



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

Ombudsman as a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) according to its mandate established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and the Law on the Ombudsman, on carried out an unannounced regular visit to the Police Station in Berovo (hereinafter PS Berovo), on 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2016. This was the first visit by the NPM team to the aforementioned police station. The visit was conducted in cooperation with an external associate from the Association for Criminal Law and Criminology of Macedonia, with which the Ombudsman has concluded a memorandum of cooperation.

According to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment the visit was aimed at identifying any possible risks in order to prevent torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

During the visit the NPM team spoke with the officials from the Police Station, examined the material conditions in the places of detention, got insight into the evidence in the registers and the records of arrested and detained persons and inspected the rest of the premises and the offices of the employees as well.

At the moment of the visit, there weren't any arrested or detained persons in PS Berovo, so the NPM had no detainee to talk to in order to find out about the conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees.

The NPM team took a tour around the premises, the reception unit and the offices of the employees and didn't find any tools or suspicious objects that can be used to intimidate the detainees or used for self-harm.

According to the information they got from the police officers, in case of arrest or detention, the persons have a right to know the reason for their arrest, and that right is fully respected.

Furthermore, the National Preventive Mechanism prepared a separate report for the visit pointing out the positive and negative conclusions and addressed particular recommendations to the Ministry of Interior and to the commander of the Police Station in Berovo, in order to overcome the indicated deficiencies and to improve the conditions and treatment of the arrested persons and detainees.