



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

The Ombudsman - National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) carried out a follow up visit to the Closed Ward for prisoners at Skopje Clinical Centre on **14.04.2015**. The NPM team was accompanied by an external collaborator from the Association of nurses, midwives and technicians of Macedonia, pursuant to the previously signed Memorandum of Understanding.

NPM carried out **unannounced follow up visit** to the Closed Ward for prisoners at Skopje Clinical Centre in accordance with its mandate and competencies arising from the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Law on Ombudsman.

The visit was a follow up to the regular one conducted in the Closed Ward on **29.04.2013** for which NPM issued a special report for the stated condition and gave recommendations accordingly, and afterwards submitted the report to the management of CPF Idrizovo and the Directorate for execution of sanctions within the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Macedonia.

The aim of the visit was to assess the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Report issued in 2013 and to identify risks in order to prevent torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

During the visit there were 3 sick inmates residing in the Closed Ward, and 3 convicts placed in other clinics (one in the Clinic of Gastroenterohepatology, one in the Orthopedics Clinic and one in the Cardiology Clinic). In the same department one prisoner is engaged as a courier and lives in one of the premises of the department.

It was also found that in the Closed Ward there is neither doctor nor a nurse. NPM was informed that in case of emergency, the doctors who provide the emergency medical services are sent from some of the Clinics; while for giving injections or intravenous therapy the inmates are taken in the appropriate clinic. Although the Law on Execution of Sanctions sets out that the health care shall be provided by the public health institutions for primary health care based on the nearby territory of the penitentiary institution that does not justify the shortage of medical staff in the department.

NTC pointed out that there shall be a health professional in the department whose sole responsibility would be providing health care to the inmates in the Closed Ward. His/her duties will also include assisting in the examination of the sick inmates; providing health education - highlighting the importance of taking care of the environment, maintaining personal hygiene, and isolation of patients with infectious diseases.

During the visit, the NPM did not receive any complaints from the sick prisoners for inhumane or ill-treatment by the security guards. Instead, the residents of the Closed Ward complained on the poor living conditions and their right to outdoor exercise since they are still being allowed to take a walk only in the hallway, not outside.

The premises lack lockers where the inmates could keep their belongings. Also, NPM found that the beds in the premises are old and have thin mattresses, not to mention that there was high level of humidity. The hygiene in all of the rooms was poor, the toilets were dirty and the walls were not painted, although the officials stated the opposite. Moreover, it was found that the Closed Ward possesses an old vehicle which does not meet the necessary requirements for transport of sick inmates.

NPM issued a report for the stated condition including recommendations and submitted the report to the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions and the Director of the Idrizovo Prison, in order to overcome the identified weaknesses and eliminate the risks.