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PRESS RELEASE
on the documentation visit of Helsinki Committee,
carried out in the republican prison hospital OSK-29/8 of Bender town

1. The visit has been carried out by the delegation of the Committee on Friday, 07.02.2003;
2. The republican prison hospital is designed for 650 beds. Today here are 434 prisoners, 111 of which have an open form of tuberculosis;
3. During the visit it was cold both in the places of detention, and in the administrative unit, the temperature in the cells was about 15 degrees, and in the head's office - about 12-14°C;
4. Everywhere in the jails, except for the administrative unit, is very soggy and mouldy and there are condensates on the walls of the building;
5. There are wood or coal ovens, but these are not enough to maintain a stable temperature. As result, the amount of condensates on the walls is growing.
6. On words of the prisoners, confirmed by the head physician (Mr. Vladimir Taran), though they are sufficiently supplied with medicines, nevertheless, the treatment is ineffective because of the weak diet of the patients. Moreover, many prisoners complain of liver-ache and dysfunction, which follow after the strengthened tuberculosis treatment coupled with insufficient feeding, dampness and lowered temperature;
7. Electrical energy is delivered for only 2 hours per day, which is received from a special diesel fuel generator which is functioning for 2 hours per day in order to save fuel and for longer operation. Many prisoners have declared, that they agree to pay a part of the required fuel, in order to improve the conditions of treatment for themselves and their inmates;
8. Many prisoners are in a critical condition, and their further conclusion in the given establishment can result in lethal cases.

The separatist authorities, in the person of Posudnevskii Alexander Ivanovich, appointed by Igor Smimov as the chief of the state administration in Bender, endow those 464 consumed who are living in the prison OSK-29/8 with a view of execution of unreasonable ambitions.

According to the claims of the prisoners and the correctional administration, the situation has essentially worsened after September, 2002 when the separatist authorities have blocked completely the activity of this institution: the electric power lines, the system of water supply and heating have been switched off. Under these conditions the administration of the Institution OSK-29/8 have connected the diesel generator which, for the above-stated reasons, operates for 2 hours per day. It doesn't meet the specifications of the Republic of Moldova, and moreover, the international standards. In the premises there have been designed ovens, functioning on wood and coal. During the last 6 months the water is brought in tanks from Varnita, but frequently people in militia uniform hamper its transportation, demanding unreasonably to present various documents.

For example, the delegation of the Helsinki Committee witnessed a 6-hour delay of the tank (hoping, probably, that water will freeze) only because the certificate on water quality was issued in Romanian, Russian, and even Ukrainian languages, but not in the Moldavian language, with use of cyrillics. The Militian, Miller Alexander Sergeevich, which has stopped the water tank, asserted that he fulfils the oral order of the chief, colonel Smik Valery Mihajlovich. From words of the last it was found out, that he fulfilled the verbal order of Posudnevskii Alexander Ivanovich - the head of Igor Smimov's administration in Bender. Alexander Posudnevsky has refused a meeting with the members of delegation, though preliminary he has given his consent.

The Constant Mission of OSCE in Moldova and the countries-guarantors do not fulfil the taken up obligations, and even moreover, supposing such cases, they encourage the anticonstitutional

regime to aggression.

The administration of the institution and the prisoners have recognized, that during the last year there were some meetings with the representatives of OSCE mission in Moldova, which got acquainted with the situation, sympathized them and left, explaining, that they (i.e. OSCE mission) are not capable to deal with the situation.

Conclusions and recommendations:

1. The Department of Penitentiary Institutions should find the opportunity to supply electric power and artificial illumination, according to the established standards, or to install a second generator, or to connect repeatedly to the city network;
 2. The Government of the Republic of Moldova has to appoint a competent commission, which would examine the physical estate of the detainees and relief them in particular cases of critical condition;
 3. The General prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Moldova has to examine the legal ground of the measures, taken by Posudnevsky Alexander Ivanovich to impede the activity of the given institution, who's actions have caused pain to detainees and material prejudices to the state;
 4. The OSCE mission and the state-guarantors – Russian Federation and Ukraine – have to asses the behavior of the Bender administration and to demand to keep the Moldavian-Russian Agreement from July 21, 1992, and other acts and documents, signed afterwards under their guarantee.
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