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НАРОДЕН ПРАВОБРАНИТЕЛ
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AVOKATI I POPULLIT
O M B U D S M A N
Republic of Macedonia

On **04.09.2014** the National Preventive Mechanism carried unannounced visit to the Police Station for border control Kjafasan. The NPM conducted this **unannounced visit** to the Police Station for border control Kjafasan with aim to assess the situation and the conditions in places for deprivation of liberty and the treatment towards persons deprived of liberty. The aim of the visit is determined in accordance with the mandate deriving from the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Optional Protocol defines that the aim of the regular visits to places where persons are deprived of liberty is to identify risks with aim of prevention of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. .

According to the Decision for police station, the Police Station for border control Kjafasan is not designated to be a place for deprivation of liberty, but it has the authority to deprive from liberty persons on the run with an arrest warrant issued or persons who illegally entered the country.

During this preventive visit the NPM team was informed that those persons who are deprived of liberty are temporarily based in the office of the Shift Leader, and when there is a suspicion that certain person is a possible perpetrator of a serious criminal act, that person is kept in a separate room (used mainly for temporarily detention). This police station has a separate room for asylum seekers, migrants and foreign persons who are accommodated in one room until the moment of their transport to the Reception Centre for Foreigners in Skopje.

In case of apprehension of foreign citizens, the responsible sector in the Ministry for Internal Affairs is always informed. The apprehended person with a confirmation is handed over to an official from the police station Struga (or other responsible police station).

During the visit the NPM team was assured that each person when deprived of liberty is always informed about his/her rights. According to the information received from the Shift Leader, when deprived of liberty, the person is acquainted with the reasons for deprivation of liberty and he/she is taught of his/her rights. The communication with other persons deprived of liberty, as for instance foreign citizens, is carried in English language or other language spoken by the police officials (Albanian language). At the same time, this police station informs the relevant body in the Ministry of Internal Affairs about a deprivation of liberty of a foreigner for the purpose of undertaking the necessary measures.

The National Preventive Mechanism prepared a separate report where the positive and the negative situations were duly noted and gave appropriate recommendations to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Commander of the Police State for Border Control Kjafasan.