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

On September 14, 2017, the National Preventive Mechanism – NPM carried out an unannounced visit to the Police Station Veles, jointly with an external associate - representative of the Association for Criminal Law and Criminology of the Republic of Macedonia.

The visit of the NPM team at the PS Veles was carried out according to the mandate of the Ombudsman - National Preventive Mechanism, arising from the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Law on the Ombudsman. The Optional Protocol stipulates that the NPM conducts regular visits to places where persons are deprived of their liberty in order to identify the risks and thus prevent torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

During the visit, the National Preventive Mechanism had constructive cooperation with the officials and got insight into all of the premises and the paperwork accordingly.

In the official premises of the station, the warehouse and the official vehicles the NPM team did not detect any items that could be used for violence and intimidation.

During this visit, the NPM team established that regular and continuous trainings on various topics are being implemented for the officials.

During the monitoring, the NPM team found there is no wheelchair ramp for persons with physical disability at the entrance, which makes the police station inaccessible for these persons.

The NPM team also found that there is no separate premise at the Police Station Veles for interrogation of apprehended persons and persons deprived of their liberty. At the same time, there is no separate premise for detention of minors in accordance with the Law on Juvenile Justice.

During the visit, the NPM team noted that the detention premises in PS Veles are in poor condition and do not meet the minimum standards for detention. It was also established that none of them has an audio or video monitoring system.

During the visit, the NPM team established that the premise for face recognition is too far from the detention premises, which means that the persons who are detained in this police station are unfairly exposed to the public.

The NPM team also noted that the sanitary node for in the detention premises is completely ruined and dysfunctional, so the detainees have to use the restroom of the officials.

In the PS Veles there is need for official vehicle for transport of detainees, since the only one they possess is awaiting service for quite some time.

From the insight in the registries, the NPM established that the chronological order of the events, namely the time of deprivation of liberty or the time of apprehension are not taken into account.

The National Preventive Mechanism issued a Special Report on the visit noting the positive and negative conditions established and gave specific recommendations to the Ministry of Interior and to the commander of PS Veles, in order to eliminate the weaknesses identified, as well as to improve the conditions and the treatment of the apprehended persons and the persons deprived of liberty.