

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 25/10/95

UA 254/95 Ill-treatment / Fear of further ill-treatment 10 November 1995

GREECE Genc Dauti, aged 16, Albanian national

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Amnesty International is concerned for the well-being of 16-year-old Albanian, Genc Dauti, detained on or around 2 November 1995 by Greek police, who has allegedly been beaten in Corfu police station. The organization fears that he is at risk of further ill-treatment, particularly if transferred to Korydallos prison in Athens (see below).

Genc Dauti, a Muslim Cam, was travelling by boat with another man, the owner of the boat, from the Albanian town of Saranda back to Xarra village in Albania when they ran out of petrol, and the boat began to drift towards Greek territorial waters. The owner of the boat jumped overboard and swam to the Albanian shore, but Genc Dauti was arrested by Greek police.

When his brothers spoke to him by telephone, Genc complained that he was not given any food during his first day in custody and was beaten during the first two days and nights because he refused to confess anything. He was not given access to a doctor or a lawyer and has not been charged. His brothers fear that the police will transfer Genc to another prison in Athens.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Correctional Centre for Juveniles in Korydallos prison in Athens is renowned for its poor conditions which have resulted in regular uprisings by prisoners demanding improvements. Overcrowding led to riots and incidents between Greek and foreign detainees, mainly Romanian and Albanian, in January 1995, each group trying to control the prison.

On 25 April 1995 the Greek newspaper *Eleftherotypia* published excerpts from a study of prison conditions in the Correctional Juvenile Centres of Korydallos and Kassavetias (near Volos) which covered the period April 1993 to September 1994. Giorgos, one of the children detained in the prison reported that, "Some guards are beating a lot. One day they killed someone because of the beatings. He suffered from internal haemorrhaging and afterwards they [the guards] hanged him and said he committed suicide". Another youth, Christos said he was beaten while in punishment custody. He tried to commit suicide and was transferred to the psychiatric wing hospital of the prison. He was given quantities of sleeping pills and sedative pills. He claims he was feeling better psychologically but he had to increase his consumption of pills and became gradually dependent on them. Another boy, Akis, asked about how his interrogation went, answered that he was beaten with truncheons so much that his mother could not recognize him when she went to visit him.

The Greek Constitution (1975) clearly states that: "*Torture, any bodily maltreatment, impairment of health or these of psychological violence, as well as any other offence against human dignity are prohibited and punished as provided by law*". According to the Greek Penal Code, anyone convicted of torture or other attacks on human dignity can be punished by up to 20 years' imprisonment.

Greece ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 1991.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Greek, English, French or your own language:**

- expressing concern about the alleged ill-treatment of Genc Dauti, held since around 2 November 1995 in police custody in Corfu;
- appealing that Genc Dauti not be subjected to any further ill-treatment;
- urging that he is given access to a lawyer and medical care, and requesting to be informed of any charges against him;
- requesting that Genc Dauti's allegations of ill-treatment at the police station of Corfu be impartially and fully investigated and that anyone found responsible be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

Mr Andreas Papandreou  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Megaron Maximou  
19 Herodou Atticou Avenue  
106 74 Athens - Greece  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Athens, Greece**  
**Faxes: +30 1 325 3135**  
**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

Mr Ioannis Pottakis  
Minister of Justice  
96 Messogion Avenue  
115 27 Athens - Greece  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Athens, Greece**  
**Faxes: +30 1 775 8742**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Mr Iosif Valyrakis  
Minister of Public Order  
1 Katehaki Street  
101 77 Athens - Greece  
**Telegrams: Public Order Minister, Athens, Greece**  
**Faxes: +30 1 692 0487 or 692 3821 or 691 2661 or 692 1675**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:** Diplomatic representatives of Greece accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 December 1995.