

The Report on Medical Monitoring, Conducted in Prison #1

The monitoring was conducted in September 1, 2005, in the prison # 1 of penitential system of Georgia

The monitoring was going on from 12.30 till 16.30

In the monitoring participated:

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Doctor – specialist of the medical department of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia (the specialist of the professional diseases)

The aim of the monitoring was:

- To monitor the medical departments and rooms on the territory of the prison # 1;
- To study and analyze the problems, emerging while medical examination of the newly imprisoned persons;
- To monitor the availability of the medical aid for the newly imprisoned persons;
- To examine the hygienic (sanitary) conditions on the territories, intended for medical service;
- To monitor the rooms, intended for the medical service in the buildings for accommodation of the prisoners, the availability of the medical aid for prisoners, general sanitary – hygienic conditions;
- The procedure also aimed to monitor the medical staff, to reveal and analyze the problems.

The proceeding of the Monitoring

- The director of the prison was made acquainted with the plan of the monitoring and the primary interview; while conversation with the director the problems were revealed and discussed;
- After this, the monitoring was continued in the quarantine department, intended for the newly imprisoned persons, which is situated on the ground floor of the prison administration building;
- And later, the quarantine rooms, located in the basement of the major building for prisoners' accommodation, were examined;
- Afterwards, the monitoring was continued in the third floor of the residential building of the prison;
- Afterwards, the medical department was inspected;
- While the process of the monitoring the deputy director of the prison and the head physician of the medical department were presented; in the medical department, only physicians were while the process of the monitoring;
- The monitoring was conducted unexpectedly, without giving preliminary information to the prison administration;
- The monitoring was coordinated with the head of the medical department of the Ministry of Justice.

The results of the monitoring

- ***The administration of the prison*** regarded with attention to the fact of conducting of the monitoring and rendered an appropriate aid and attention while the process of the monitoring;
- According to the administration, the reasons of the infringement of the imprisonment standards are the overcrowding of the prisons and wreck and defective sanitary conditions in the buildings, which create difficulties in the prisoners' accommodation and creation of normal conditions for them;
- Very often the number of people in the cells is three times more than the number of beds available, this causes the necessity to sleep in turn;
- There is very difficult condition regarding the air ventilation, that is why the "hand-made" ventilation system was installed;
- ***As the result of the monitoring, it was found out that the quarantine rooms, specially repaired by the Red Cross***, where newly imprisoned persons must be

allocated (in the period from 3 days to 2 weeks according to the medical instructions) are not used for the above mentioned purpose;

- It was found out that only two cells of the mentioned department were functioning, and that only one person among allocated there had been newly imprisoned, while others have been detained already during one or even two years (the information according to the surnames was checked in the special department);
- In each of the two quarantine rooms single prisoners were allocated – according to the administration, one of them, Infected with AIDS, was sentenced to the imprisonment for life, while another prisoner was placed in the cell for the time, according to the information, given by the administration, this cell is usually used for the conduction of a “search”;
- As the administration admitted, the right part of the quarantine department is not expedient for the prisoners’ accommodation, because it is bordering with the outward yard, nevertheless, the prisoners are still accommodated here – these are former public prosecutors and other former officials. According to which criteria this kind of “selection - segregation” and discrimination is made, stays unknown for us;
- Thus, the above mentioned territory, intended for quarantine department, is used not in medical purposes and therefore inappropriately, it is used for regime and operational purposes;
- In the mentioned department there is only one room appropriated for the medical stuff (for the doctor on duty), where one chair, one table and two beds are placed; this room is exploited as a place for medical examination for the newly imprisoned persons; the mentioned room does not satisfy the medical – hygienic standards, there is no scales, clinical thermometer, apparatus for measuring of a blood - tension, and other instruments, necessary for the primary medical examination and first aid;
- In general, the sanitary – hygienic conditions on the whole territory of the quarantine department do not satisfy any standards regarding sanitary and hygiene;
- ***In the above mentioned two quarantine rooms, located in the basement, about 32 prisoners were accommodated;***
- Mentioned sanitary – hygienic situation and living conditions for prisoners was equivalent to torture, psychological and physical;
- On the mentioned territory the ventilation system, and lighting is in a bad condition;
- The prisoners do not have normal linen and other necessary bedding;
- According to the prisoners, there are a lot of bugs in the cells;

- General sanitary – hygienic conditions show that here infectious diseases and tuberculoses can easily spread;
- In general, mentioned situation is damaging for psychological and physical state of not only prisoners, but also of the personnel;
- In the above mentioned two quarantine rooms, located in the basement, it is impossible to render medical aid or conduct medical examination; it is impossible and inadmissible to examine and investigate physical injuries of the body in the lighting, which is available in the rooms;
- Two prisoners declared that they were not examined by a physician after their imprisonment;
- **Newly installed ventilation system, which was observed in the residential building** evidently breaches any sanitary – hygienic norms;
- It can not serve for the air ventilation purposes, therefore the risk of spreading of the airborne diseases is high not only for the prisoners but also for the staff;
- Monotonous, vibrating noise is damaging for the psychological and physical health and causes sleep disturbances, dysfunction of the vestibular apparatus and destruction of psychic functions; this kind of a monotonous noise is regarded in the medical literature as a method of psychological torture of a human;
- This construction is installed in the rooms, intended for the medical staff too, and the noise that can be heard even when the construction is turned off, makes impossible medical examination or conversation with the person;
- Therefore, in the building it is impossible to ensure the availability of the necessary medical aid for the prisoners;
- The availability of the medical aid is also violated in the quarantine rooms, located in the basement;
- **Among the problems, revealed in the medical department following are important:**
 - There are no medical cards for every prisoner, necessary amount of the cards is simply not given to the staff, archive and registration system for the medical calculation does not exist;
 - Mentioned situation is a severe violation of the international standards, given as a guide for the health system in the prisons;
 - There are no enough medical personnel to conduct necessary primary examination of newly imprisoned persons, or for the prisoners who have been moved from place to place (there are about 2700 prisoners in the prison, every day about 20 new prisoners

come in; we think, it is impossible for one doctor on a duty to serve this kind of a contingent)

- There is no laboratory for the elementary laboratory investigation and other technical equipment necessary for other investigations;
- The salaries of the medical personnel is very low (the salary of a physician is 120 lari), which needs to be revised, taking into consideration difficult conditions and risk zone;

Recommendations

- The quarantine department, repaired by the Red Cross must be transferred to the submission of the medical department;
- It must be used only for medical purposes;
- Here the newly imprisoned persons must be allocated;
- The primary medical examination must be precisely conducted;
- Considering international standards, the primary medical examination must reflect quite fully the physical and psychological status of the prisoner, and of course, neurological status by the time of a prisoner's coming to the prison; it must also reflect the prisoners' complaints and the results of the primary clinical examination; The medical recommendations and first medical aid, if conducted, must be fixed in the documentation; The comments of the prisoners (examined persons) on any injury or even on injury which is not visible by the time, must be fixed, the prisoner must be acquainted with the documentation;
- The mentioned examination must be conducted confidentially, without presence of any non-medical persons, only the advocate of the prisoner has the right to be presented; The examination has to be implemented out of the visual and acoustic area of any non-medical personnel; according to the physician's requirement, the examination can be conducted under visual observation of any other personnel, but out of his/her acoustic area;
- For each newly came in prisoner the medical card must be created, which must be taken wherever the prisoner will be transferred; the copy of the document must be given to the prisoner after his discharge;
- Appropriate sanitary – hygienic and medical conditions must be created for the medical personnel (lighting, equipment and etc., in the reception rooms - scales, clinical thermometer, apparatus for measuring of a blood – tension must be available) for them to be possible to implement their professional duty;

