



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 06.11.2014 carried out a follow up visit to Bitola Prison. The NPM conducted this visit with an external collaborator from the Association for Criminal Law and Criminology on the basis of a previously signed Memorandum of Understanding.

The visit to the prison was carried out in several steps. The NPM team firstly had a meeting with the management of the Bitola Prison, led by the Director, and then inspected the open, semi-open departments, the closed and reception department, the detention part, the solitary confinements, the sick bay, and interviewed the officials from the Sector for re-socialization and the experts' files.

During this follow up visit it was concluded that 7 recommendations from the previously given ones have been implemented, 2 of them are partially implemented, while as 6 are insufficiently implemented.

During the follow up visit the NPM received several complaints of harassment and inhuman treatment by the Security Sector. This information was received in the detention part and transmitted to the Commander.

During the follow up visit it was concluded that the vacant posts in the prison have not been filled in. The insufficient number of employees presents a serious problem which can influence over the whole process of re-socialization. In the last period the Ministry of Finances rejected a receipt of 3 persons i.e. did not give approval for employment.

One of the most significant conclusions from the previous visit was the educational process which has not been carried out in accordance to the Law on Execution of Sanctions envisaging that the Ministry of Education and Science should organize it. During this follow up visit this has been once again re-confirmed since neither in nor out of the prison one of the most elementary rights of the persons deprived of liberty has been implemented. This at the same time, represents one of the most important stakeholders in the process of successful re-socialization envisaged with the Law on Execution of Sanctions.

The prison has inadequate vehicles dating from 2001. Some of them are unsafe for persons deprived of liberty, but also for the service itself which carry out this transfer. In the registry part there is a positive practice of registering violations under persons deprived of liberty who are brought from police officers. The book of disciplinary sanctions is kept regularly.

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 recommendations and gave appropriate recommendations to the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions and Bitola Prison.