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£GREECE: @ALLEGED TORTURE OF MEHMET HAYRETTIN ARAT BY MEMBERS OF THE ATHENS DRUGS SQUAD IN JUNE 1991

Amnesty International is concerned about the alleged torture of Mehmet Hayrettin Arat, a Kurd from Turkey, by members of the Athens Drugs Squad police over a period of some 17 hours when he was arrested on suspected drugs-related charges in June 1991.

At about 10am on 25 June Mehmet Hayrettin Arat was arrested by seven plainclothes police officers in the reception area of a hotel in Athens. One of the police officers reportedly punched him several times in the face and another put a revolver in his mouth and shouted at him, "Where's the heroin". He was taken to the headquarters of the Drugs Squad in Alexandras Avenue. There he was taken to an outdoor area of the police station where he was made to lie face down on a bench. The police officers handcuffed his hands underneath the bench and took off his shoes. Reportedly one police officer beat the soles of his feet with a stick (falanga) while another sat on his back. The policemen reportedly kept asking him, "Where's the heroin?". Mehmet Hayrettin Arat protested saying that he knew nothing and asked the policemen to be careful as he had undergone various surgical operations, to which the police officers allegedly responded with obscene gestures. The falanga reportedly went on for one hour after which the policemen removed the handcuffs and made Mehmet Hayrettin Arat run up and down a corridor on swollen feet. Allegedly, a policeman running beside him kept saying, "Fuck Turkey". He was then made to stand in the middle of a group of nine police officers who allegedly beat him and threw him about "like a football". After this had gone on for some time, one of the policemen allegedly took the bullets out of his gun, showed one of them to Mehmet Hayrettin Arat and then put it back into the cylinder of the revolver. He then reportedly spun the cylinder, put the revolver into Mehmet Hayrettin Arat's mouth and pulled the trigger. Allegedly this happened four times, after which the police officers continued the "football" treatment. After this the police allegedly put a plastic bag over Mehmet Hayrettin Arat's head so that he could not breathe. When he was close to losing consciousness the police reportedly threw water over him. This was allegedly repeated seven times. The police then reportedly cut off Mehmet Hayrettin Arat's jeans with scissors and removed his underpants. One of the police officers put on a glove and inserted his finger into Mehmet Hayrettin Arat's anus saying, "I'll make a faggot of you".

The alleged torture continued until 5am. Later on during the morning of 26 June, Mehmet Hayrettin Arat was brought before a senior police officer who allegedly said, "Since you will not talk, I will say you had a kilo and I'll make sure you get 20 years". He was subsequently brought before the

prosecutor and was committed to Korydallos prison where he is held in provisional detention on charges of drug-trafficking.

Amnesty International has received other allegations that members of the Athens Drugs Squad have tortured suspects in an effort to extract confessions from them. In January 1991 one man died in hospital allegedly after he was tortured by members of the Drugs Squad.

Amnesty International is calling on the Greek authorities to conduct a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the case and to bring any police officers found responsible for the alleged torture to justice.