



Република Македонија
НАРОДЕН ПРАВОБРАНИТЕЛ

Republika e Maqedonisë
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O M B U D S M A N
Republic of Macedonia

The Ombudsman-National Preventive Mechanism on 03.07.2014 carried out **extraordinary night visit** to the Reception Center for Foreigners with aim to inspect the improvement in the conditions made and to which extent the given recommendations of the conducted visits from 2012 and 2013 have been implemented. This extraordinary visit follows the strike which was organized by the Center and presents a monitoring of the undertaken measures by the responsible ministry.

Improvement of the conditions where women and children are accommodated was noted, the hygiene has improved, the walls at the entrance of the rooms are painted and the space in the rooms is sufficient for the number of accommodated persons. When talking to the women and children, the NPM received information that they are not satisfied with the food they receive, mainly they purchase the medicine by themselves, while as no adequate clothing for children (depending on the weather conditions) is secured. In the section where male persons are accommodated, the NPM received complaints on the lack of permanent health care, there are no sufficient beds, thus some of the persons sleep on the floor, they do not receive clothing and shoes in accordance with the weather conditions, although some of them are situated here for more than 5 months. The Manager of the Center confirmed this information, but in respect to the lack of linen, he said that the persons often destroy it and use it for other purposes.

However, the complaints are mainly towards the long sojourn in this Center (some of the persons accommodated here stay 5 to 6 months), limited communication with their families only for those whose judicial procedure is finalized. One person stressed that within his 6 months of stay in the center, he communicated only once with his family. The Management of the Center gave a list of persons who exercised their right to contact with their families, but still the problem with those whose status is unresolved within the judicial procedures remains. It is of concern the proper application of outdoor promenade which should be secured twice a day in length of one hour or all together two hours. Due to the fact that this facility is not safely fenced, it lacks sufficient space for everyone accommodated here. Although the management gave information that the persons enjoy this rights, in discussion with the immigrants, the NPM was informed that this promenade is shortened on 15 to 30 minutes.

When inspecting the evidence, as well as by talking to the experts' services, it was concluded that some of the foreigners requested asylum and in the upcoming period they should be transferred to a facility specialized for this category of persons.