



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 (NPM) carried out two visits to the Reception Center for Foreigners – Vizbegovo: one unannounced ad hoc visit, carried out on 14.10.2016 and one unannounced follow up visit, carried out on 28.10.2016.

The National Preventive Mechanism carried out these visits according to its mandate and competences arising from the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Law on Ombudsman. These visits were follow up on the last visit to the Reception Center for Foreigners – Vizbegovo, carried out on 17.05.2016, for which NPM issued a special report for the stated condition including recommendations to the Director of the Reception Center for Foreigners – Vizbegovo and the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.

The aim of the visit was to assess the implementation of the recommendations from the Special Report of the National Preventive Mechanism of 17.05.2016 as well as identifying risks in order to prevent torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

NPM found that recommendations made by the Ombudsman were partially implemented. It is still necessary to hire/engage additional staff in the security department of the Reception Center for Asylum Seekers, to ensure 24-hour presence of a doctor, and to improve the nutrition of the persons (the biggest number of complaints was regarding the food they receive), or to distribute meals daily, three times a day and to provide warm meals during the weekends.

At the time of the visit NPM found that there were 15 persons accommodated in the Center, of which 10 men and 5 women. 8 of them were minors with their families (6 male and 2 female) and 7 adults (4 men and 3 women).

6 persons were from Syria, 4 from Afghanistan, 4 from Serbia and one person was from Bulgaria.

Regarding the accommodation capacity of the Center, NPM found that the Center is finalizing with the renovation of the facility. At the time of the visit all of the construction activities were finished and the rooms were clean, neat, furnished with new beds and bedding and the toilets were renovated as well.

It was found that there are informal educational activities being implemented for the children, but yet they still do not exercise their right to formal education, pursuant the laws on primary and secondary education and the Law on Asylum and temporary protection.

NPM also found that there is no interpreter in the afternoon and during the night in the Center.

Since there was lack of recreational and occupational activities for the migrants / refugees in the Center, the asylum seekers expressed need for organizing of cultural events and visits to historical landmarks.