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£GREECE: @ALLEGED TORTURE OF MUZAFFER YORULMAZ BY POLICE IN ATHENS IN AUGUST 1990

Muzaffer Yorulmaz, a Turkish Kurd who came to Greece as an asylum-seeker in December 1989, was allegedly tortured by police when he was arrested on suspected drugs-related charges in August 1990.

Muzaffer Yorulmaz was reportedly picked up by police at 10pm on 23 August as he was leaving the King Jason Hotel in the Omonia district of Athens, where he was staying, to buy a toasted sandwich from a local cafe. He had just left the building when he was reportedly set upon by four men who brought him to the ground and started kicking him and hitting him randomly in the face and stomach. The four men then lifted him up and handcuffed him. At this point he realized that the four men were policemen and was relieved, despite the fact that his nose and mouth were bleeding. The police officers took him to the hotel reception desk where they obtained the key to his room. A number of other people at the reception area of the hotel were also detained by the police. The police took Muzaffer Yorulmaz up to his room where they made him lie face down while they searched through his belongings. One policeman reportedly broke a bottle of cologne over his head, another policeman put a knife to his throat and another put a firearm to his head. A little while later the police reportedly brought a quantity of heroin into Muzaffer Yorulmaz's room alleging it was his. Muzaffer Yorulmaz denied the heroin belonged to him. The police officers then took him to the Drugs Squad Headquarters in Alexandras Avenue.

When he arrived in Alexandras Avenue there was reportedly a row of policemen waiting for him. They asked where he came from and when he said he was a Kurd from Kurdistan, they reportedly leaped on him with truncheons, beating him until he lost consciousness. He was revived with cold water. He and five other detainees were put in a cell until 9am the following morning when he was taken upstairs. He was allegedly beaten for some five minutes after which the police put three sheets of paper in front of him to sign. When he refused two policemen reportedly put pencils between his fingers and squeezed. He then signed. Some of the other detainees were brought into the room and one of the police officers allegedly set fire to the underpants of one of them with a cigarette lighter.

After being interrogated he was taken to a cell. While he was being taken there he was allegedly beaten further. He remained in the cell for seven days with nothing but his torn and wet clothes, sleeping on the concrete floor. For the first two days of his detention he was reportedly given nothing to

eat. Later he was given a little food twice a day. Reportedly whenever Muzaffer Yorulmaz asked to see a lawyer he was beaten. On the eighth day of his detention he was brought before the prosecutor, charged and sent to Patras prison.

When he was brought before the prosecutor, Muzaffer Yorulmaz reportedly clearly bore signs of torture. He allegedly had a cut on his head, a knife mark on his throat, a swelling on his head where the revolver had been pressed against it and his right eye was swollen to the extent that he had difficulty keeping it open. Reportedly in court he removed his clothes and showed the prosecutor the marks. The prosecutor allegedly said, "Yes, I know, I know, they beat you", but apparently took no steps to have Muzaffer Yorulmaz examined by a doctor or to investigate his allegations.

Muzaffer Yorulmaz reportedly experienced difficulties breathing for two months as a result of the kicking to his chest and still experiences pains when he is cold.

Reportedly Muzaffer Yorulmaz did not lodge an official complaint because he did not know how he could do this nor to whom he could complain.