



Република Македонија
НАРОДЕН ПРАВОБРАНИТЕЛ

Republika e Maqedonisë
AVOKATI I POPULLIT

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

The National Preventive Mechanism on 02.04.2015 carried out extraordinary visit to the Reception Centre for Foreigners with aim to assess whether the previously given recommendations have been implemented as well as to inspect the current situation. It was concluded that 160 men, 22 women and 4 children are housed in the centre.

Having in mind the Resolution 2020 (2014) from 03.10.2014 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe which recommends for prevention of detention and deprivation of liberty of children illegal migrants and finding alternative models for sojourn in terms of the best child interest, the National Preventive Mechanism was informed that most of the women and children have already been transferred in the facility nearby the Center for Asylum Seekers in Vizbegovo. The authorities plan to transfer in this facility all other women and children who currently stay in the Center for Foreigners.

During this visit the NPM team concluded improvements in terms of health care, a doctor is engaged on a daily basis, he is of Syrian origin and each day in the Center he performs medical examinations between 10h and 15h. It was also concluded that the newly received persons are timely examined by the doctor, however some of the migrants' complaints refer to the quality of the health care they get in the center, while as some of them complaint that they are personally obliged to secure the medication. By interviewing the doctor, the NPM was informed that he has sufficient quantities of medications, and if necessary he refers the persons to the Clinique.

The housed migrants continued complaining that they cannot exercise their right to asylum, but the management stressed that it has been conditioned by a permission which should be given by the public prosecutor. By inspecting the Book of Daily Events it was noted that the migrants orally submit their requests for asylum, hence the NPM received information that the migrants have been waiting for a longer period to be transferred to the Center for Asylum Seekers in Vizbegovo. The duration of their stay and the weak conditions in the facility were the reasons for a hunger strike by some of the housed persons.

As it was the case with the previous visits, the NPM concluded that the right to outdoor promenade has not been exercised i.e. the provision for an outdoor stay twice a day in duration of one hour or two hours in total has not been allowed due to the fact that this facility has not been secured with fences and lacks sufficient space for everyone housed in the Center.

For the visit to the Reception Center for Foreigners, the Ombudsman-National Preventive Mechanism submitted a separate information to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.