

EXTERNAL

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## GERMANY: ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT OF BÜLENT DEMIR

The information on this case comes from a written complaint of ill-treatment lodged by the victim's lawyer, and from medical reports issued by Sankt-Gertrauden Hospital and by a family doctor.

At about 2am on 4 April 1994 Bülent Demir - a 17-year-old German citizen of Turkish origin - was spraying the wall of a house with paint near his parents' home in Berlin when he was approached by a young man. The man demanded to know what he was doing, then grabbed Bülent Demir's hair, pulled his head down and tried to remove the mask he was wearing. Bülent Demir managed to break free and was starting to run away when he heard the man shout, "Stop, I'm a policeman!" ("Stehenbleiben, ich bin Polizist!"). Bülent Demir did not believe this at first, thinking it was not normal for police officers to be on duty on their own at night. However, when the man threatened to shoot him if he did not stop ("Stop, stop, stop, sonst knall' ich Dich ab!") and another man appeared from behind a bush, Bülent Demir realized they must be police officers, stopped running and lay on the ground, shouting that he was giving himself up ("ich stelle mich, alles in Ordnung!"). One of the officers then pulled his arms up behind his back by taking hold of his left wrist and the little finger of his right hand. He then handcuffed Bülent Demir, who was still lying on the ground, and began to assault him, punching him in the kidneys and hitting him in the face. The other officer then kicked him in the head twice - on the left ear and on the back of his head. This caused Bülent Demir's face to hit the tarmac with such force that two of his front teeth broke. During the assault the officers also shouted verbal insults. When Bülent Demir protested that his teeth were broken, one of the officers responded by punching him again in the back.

When another three police officers arrived at the scene Bülent Demir was pulled to his feet and taken to the main road where he was forced to lie in the bicycle lane, despite the fact that his face was injured and he was still in handcuffs. When the officers removed his wallet from his pocket to check his identity, they saw he was a member of a local sports centre and bodybuilding club. One officer demanded to know why Bülent Demir had not "given him a fight" ("Warum hast Du mir keinen Fight geboten?"). Once his details had been checked, Bülent Demir was finally told he could go home and was handed a form about damage to property (Sachbeschädigung). He was also told he would be charged with resisting police authority (Widerstand gegen die Staatsgewalt). Although his face and hand were bleeding badly, Bülent Demir's request to be taken to see a doctor was refused. The officers also refused to give him their names and numbers.

After walking home at about 2.30am, Bülent Demir went with his father to Rudolstädter Straße police station in order to complain about the ill-treatment. There he was told he needed a medical certificate. He therefore went straight to Sankt Gertrauden Hospital where an x-ray revealed a complicated fracture to his finger. He then returned to the police station

and lodged his complaint. As he was doing this he was told that there was no point in complaining as the police would give a different version of events.

The medical certificate issued by the hospital shows that Bülent Demir had also suffered bruises, abrasions, and his front teeth had been broken. He later underwent an operation to his finger and needed to spend six days in hospital. Another medical certificate issued by a family doctor on 14 April shows that following the incident he had also suffered from buzzing noises in his ear, hearing loss and nose bleeds.

Amnesty International is seeking information from the Berlin authorities about the outcome of the complaint of ill-treatment lodged by Bülent Demir and of the counter-complaint made against him of resisting police authority.