



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 (NPM) carried out regular unannounced visit to the Police Station Kriva Palanka on 02.12.2016 (the previous two visits by the NPM team to this police station were conducted on 08.11.2011 and 30.01.2013). The visit had begun at 10 am and ended at 4 pm (total duration of 6 hours).

This visit was carried out according to the mandate of the Ombudsman as a National Preventive Mechanism arising from the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and of the Law on Ombudsman.

The visit was conducted in cooperation with a representative from the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association and an external collaborator from the Association for Criminal Law and Criminology of the Republic of Macedonia.

NPM inspected the premises and the warehouse of the PS Kriva Palanka. It was found that the premises are in very bad condition and thus affect the daily operations of the police station. There was mold on the walls in almost all of the premises that were inspected, and the furniture was worn-out.

There was no video surveillance at the police station, and in this direction the NPM team believes that in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture, there shall be video surveillance in the police stations, especially in the premises for questioning of persons in order to ensure their safety and reduce the risks of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

In PS Kriva Palanka there were two premises for detention located two floors underground and another one (makeshift) premise for short-term detention. The police officials reported that two former detention premises are no longer used for that purpose, as a result of previously given recommendations by the NPM after the conducted visits.

NPM inspected the makeshift detention premises where at the time of visit 2 persons were accommodated, while the third person, a foreign citizen, was waiting in the hallway right outside the room. It was found that the premise has only one chair and does not have a bed, or adequate furniture (mattress, pillow, blanket, etc.). In the makeshift premise the way the bars are set brings the detainee in a humiliating position

as he/she monitored all the time by the employees, as well as by any other person who enters the police station.

NPM ascertained that this premise does not meet the minimum international standards for detention of persons in a police station. Thus, the position of NPM is that this premise shall not be used for short-term detention and the detention shall take place in the nearest police station that meets the criteria for detention until the renovation of the premises.