

ROMANIA

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The alleged ill-treatment of Ioan NEAGU

AI CONCERN: Amnesty International is concerned that Ioan NEAGU was allegedly ill-treated by police officers.

BACKGROUND: According to reports received by Amnesty International, on 30 September at around 4.30pm Ioan Neagu went to *S.C. Fartec S.A.*, a factory in Bra_{ov} from which he had been dismissed in violation of a court ruling. He wanted to see the President of Romania, Ion Iliescu, who was supposed to visit the factory that afternoon. Before Ioan Neagu reached the main gate he was approached by factory guards, two of whom started to push him and ordered him to leave. An officer of the Bra_{ov} police also approached him and Neagu told him that he did not intend to cause any trouble.

At around 4.50pm Ioan Neagu was standing 25 metres away from the entrance to the factory where a crowd still waited to greet the president. Suddenly he was surrounded by several police officers who punched and kicked him all over his body, tearing his shirt and trousers. He was then dragged into a police car and taken to the Bra_{ov} police station where he was told that he would be charged with disturbing public peace and was asked to give his personal details. He was detained until around 6.45pm when he was released without any charges. Colonel Rizescu reportedly told him to come and speak to him after working hours and that he would be compensated for the torn shirt and trousers.

Amnesty International is concerned that the alleged beating and other ill-treatment by police officers of Ioan Neagu would represent a violation of the international human rights standards to which Romania has acceded. These include Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 3 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which state that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

As a State Party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Romania is bound to initiate a prompt and impartial investigation wherever there is evidence that torture or other ill-treatment has occurred. Amnesty International urges the Romanian authorities to initiate a full, independent and impartial inquiry into the alleged beating and other ill-treatment of Ioan Neagu, to make public their findings and to bring to justice anyone found responsible for human rights violations.