helsinki Committee, noted that "Reports of excesses by police officers are constantly reaching our Committee . . . (The Committee) is aware of disciplinary and punitive measures which the competent authorities have taken in some cases of this kind. However, we are obliged to note that the response [by the authorities] has been inadequate and absolutely disproportionate to the scale of this phenomenon. We call for this problem to be resolutely tackled and for more effective measures to be taken against those officers who instead of defending the law gravely violate it."

Please refer to Amnesty International's report, *Albania: Human rights abuses by police* (AI Index: 11/05/93) issued in October 1993.