



Република Македонија
НАРОДЕН ПРАВОБРАНИТЕЛ

Republika e Maqedonisë
AVOKATI I POPULLIT

O M B U D S M A N
Republic of Macedonia

The Ombudsman as a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) according to the competences derived from the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Law on the Ombudsman and the Ombudsman Rulebook on 23.03.2012 submitted an **OPINION** to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia towards amending and supplementing the Rule Book of General Norms and Standards for facilities for detention of persons in the police stations of general competence.

The Ombudsman as a National Preventive Mechanism believes that the unification of the standards for the detention facilities in the police stations of general competence, according to previously established standards which respect basic human rights, will significantly contribute in reducing the risks of possible torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of those persons.

The National Prevention Mechanism's opinion incorporates the core standards for accommodation of detained person enacted by the European Committee for Prevention of Torture (CPT) and the experiences of countries in the region.

The National Preventive Mechanism believes that detention should not be carried out in basements or warehouses, or close to, or near to the premises where weapons are stored or rooms where temporarily seized objects are stored. The distance between the walls in the detention room should be at least 2 m², and the room should adequately respect the necessary protection and security measures, to provide direct access to day lighting and adequate natural and artificial ventilation as well as adequate heating.

The premises must fulfill the necessary preconditions in order the person to accomplish the right of a night rest. Particular attention should be paid to safety measures and construction materials of the toilets which should be free of items that would present a danger to the persons' health and life.

Detention rooms in every police station with general jurisdiction should be marked numerically and the same Rule Book should adequately determine the general norms and standards for premises determined for conducting interviews with the persons deprived of their liberty.

Towards full realization in practice of the norms and standards set down in this Rule Book, there is a need for setting clear deadlines for construction or adaptation of the detention facilities and predicting the necessary budgetary implications.