



Република Македонија  
НАРОДЕН ПРАВОБРАНИТЕЛ

Republika e Maqedonisë  
AVOKATI I POPULLIT

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

Ombudsman - National Preventive Mechanism, within its mandate and powers given to protect persons deprived of their liberty, has carried out regular and unannounced visit to PI - Special Institute for mentally disabled persons Demir Kapija on **23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2016** in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The purpose of this visit was to examine and monitor the conditions and treatment of the residents in PI - Special Institute Demir Kapija, overview the current state in terms of number of residents and the premises in this institution, as well as interview the staff officials and part of the residents of the PI Special Institute Demir Kapija.

In this regard, the NPM team together with an external associate talked with the director of PI - Special Institute Demir Kapija, with staff officials, as well as with the majority of the residents. In like manner, they have examined the data evidence and the documentation, after which the NPM team has split in two teams for the purpose of performing a thorough overview of the premises, material conditions and treatment of residents.

At the moment of the visit there were 226 residents in the PI - Special Institute and about 50 persons on the waiting list. In fact, there is an average of 2-3 new requirements for placement daily.

Regarding the staff in the PI - Special Institute Demir Kapija, the NPM team was informed that there are currently 151 employees, although according to the Rulebook on systematization of jobs there shall be 227 employees in the PI - Special Institute Demir Kapija, which shows the need for an additional staff and hiring new people.

The poor material conditions assessed at the PI - Special Institution Demir Kapija assessed during the visit raise a serious health risk to the residents thereto. The NPM team took a tour inside the Institute and found ruined buildings, presence of moisture and odor in the accommodation facilities, and unsatisfactory level of hygiene. Of particular concern are the sanitary conditions, non-functional toilets and showers, which calls into question the routinely maintenance of personal hygiene of the residents.

Regarding the health care provided there, although the NPM was informed that there is a doctor who is completing his specialization right now and during his absence the services of primary health care are provided by doctor and nurses from Demir Kapija who regularly prescribe medical therapy, the NPM expressed the need for providing regular health care from a doctor present every day in the PI – Special Institute Demir Kapija.

Regarding the material conditions examined, the treatment of the residents, the healthcare provided and the exercise of the rights of the residents, as well as other specified conditions, the NPM team seeks to contribute in improving the conditions and treatment of the residents through conclusions and recommendations made in the special report of the Ombudsman which is submitted to the relevant ministries and authorities.