

ROMANIA

AI Index: EUR 39/04/94  
EXTERNAL  
19 December 1994

The alleged ill-treatment of Gabriela-Ioana GAVRILA

**AI CONCERN:** Amnesty International is concerned that Gabriela-Ioana GAVRILA was allegedly ill-treated by police officers.

**BACKGROUND:** On 4 July 1994, at around 10am, Gabriela-Ioana Gavril\_ had just left her apartment in Bucharest, in \_osea Mihai Bravu number 380-382, when two police officers came out of the lift on the seventh floor landing and approached her. After Major Ionel Ladaru told her that he had come to arrest her, Gabriela-Ioana Gavril\_ reportedly fell to the ground in shock. When she asked why she was being arrested, Major Ionel Ladaru called her a prostitute and told his colleague to take her by the hands so that she could be taken away. When they did not succeed in lifting her, Major Ionel Ladaru twisted her hands. Gabriela-Ioana Gavril\_ then stood up and asked to telephone her mother to inform her that she had been arrested; however, she was not allowed to go back into her apartment. Major Ionel Ladaru kicked her in the abdomen causing her to fall to the ground. She was then punched in the back and on the head and pulled into the lift, crying and shouting for help. Her shoes were no longer on her feet. The officers threatened to continue the beating if she did not keep quiet in front of the people who stood outside the building. Some of the people asked the police officers why she was crying for help and they replied that she was "a big criminal and a thief".

In the police car Gabriela-Ioana Gavril\_ asked Major Ionel Ladaru why she had been beaten and he reportedly replied: "You were beaten? Who witnessed this? Who is going to believe a prostitute like you?" She was then taken to the prosecutor's office to be questioned about the business affairs of a private firm where she was employed. Later that day a medical examination at the Institute of Forensic Medicine confirmed that she had lesions on her body which were the result of a beating. Accompanied by her employer she then returned to the prosecutor and complained about the ill-treatment. The prosecutor reportedly expressed concern about the legal grounds for police officers working in Bucharest-Sector 1 to be ordered to bring her for questioning in Bucharest-Sector 3. Gabriela-Ioana Gavril\_ suspects that her ill-treatment by the police officers and the criminal complaint against the firm where she works were motivated by the dismissal from the same enterprise of a temporary assistant.

Amnesty International is concerned that the alleged beating and other ill-treatment by police officers of Gabriela-Ioana Gavril\_ 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 an independent and impartial inquiry into the alleged beating of Gabriela-Ioana Gavrilă, to make public their findings and to bring to justice anyone found responsible for human rights violations.