

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Media Briefing

AI Index: EUR 25/024/2002 (Public)  
News Service No: 167  
24 September 2002

**Embargo Date: 24 September 2002 10:00 GMT**

## Greece: Human rights violations in figures

The report "*Greece: In the shadow of impunity -- Ill-treatment and the misuse of firearms*" cites allegations concerning human rights violations committed by law enforcement officials against 66 individuals. Amnesty International and the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights believe that this figure does not reveal the full extent of such violations, which are undoubtedly under-reported.

The report includes information on:

eight fatal shootings by police officers (of these three of the victims were Roma, one a Pontic Greek, two Albanians, one a 17-year-old Serbian high-school student and one a member of the majority Greek population);  
nine cases of minors;  
six boys and men subjected to sexual threats and humiliation, one of them publicly.

Although this report is based on a limited number of cases, official figures confirm the effective impunity enjoyed by Greek law enforcement officials alleged to have committed serious human rights violations.

According to information made available to Amnesty International/International Helsinki Federation:

Not a single police officer was convicted of torture or ill-treatment between 1996 and 2000, according to official figures.

In 2000 and 2001, only three police officers charged with offences relating to torture and ill-treatment were tried in court. Two cases resulted in acquittals and the third reduced a 30-month prison sentence to a suspended 15-month prison sentence.

No police officers have been tried for such offences in the first eight months of 2002.

Between the beginning of 2000 and June 2002, judicial councils or courts issued decisions in five cases connected with fatal shootings by police officers. In two cases the defendants were not indicted and were accordingly not referred for trial, in two others the police officers concerned were convicted of manslaughter and received suspended prison sentences, and in the fifth case, a police officer convicted of manslaughter was sentenced to four and a half years' imprisonment, subject to appeal.

By the end of June 2002 no border guards or soldiers had been indicted in connection with any of the border incidents cited in the report.

The ethnic background of the victims includes:

17 Albanians;

15 Roma;

10 majority Greek;

1 Pontic Greek (ethnic Greek from the former Soviet Union);

22 others, including 18 unauthorized immigrants, among them asylum-seekers, from the Middle East, Africa and Asia (predominantly Kurds from Turkey, Iran and Iraq);

1 Serb.

**The full report and other information for journalists is available on  
<http://news.amnesty.org/greece2002>**

Public Document

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