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## ITALY - THE ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT OF ROMANIAN NATIONAL, ARSENIE CRETU, BY MILAN POLICE

Arsenie Cretu is a 31-year-old Romanian national who was arrested by Milan police in May 1993 and sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for sexual assault and robbery in November 1993. He denies the charges: the outcome of an appeal hearing against his sentence is not yet known to Amnesty International. At the time of his arrest in May 1993 he was temporarily resident in Italy where he had travelled in search of work. He has a wife and child in Romania.

He was arrested by police at an apartment in Milan on the night of 25/26 May 1993. When he was interviewed by the judge of preliminary investigation (giudice per le indagini preliminari) attached to Milan Tribunal on 29 May 1993 the judge recorded his statement that at the time of arrest police had beaten him and urinated on his head; he also noted visible bruises and signs of injury on his thorax, abdomen and back.<sup>1</sup>

According to the information received by Amnesty International, Arsenie Cretu repeated his allegations of ill-treatment in a subsequent signed memorandum deposited with the court in May 1993. In this document he stated that the police had beaten him over a two-hour period before he was taken to a central police station where they beat him once again. ["... continuavano a picchiarmi, e uno di loro mi ha fatto la pipi sulla testa. Dopo due ore di botte mi hanno portato in Questura ... e anche qui mi hanno riempito di botte"]. Amnesty International also understands that on his admission to San Vittore prison, Milan, in the afternoon of 27 May 1993, he was examined by a doctor who recorded various injuries to his body.

Amnesty International is seeking confirmation from the Italian authorities that a judicial investigation was opened into the allegations of police ill-treatment which Arsenie Cretu made to the court in Milan and for their cooperation in informing the organization of the findings of any such investigation and of any further judicial or administrative proceedings arising from it.

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<sup>1</sup> "... sono stato immediatamente bloccato dagli agenti della polizia che mi hanno picchiato. L'ufficio da atto che a questo punto l'indagato solleva la maglietta che indossa e mostra il torace, l'addome e la schiena che presentano ecchimosi e segni de lesione personale, e dichiara altresì che i poliziotti gli hanno urinato in testa" Extract from official handwritten record of Cretu Arsenie's interview by the Judge of preliminary investigation on 29 May 1993.