

EXTERNAL

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GERMANY: ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT OF HASAN G. AND KADIRE G.

The information on this case is based on written statements by the G. family, on a criminal complaint lodged by Hasan G. and on medical and press reports.

On 28 December 1994, just after midnight, Hasan G. heard shouting and the sound of the front door of his Cologne flat being broken down. This was followed by the sound of feet running up the stairs. Just as he was about to leave his bedroom to see what was going on, several masked men dressed in civilian clothes stormed into his room, threw him on the bed and hit him. Fearing that he was being attacked by right-wing extremists he called to his 68-year-old mother in the next room to take his five-year-old twins and escape out of the window. He also tried to defend himself from the blows he was receiving. Meanwhile his attackers pointed their guns at him and pressed a pillow over his face to muffle his cries. These were heard, however, by two of his neighbours who called the police.

It was not until Hasan G. had been dragged into the kitchen in handcuffs that he was informed that the intruders were, in fact, themselves police officers. (Apparently the officers, who up until now had allegedly made no attempt to identify themselves as such, had come to the flat with a warrant to arrest a relative of Hasan G. The relative had reportedly not lived there for several months, however.) Completely disoriented and bleeding from his injuries, Hasan G. was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Hasan G.'s two daughters who live in the flat below had heard their father's cries and the noise of the police raid and were themselves suddenly confronted by armed masked strangers at their door. They too at first feared an attack by right-wing extremists. One of them, Tatlican G., then went into the upstairs flat where she was alarmed to see blood in her father's bedroom and in the bathroom. She also saw her grandmother, Kadire G. sitting on a sofa. Fearing for her health - Kadire G. had suffered a stroke the previous year - Tatlican G. asked an officer whether her grandmother had received medical attention. She alleges that the officer told her that the woman had suffered no injuries and did not need to see a doctor. In fact officers had allegedly pinned Kadire G. against the wall with the kitchen table and she had, according to a medical certificate and photographic evidence, suffered extensive bruising to her stomach, thigh and left shoulder.

Medical certificates also show that Hasan G. had suffered multiple bruising and abrasions to the head, neck, chest, abdomen and left leg. Hasan G. spent five days in hospital and several weeks after the incident was diagnosed as suffering from "post-traumatic stress reaction". He is currently undergoing psychotherapy. Hasan G. is himself currently under investigation for

"resisting law enforcement officials (Widerstand gegen Vollstreckungsbeamte).
The Cologne Public Prosecutor (Staatsanwaltschaft) has also launched a criminal investigation into the allegations against the police.

Amnesty International is currently seeking information from the North-Rhine/Westphalia authorities about the outcome of the investigations into the allegations of police ill-treatment and the complaint made against Hasan G.