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DETENTION EXAMINATIONS IN APPLICANTS TO HRFT DUE TO TORTURE

BETWEEN 2012-2021

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Aim: Forensic medical evaluations to evaluate the health conditions of deprived/deprived of liberty, to prevent acts of torture through documentation, and to initiate judicial proceedings regarding those responsible, are in line with the basic forensic report standards recommended by the autority as well as the Istanbul Protocol (IP). must be suitable. It is aimed to periodically compare the effects of forensic medical evaluations made during the detention process in terms of making torture visible, preventing and providing access to justice.

Materials-Methods: 5046 people who were detained between 01.01.2012 and 31.12.2021 applied to the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT) due to torture and ill-treatment. Socio-demographic data were collected from the information provided by the health institution where the forensic examinations were carried out, the presence of the arm cuff during the examination, whether the physician listened to the complaint and the story, whether systematic evaluations were made or not, and the physical and mental findings were determined in the examinations performed in the HRFT. Frequency analyzes and chi-square tests of the data were performed in SPSS Statistics (Ver.20.0) program.

Results: 3187 applications (63.2%) were examined in a health institution, 57.7% of the examinations were made in hospitals, 3.8% in a forensic medicine institution, 2.7% outside the health institution. The law enforcement was taken out during the examination in 1583 (31%) applications, 26.8% of the complaints and 17.5% of the stories were heard. While 15.5% of the applicants stated that they were examined according to complaints, the rate of applications stating that a systematic examination was made according to the Istanbul Protocol was 10.2% (523 applications). In the examinations made at the HRFT of the applicants who were not systematically examined during the detention process, it was seen that 86.5% had a physical diagnosis, 86.4% had a psychiatric diagnosis, and the rate of applications for which treatment was recommended was 83.6%.

Conclusion: The results show that forensic examinations are not conducted in accordance with the principles of IP in a procedural sense, and the diagnosis and treatment processes are seriously disrupted in applications made due to torture.

Keyword: Istanbul protocole, medico-legal investigation, torture

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