



Република Македонија  
НАРОДЕН ПРАВОБРАНИТЕЛ

Republika e Maqedonisë  
AVOKATI I POPULLIT

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

The Ombudsman-National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) on 05.05, 06.05 and 07.05.2014 carried out a follow up visit to PCF Idrizovo. The NPM carried this visit with the external collaborators from the Association of Psychiatrists and the Association of Forensics of the Institute for Forensics on the basis of previously signed Memorandums of Cooperation.

The visit to the prison was carried out in several steps. The NPM team firstly met with the Director and the responsible staff of the prison, and then by splitting itself in two teams inspected the solitary confinements, in the stationary inspected the prison department, the fifth and the eight wing, the department of “pupils”, the reception department, the semi-open department, the open department, the female department, the pavilion D and the former reception department (the pavilion E). During the visit the Book of disciplinary punishments was inspected as well as the Book for usage of means of restrain, the Book of complaints against officials. The team inspected several experts’ files and several medical charts.

On the day of the visit 1570 persons were accommodated which led to conclusion of overcrowded capacities and lack of fulfillment of the national and international standards for accommodation of persons deprived of liberty. Due to these worrying conditions detected in several departments, the NPM submitted a request for undertaking immediate measures. Also, it reminded that the European Prison Rules demand: “when the conditions for accommodation of persons deprived of liberty are concerned, in particular the dormitories, one should pay particular attention to the human dignity and if possible privacy, as well as to answer the demands for maintaining the health and hygiene, having in mind the climate conditions and particularly the surface area, the air quantity, the light, the heating and the ventilation”.

In the demand for undertaking immediate measures submitted to PCF Idrizovo, it was pointed at the need for each convicted person to be provided with a bed and mattress, the old mattresses to be immediately replaced with new ones, while as the dirty linen to be regularly replaced with clean one. The persons accommodated in the reception department after their classification to be immediately transferred to adequate departments for the purpose of meeting the goal of the reception department as well as to decrease the possibility of spreading criminal infections.

In relation to the determined conditions, a monitoring was demanded by the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions which later informed the Ombudsman that they submitted an indication to the prison management for securing conditions for accommodation, accomodation and hygiene of persons deprived of liberty in the reception department. After the conducted monitoring by the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions, the NPM was informed that the project for reconstruction of the PCF Idrizovo in the Republic of Macedonia is ongoing and activities have been undertaken for reconstruction of PCF Idrizovo. Construction activities have been initiated of the objects envisaged with the first phase of the

reconstruction. This phase started with demolishing the old facilities and reconstruction of new ones in the open and semi-open department. Other financial means for renovation (the department of “pupils” and the stationary of the facility), have not been approved, having in mind that in 2015 it will begin with demolition of the existing objects that do not comply with the desired standards. According to the information given by the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions, the reconstruction should be completed in 2018.

When talking to the persons deprived of liberty the NPM received complaints about the excessive use of force. The information that the NPM received during the visit point to the fact that the undertaken measures by the PCF Idrizovo are not sufficiently effective in prevention or elimination of possible risks for torture or other inhuman and cruel treatment.

During this follow up visit the NPM received number of complaints in terms of quality and quantity of food and lack of diet for those persons deprived of liberty with specific illnesses.

Most of the persons deprived of liberty are not engaged with any kind of work which affects the process of recosialization. There are complaints for violence present among prisoners and corruption on the part of the security department.

Having in mind that the amendments to the Law on execution of sanctions regulate the health care which should be provided by the medical personnel in the public health institutions for primary health protection, in practice this provision is problematically applicable. In addition, the women deprived of liberty complained of not having gynecological examinations for already longer period of time.

As a result of this visit, the Ombudsman as a National Preventive Mechanism prepared a separate report where it concluded the level of implementation of the given recommendations and gave appropriate recommendations to the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions and the PCF Idrizovo.