



Monday, December 2, 2019

PRESS RELEASE

National Preventive Mechanism against Torture and Ill-treatment Annual Special Report 2018

The Greek Ombudsman published its Annual Special Report 2018 as the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), designated by Law 4228/2014 which ratified the Optional Protocol within the framework of UN's Convention against Torture (OPCAT).

Via its competency as an NPM, the Independent Authority is investigating detention conditions of persons deprived of their liberty, while making remarks and suggestions for their amelioration.

In this context, the Ombudsman, as the competent body for monitoring the conditions of detention and safeguarding the prisoners' rights, records its findings, identifies shortcomings, distortions or malfunctions.

The report is the product of visits to and on-site inspections of detention facilities by the Authority's senior investigators. It also presents the specific actions undertaken on an operational and organizational level, as well as the institutional interventions and developments concerning the protection of the rights of the detainees.

Last but not least, it emphasises that fiscal adjustment rules can no longer be an excuse for the deterioration of detention conditions and thus for not complying with international conventions and Greek law.

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