

The Result Report of the Survey

On Detection of Systematic Torture in Detention Centers and Prisons in Turkey



JUNE 2020

Expulsion, detention, illegal interrogation, which started illegally after the declaration of State of Emergency, has been replaced by torture and severe isolation in some places. More than 30 people, including Gökhan Açıkkollu, Halime Gülsu, Teoman Gökçe, Turan Özcerit, Mustafa Erdoğan, Halil Özyavuz and Zeki Güven, died in prison and in the process of law enforcement.

Since 15 July 2016, the acts against the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment have been experienced intensely and systematically in detention centers and prisons. While it is necessary to initiate a direct investigation about these violations, it is seen that no investigation has been launched against any of the allegations of torture and right to life violations, and that no legal action has been taken against responsible persons. Despite the descriptions and findings of the International Organizations and Amnesty International stating that "There is serious evidence showing the existence of torture including rape" ⁽¹⁾, and the statement of the Human Rights Watch that "Torture and ill-treatment in Turkey seems to have become a widespread problem", it has been observed that the executive and the investigative bodies have not taken action, although they have detected these violations. Amnesty International also pointed out these facts in its report named "Police torture and kidnapping in Turkey" ⁽²⁾. Developments show that state bodies have no effort to prevent violations of the right to life and prohibition of torture, on the contrary, they have an administrative practice to ignore, even encourage such violations.

Pursuant to the legislation, criminal and administrative investigations should be initiated against the public officials who are determined as torturers. And they should be punished and dismissed from jobs when found guilty. Despite serious evidence, no judicial and administrative investigations have been initiated against these officers and they still continue to perform public duties. It shows that these officers' regular supervisors, executive bodies, investigative authorities, and the judiciary are tolerant of torture.

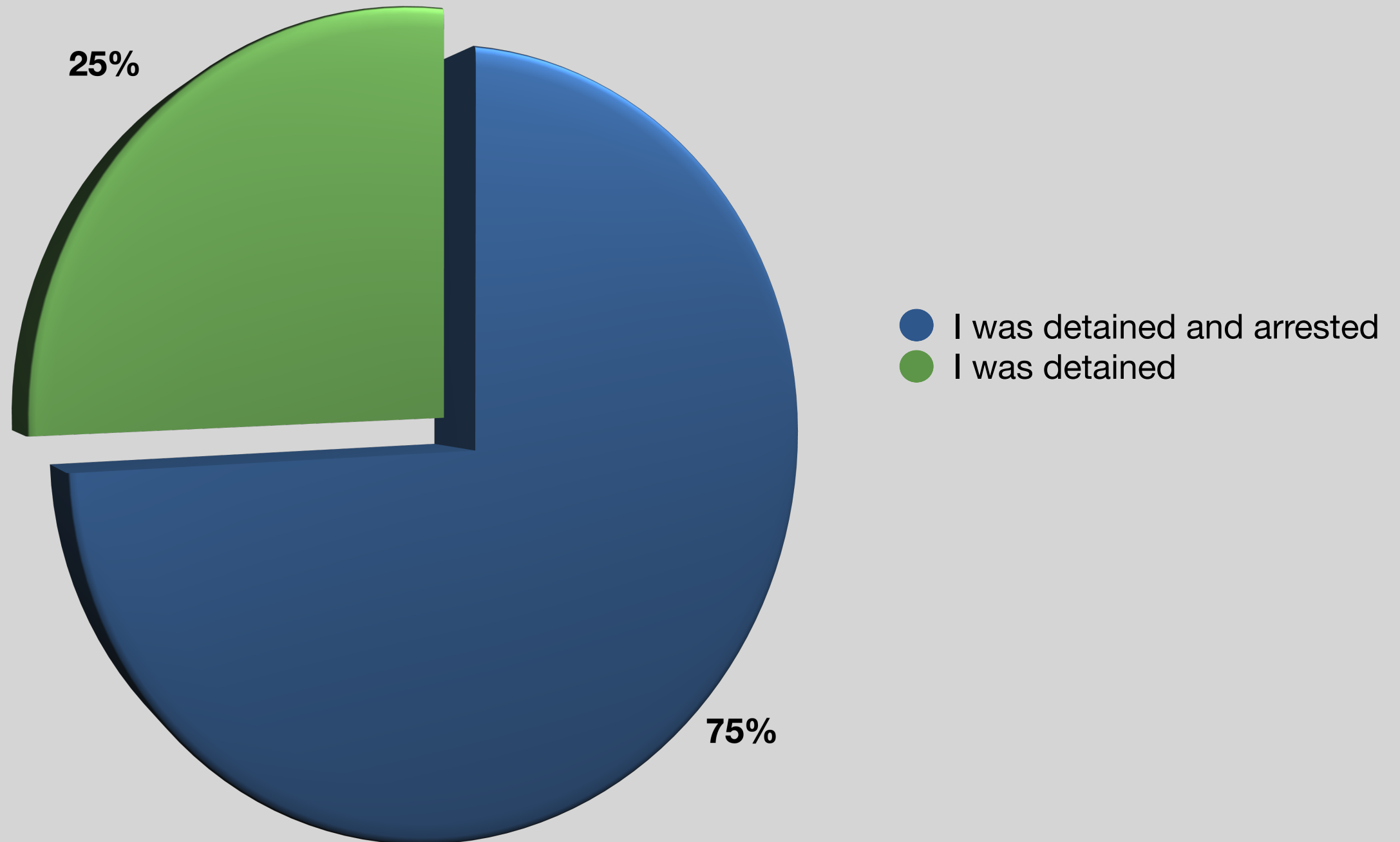
In this context, a questionnaire has been conducted for detainees and/or arrested persons in order to determine how common torture and ill-treatment is in law enforcement and prisons. The results obtained from the questionnaire indicate that there has been systematic torture, especially at the law enforcement stage. ⁽³⁾

1 <https://www.amnesty.org.tr/icerik/turkiye-gundemdeki-iskence-iddialarina-yonelik-bagimsiz-gozlemcilerin-gozaltinda-tutulan-insanlara-erisimlerine-izin-verilmeli>

2 <https://www.hrw.org/tr/report/2017/10/12/310026>

3 The respondents also answered questions about other rights violations. In this report, only findings related to torture and ill-treatment are shared.

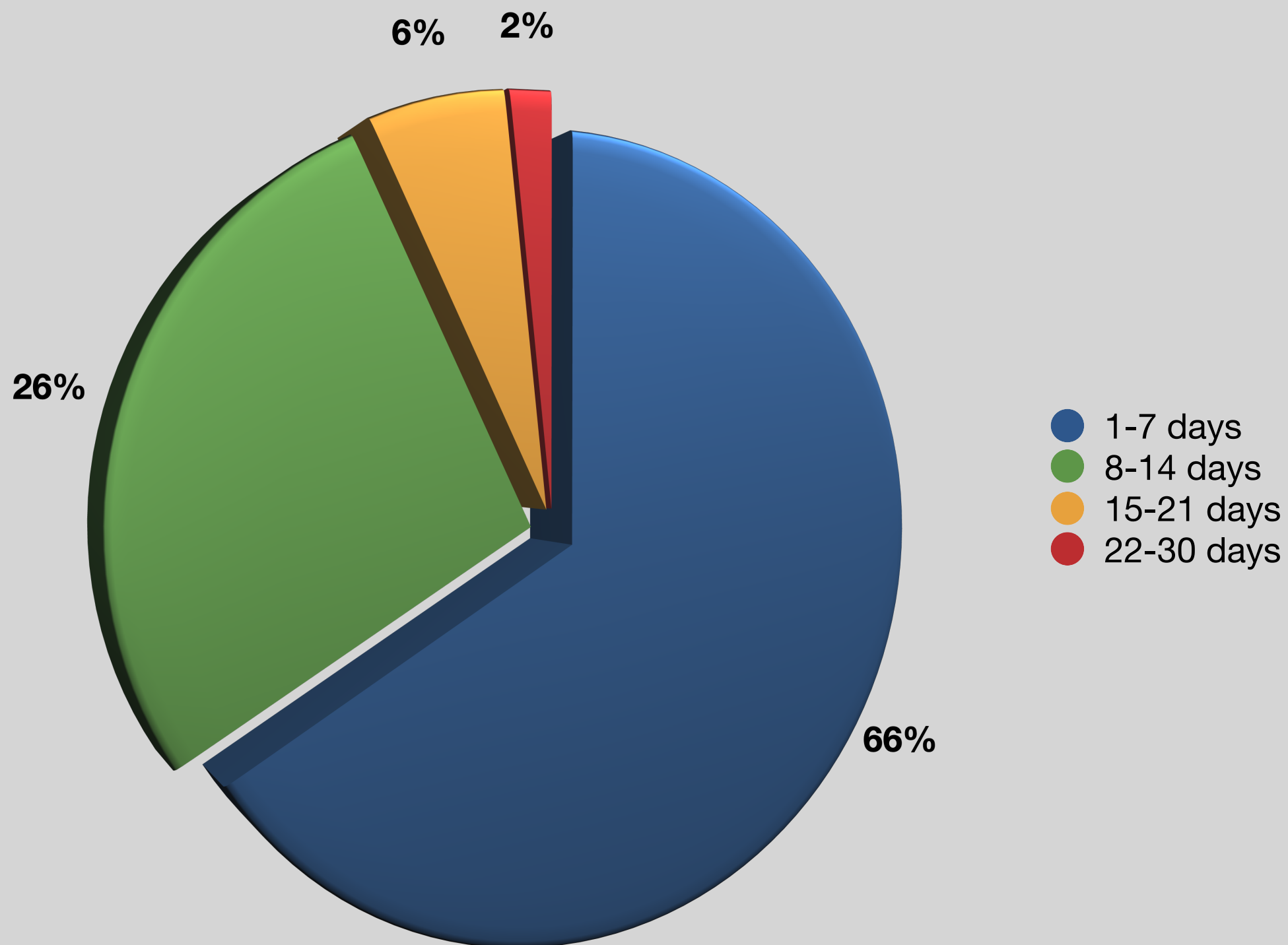
Have you ever been subjected to detention and/or arrest?



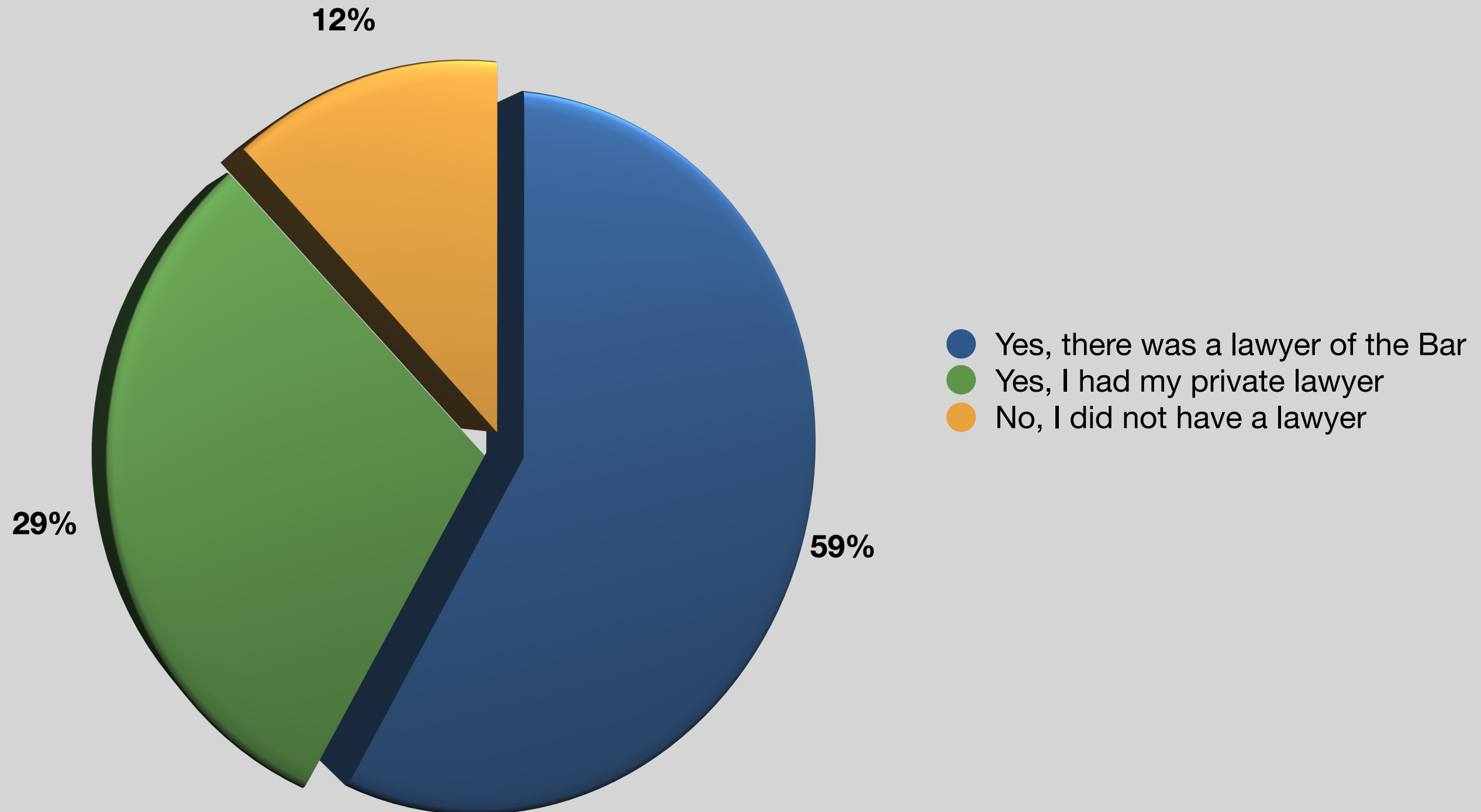
What were the criminal acts based on your detention and/or arrest? (%)



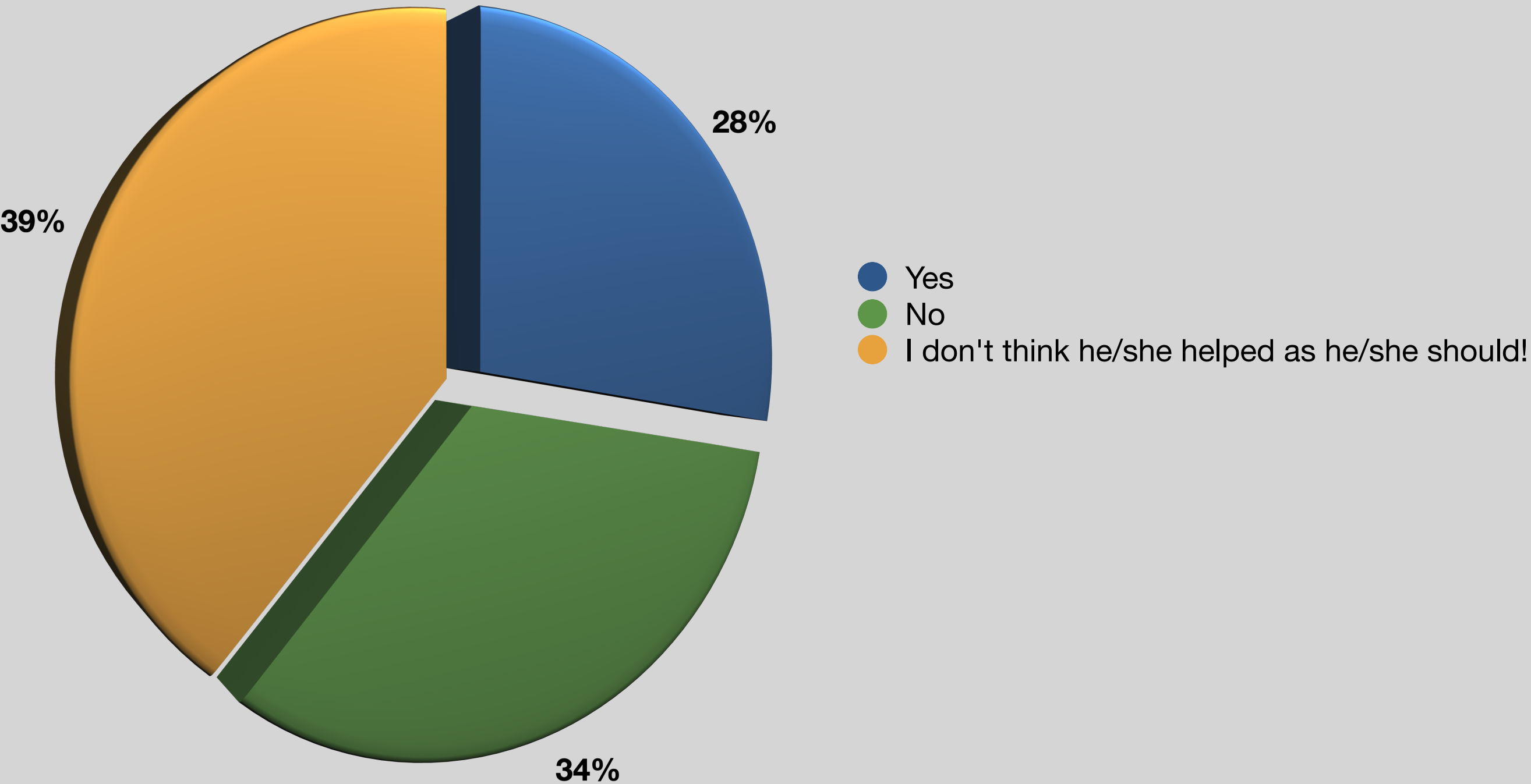
How many days did you stay in custody?



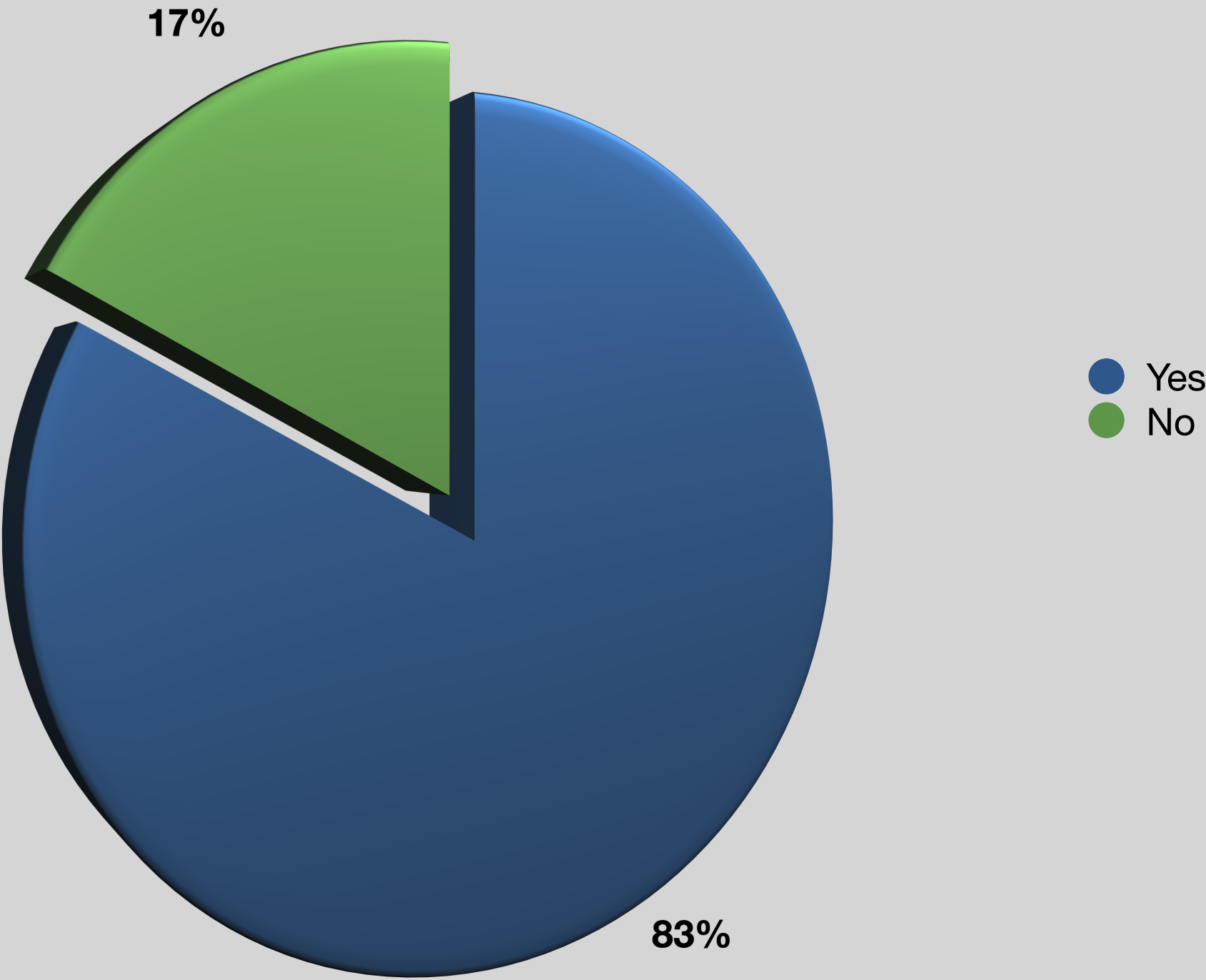
During the detention period, did you have a lawyer?



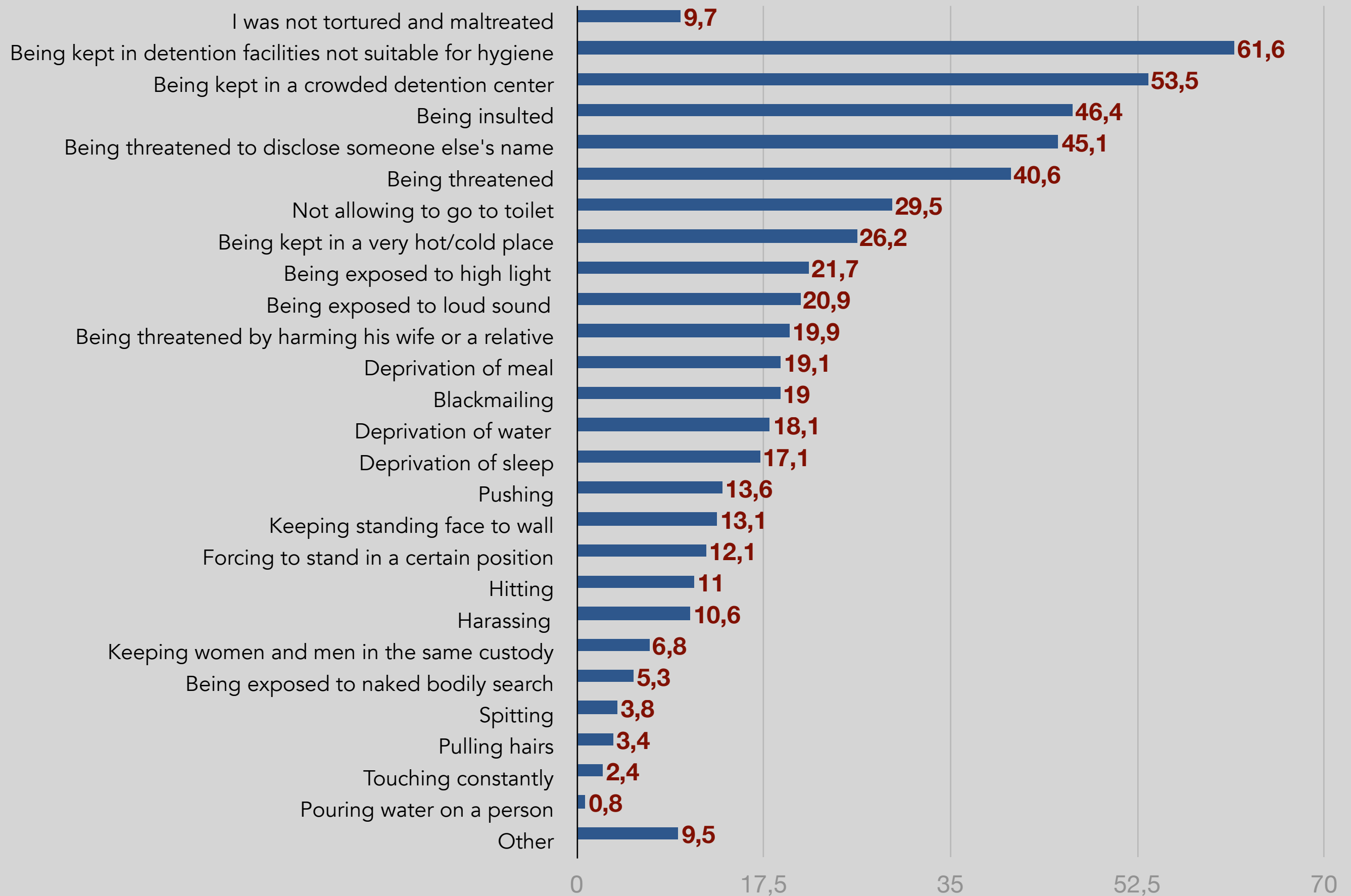
Did the lawyer provide you with legal assistance as required during the detention process?



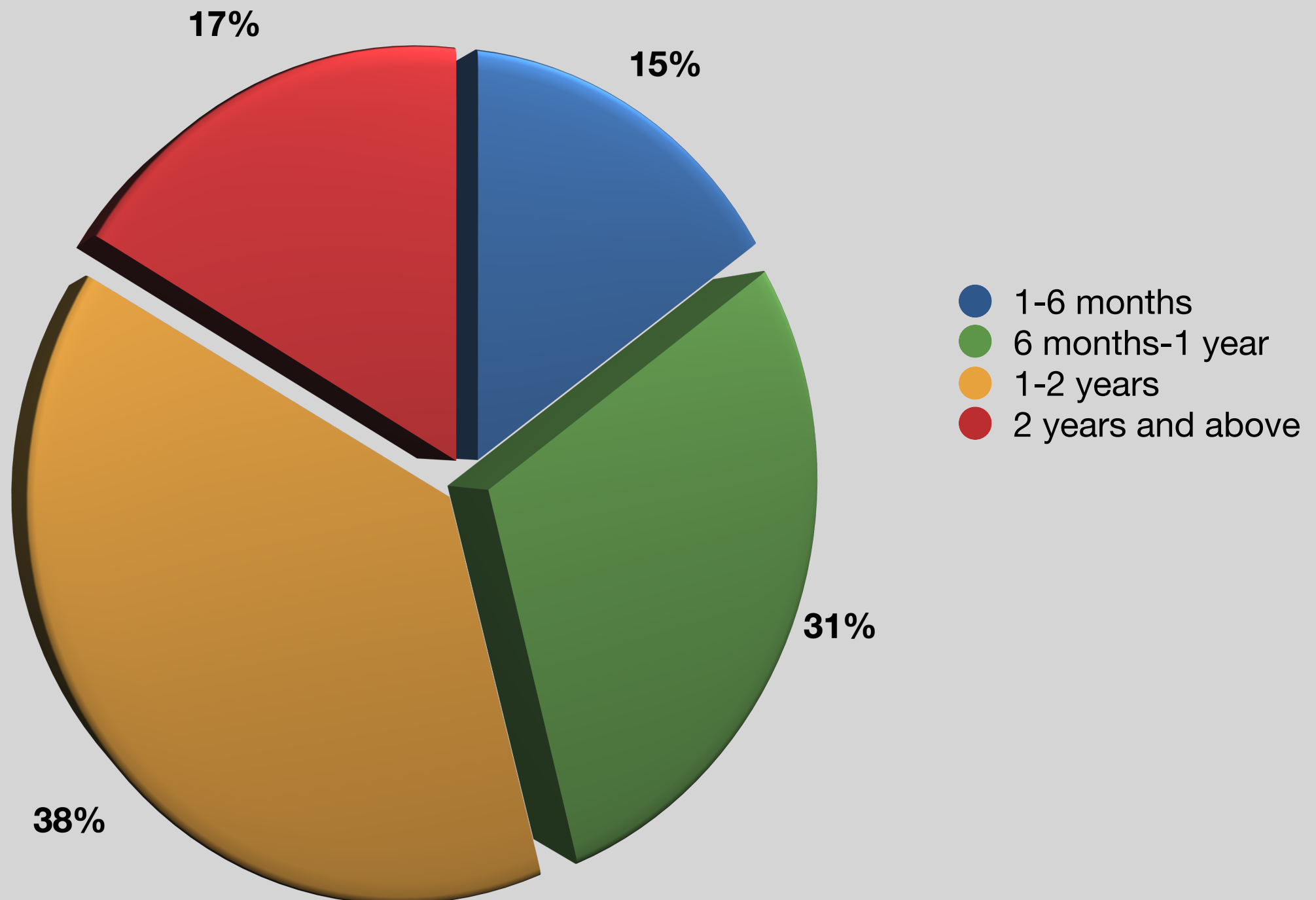
Have you ever been tortured or mistreated during the detention phase?



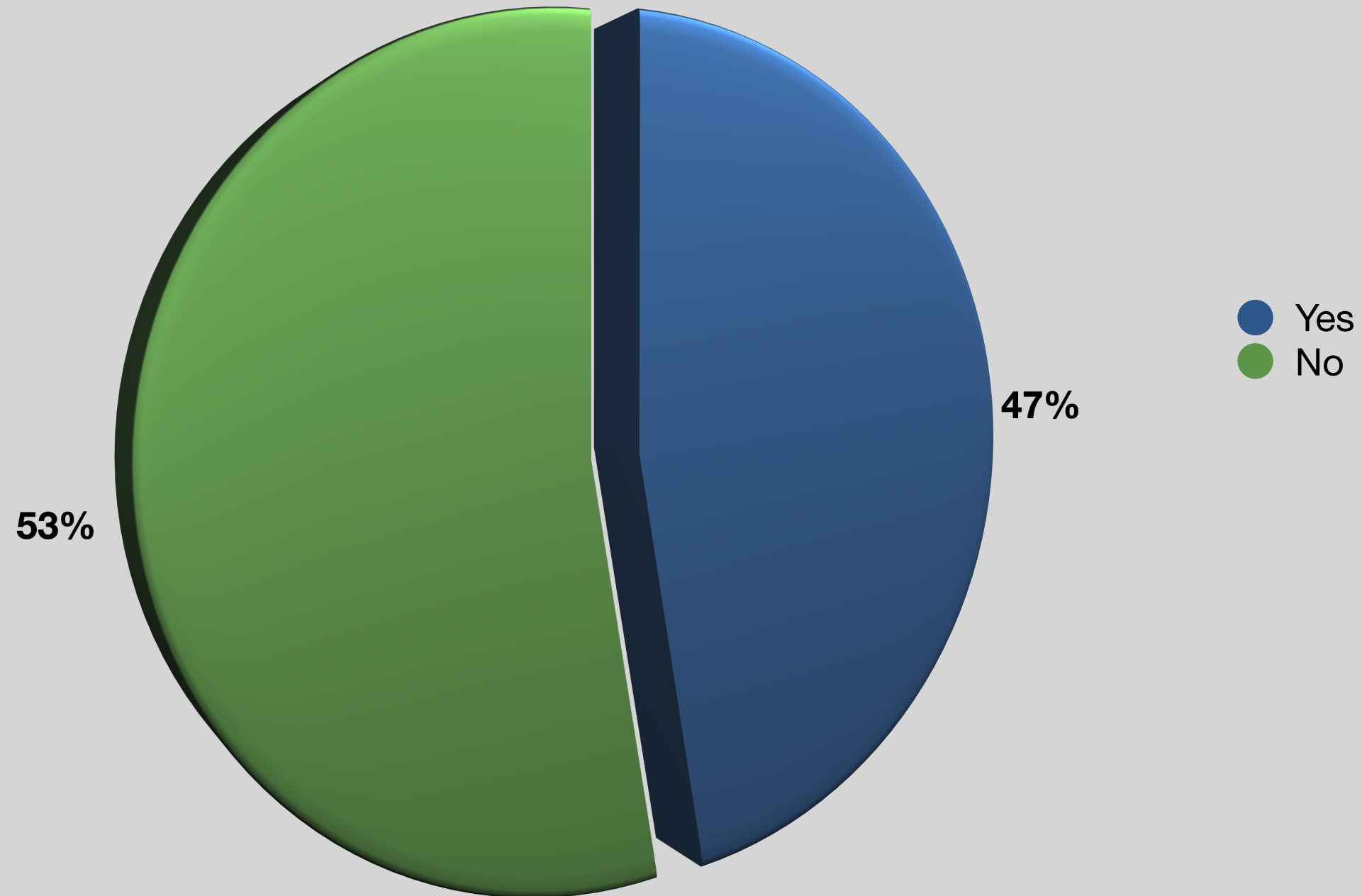
What kind of torture or ill-treatment did you face during the detention phase? (%)



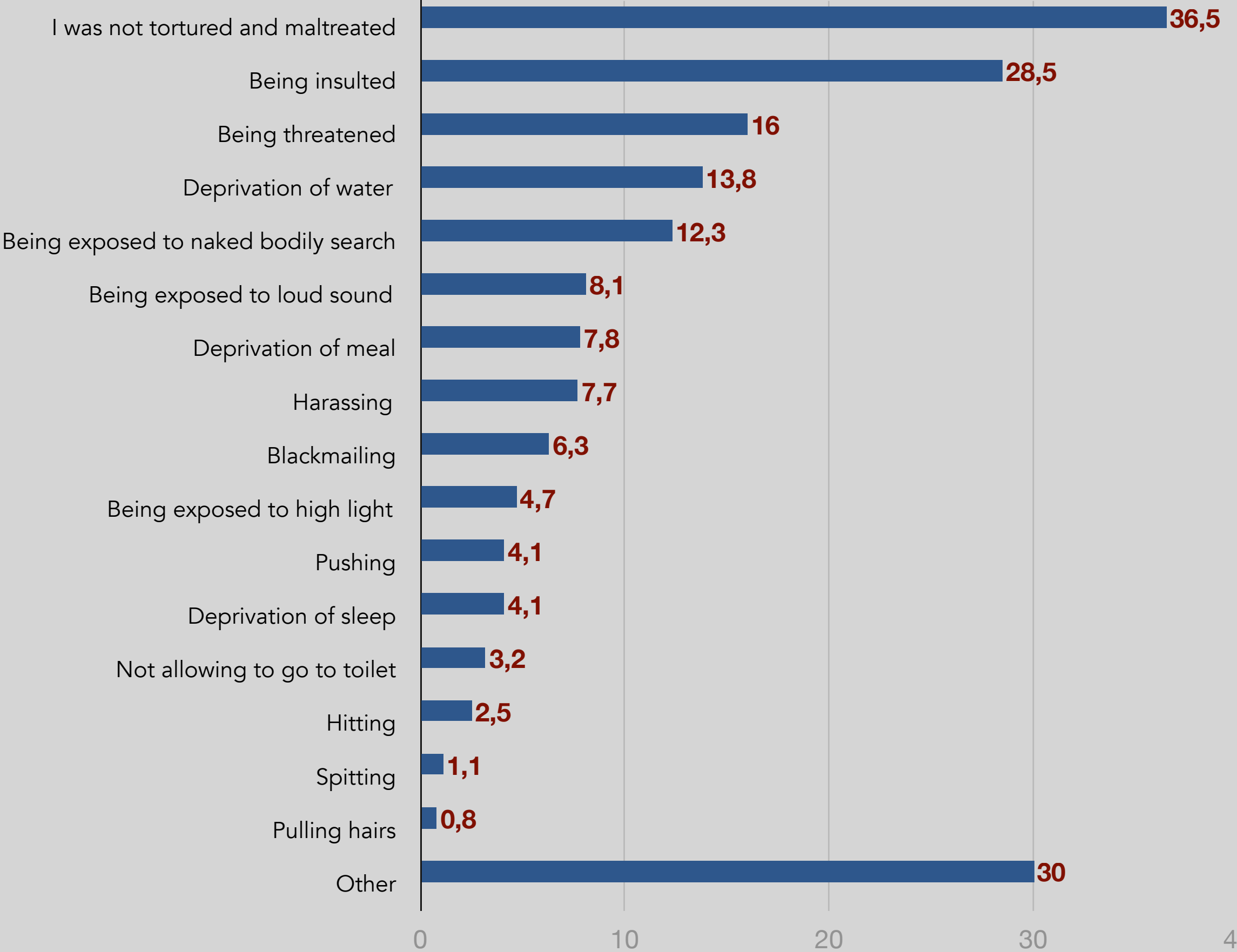
How long have you been arrested?



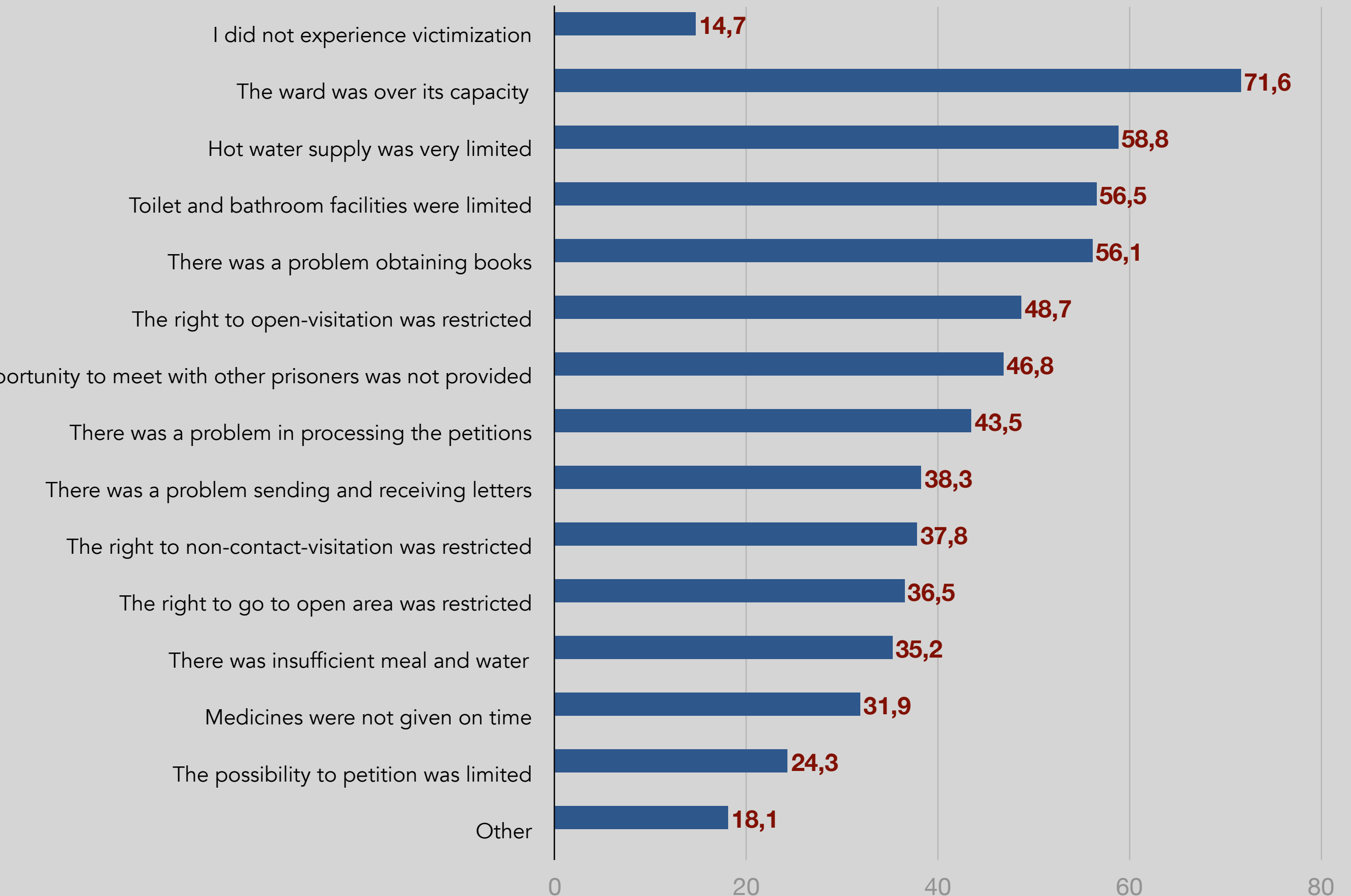
Have you ever been tortured or mistreated in prison?



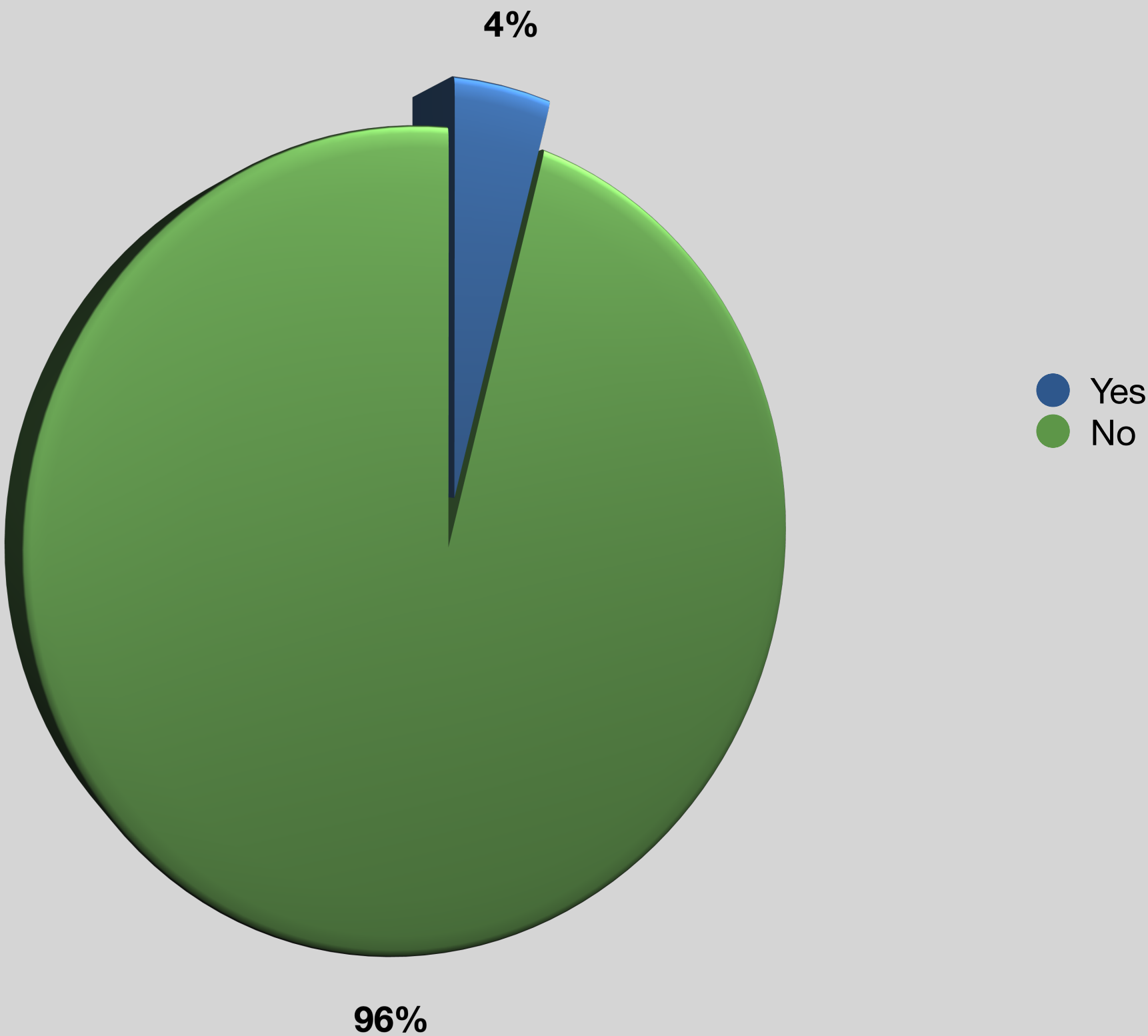
What kind of torture or ill-treatment did you face in prison? (%)



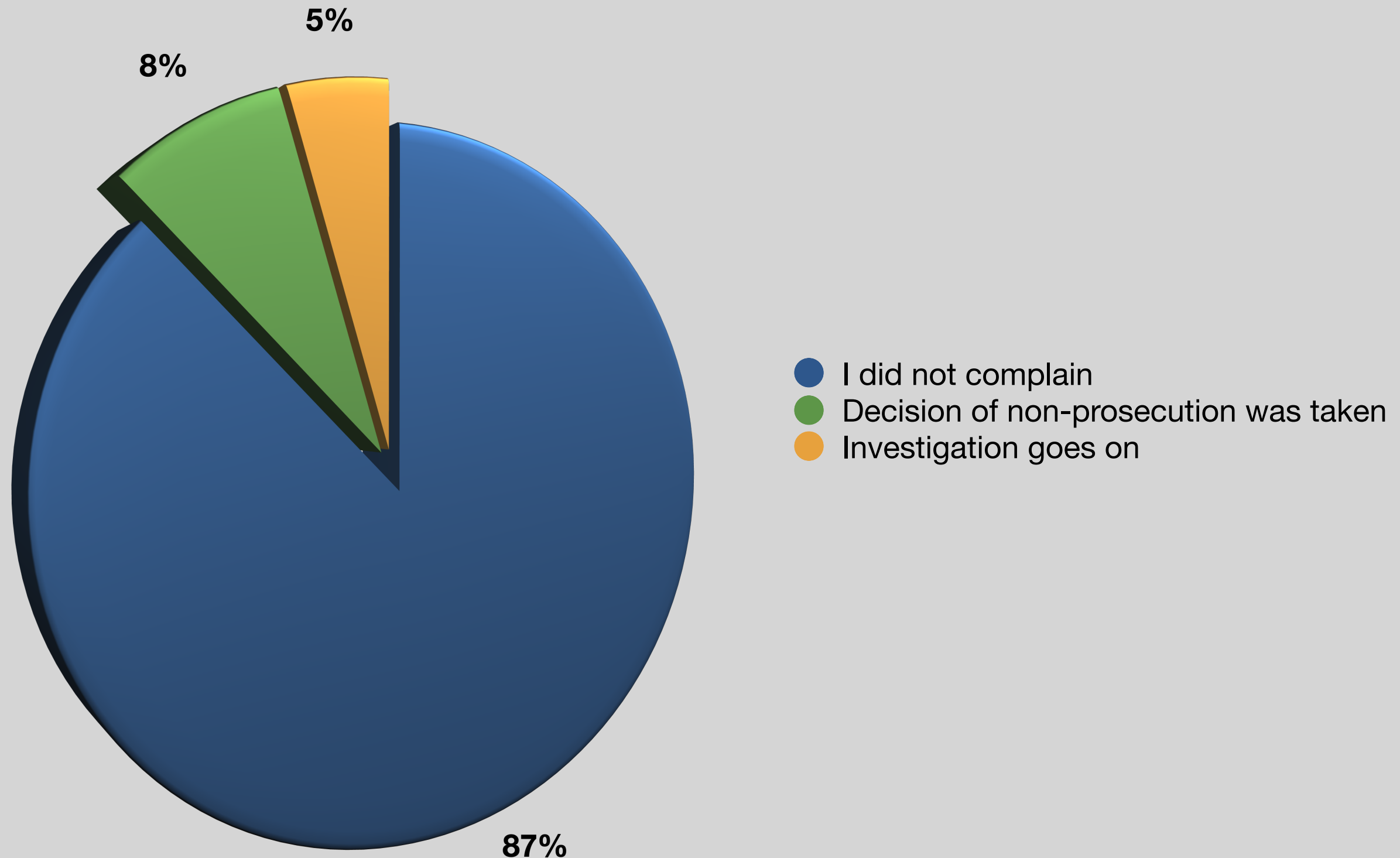
What kinds of grievances have you experienced in prison? (%)



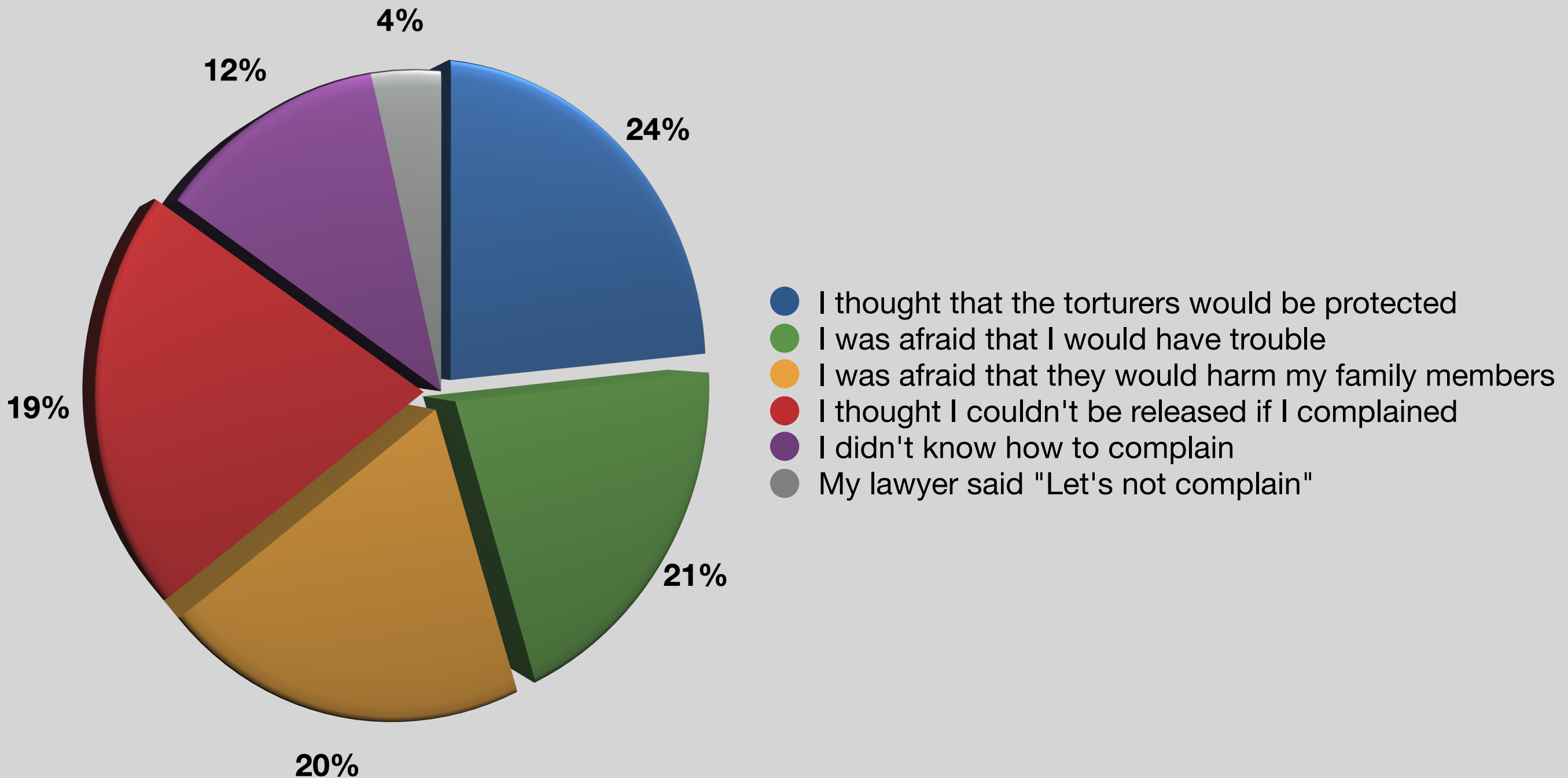
Have you received a medical (doctor's) report due to torture / ill-treatment?



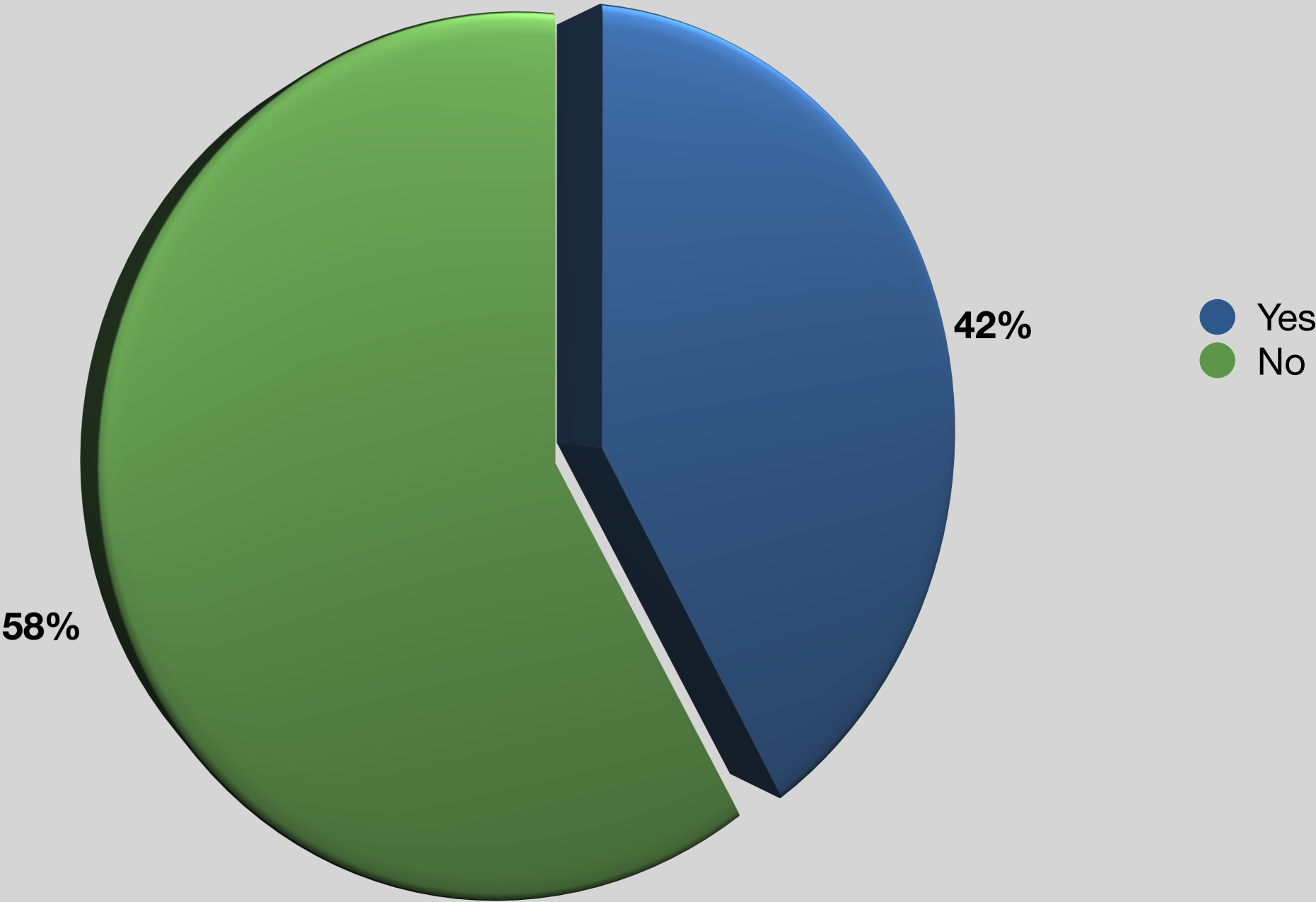
Have you complained about torture / ill-treatment you have been exposed to? What was the result?



If you have not complained, what is the reason?

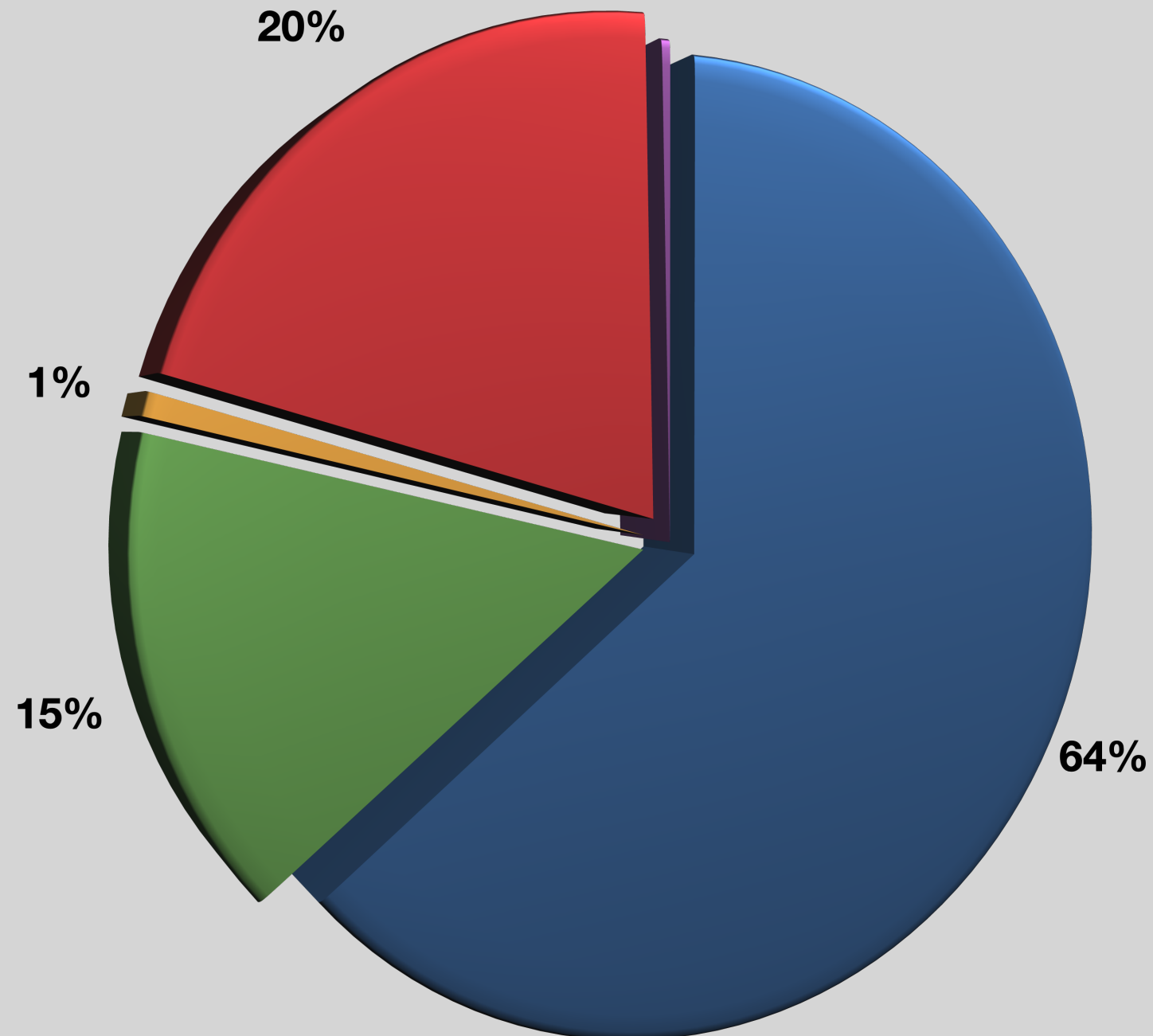


Have you mentioned the torture/ill-treatment at the stages of the police statement, the prosecution statement, the Criminal Court of Peace or the Assize Court?

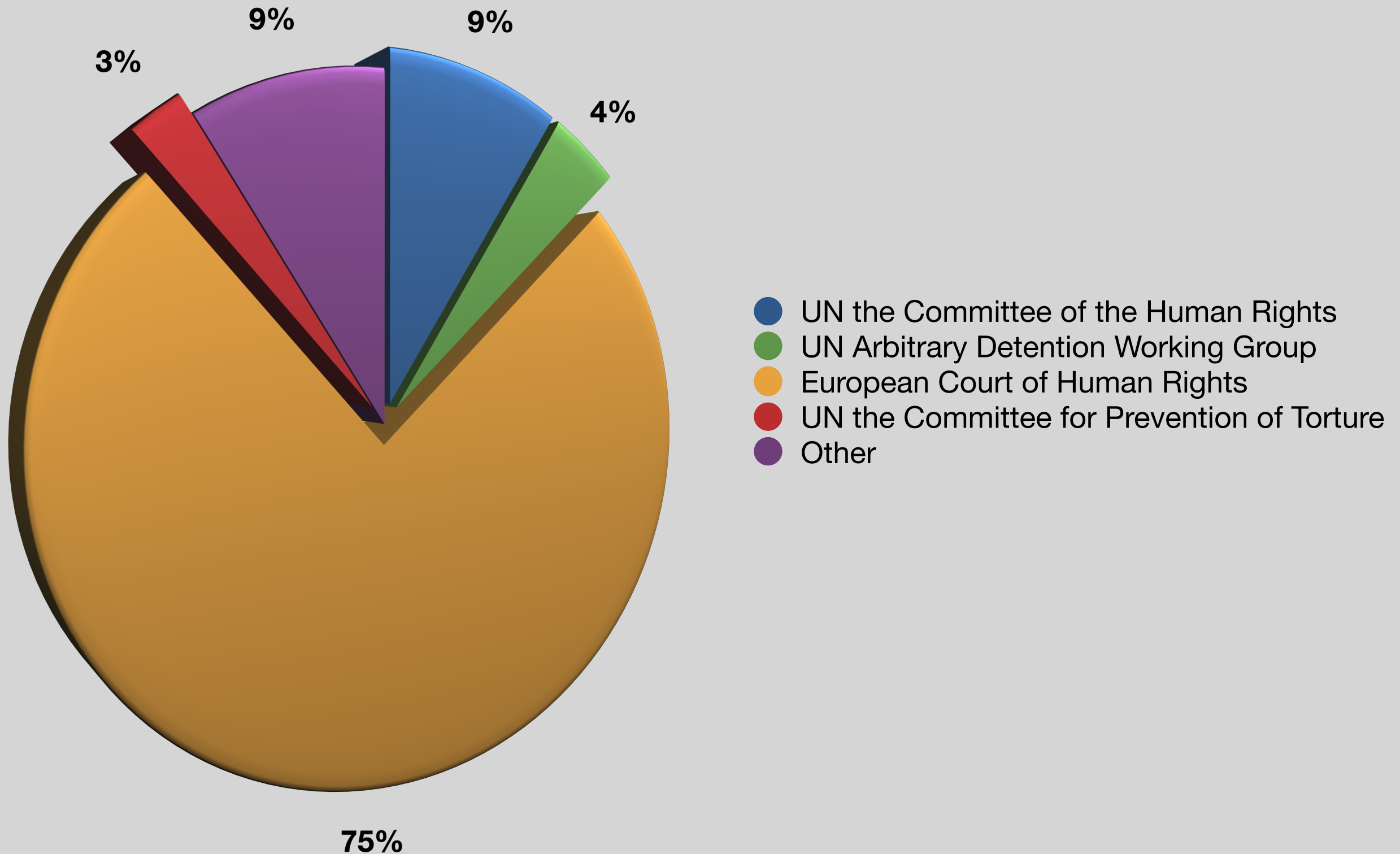


Have you applied to international organizations/courts? If yes, what was the result?

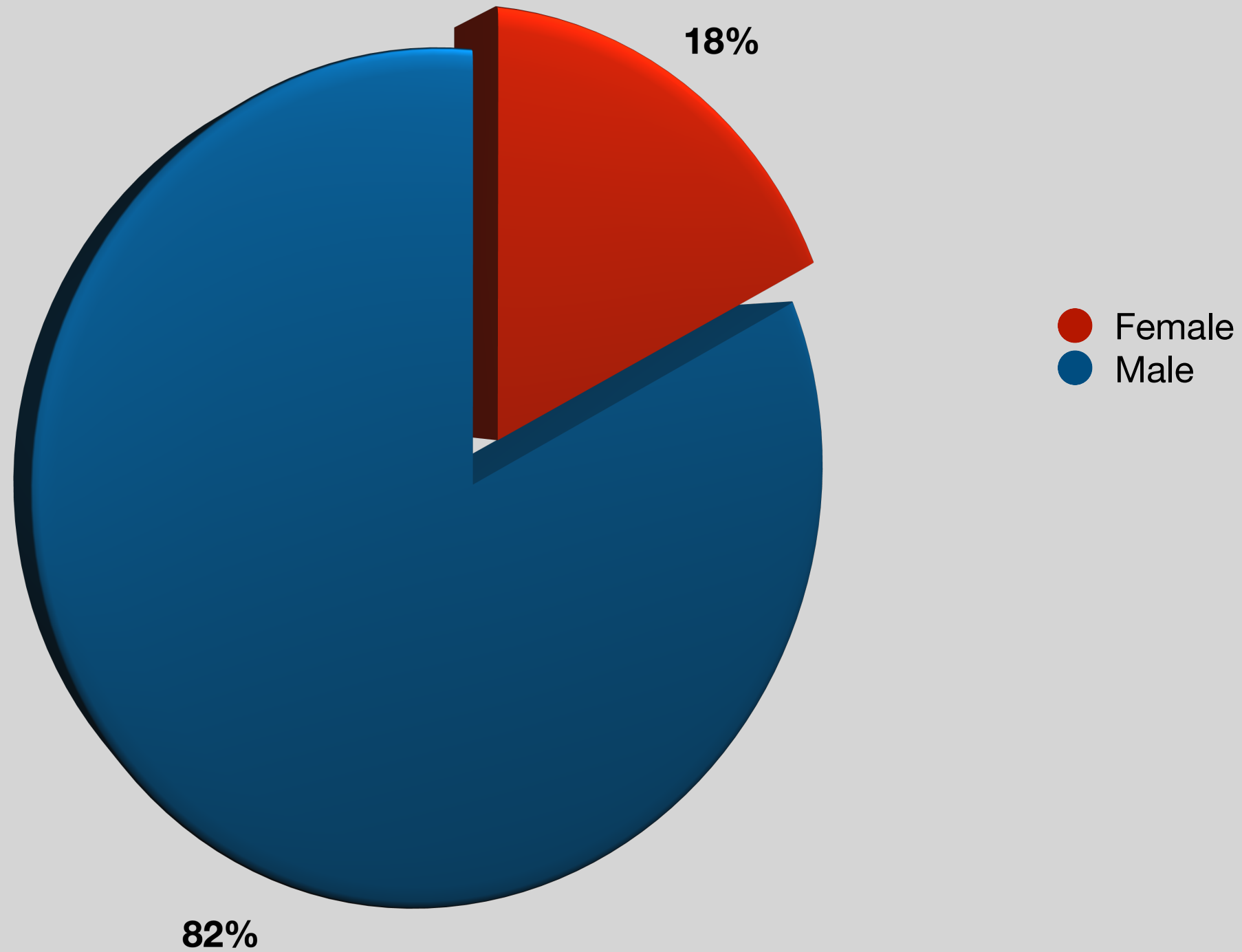
- I did not apply
- There is no decision yet
- My application was considered unfair and rejected
- My application was rejected due to not exhausting the domestic remedies
- Violation decision was made about my application



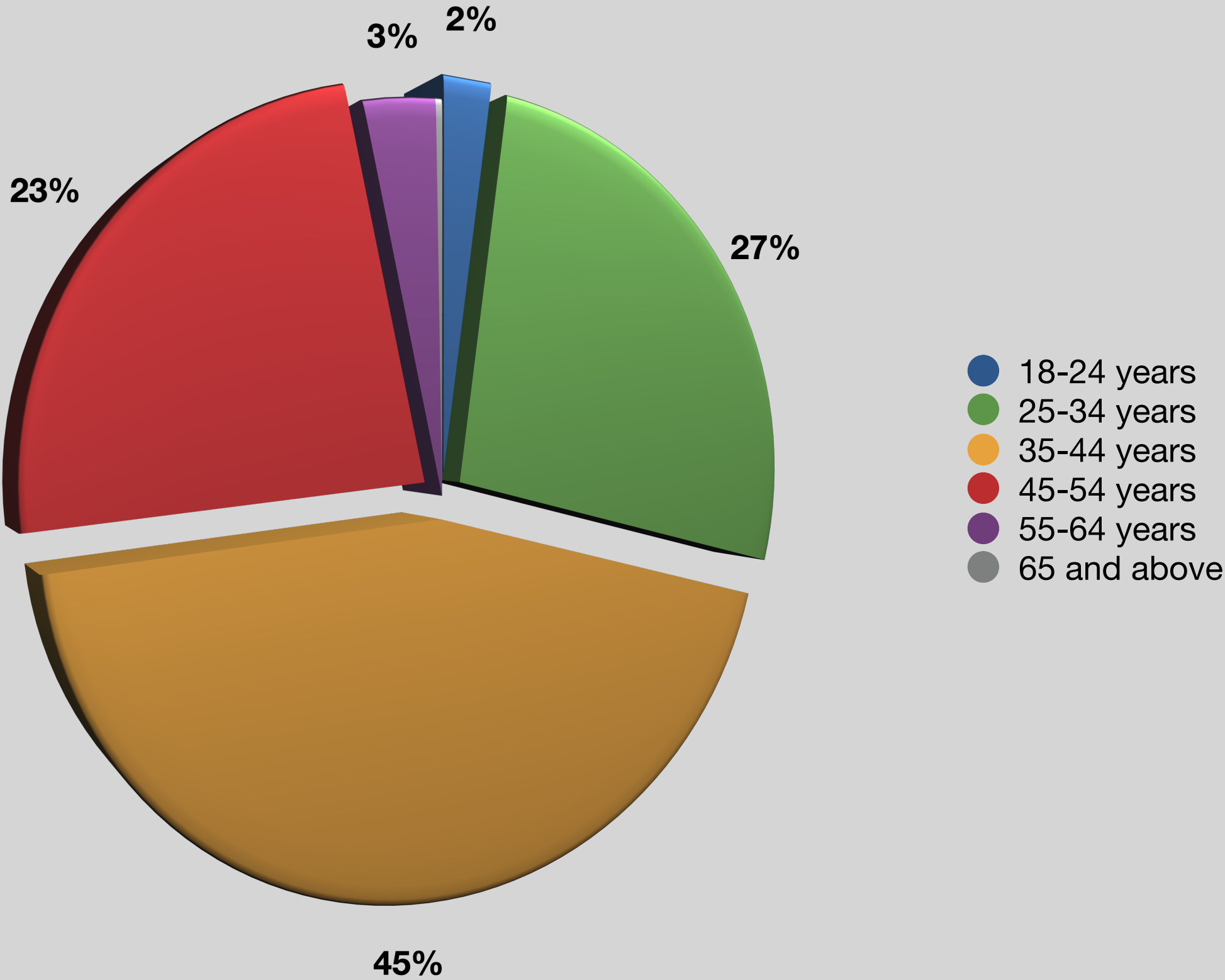
Which international organizations/courts have you applied to?



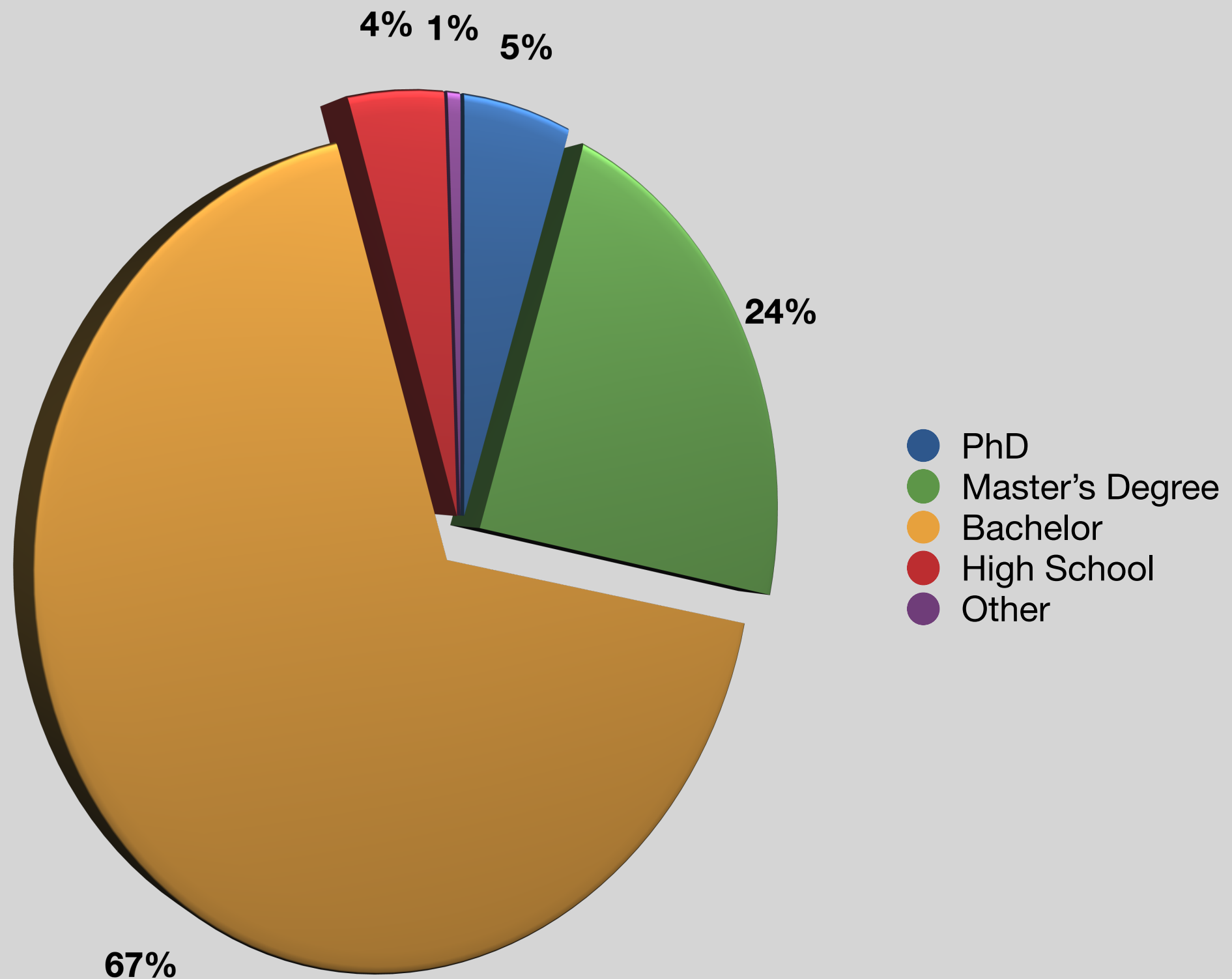
Gender of respondents?



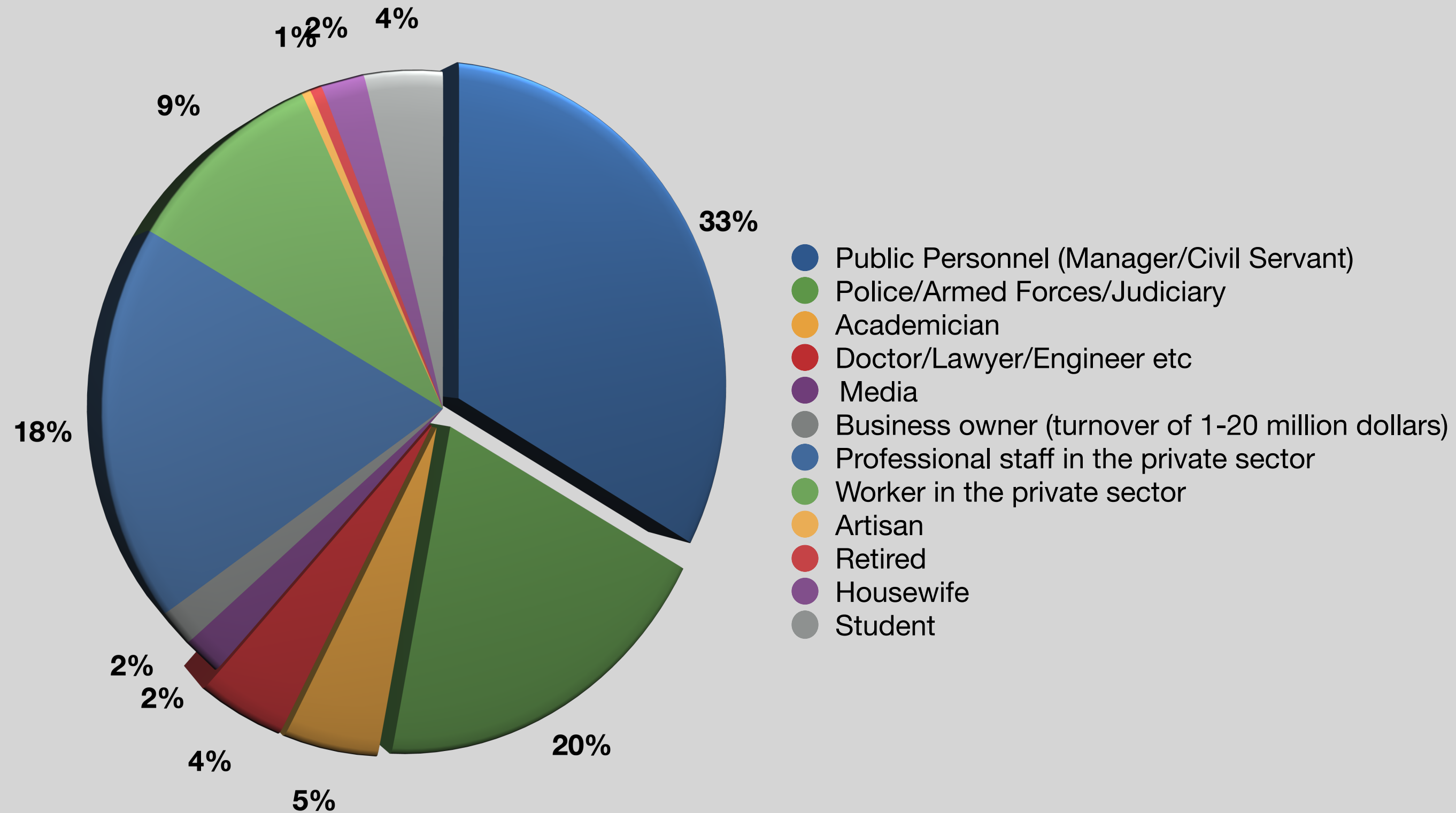
Age of respondents?



Education level of respondents?



Professions of respondents?



Aim of the Survey:

The aim of the survey is to determine whether or not the detainees and arrested persons have been subjected to torture / maltreatment during the detention phase and prisons, to detect what types of torture methods have been used, and to determine whether or not the torture and maltreatment is systematically performed in Turkey.

Research Method:

The survey technique was applied as a method. The questionnaire was delivered to people who were detained and/or arrested using e-mail and other online communication tools. The data were collected by marking the questionnaire.

Duration and scope of the Survey:

The survey was carried out between 09.06.2020 and 20.06.2020. A total of 938 people participated in the survey.

