



Република Македонија
НАРОДЕН ПРАВОБРАНИТЕЛ

Republika e Maqedonisë
AVOKATI I POPULLIT

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

On 21.09.2015 the National Preventive Mechanism carried out an unannounced visit to the Police Station Negotino (this was the first visit of the NPM team to this Police Station). NPM was accompanied by an associate, according to the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Ombudsman and the Macedonian Association of Young Lawyers.

The purpose of the visit, according to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was identifying risks in order to prevent torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

During the visit of this police station the examination targeted the following:

- Material conditions in places of detention,
- Treatment of the persons deprived of their liberty
- Records and minutes on the detainees
- Other places (workplace of the police officers).

Negotino Police Station is under the jurisdiction of SIA Veles. Although it is small police station, the commander informed the NPM that in 2014 there were around 100 detentions and retentions of persons, the highest number of police interventions compared to the surrounding police stations in Veles and Kavadarci. It was indicated that the figure relates to detention of suspected members of migrant smuggling network which was conducted before the amendments to the Law on Asylum entered into force.

During the inspection the NPM found that this police station was not covered by the project for renovation of places of detention which was implemented by the Ministry of Interior and financially supported by the European Commission. The police station has two old detention premises located on the ground floor near the office of the shift manager. One of them is for individual detention with a single bed and the other collective detention with two beds.

During the visit the NPM found humidity of about 63%¹ which is above the acceptable comfort level of humidity. The natural light is insufficient and does not

¹ Acceptable RH - 20-60%

meet the required standards for places of detention, while the artificial light comes from outside through a small hole on the top of the door.

The toilet is located adjacent to the premises for detention and is used only by the detainees, but there is no door which leads to inhuman treatment, given that the detainees should be able to satisfy their physiological needs in adequate conditions. There is no water in the toilet, thus the conditions do not meet the basic hygiene needs of the detainees. NPM found that detainees have inconsistent access to the toilet given that there is no intercom or any other system for reference in the facility, which leads to the question how those persons access the toilet or how do they notify the officials thereto. These conditions make the detainees to be ashamed and to restraint to satisfy their physiological and maintain their hygiene.

NPM got insight into the complete documentation of the persons deprived of liberty, and ascertained that the records of daily events, the records of retained and arrested persons, the records of detainees, the records of complaints and grievances as well as the individual cases of detainees who were randomly selected were properly maintained with slight mistakes and corrections.

NPM issued a special report for the stated conditions including recommendations to the Ministry of Interior and the Police Station Negotino in order to overcome the identified weaknesses and eliminate the risks.