

Monitoring of the Rights of Persons of Armenian Origin in Detention

The Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of Azerbaijan, acting as the National Preventive Mechanism, has continued to monitor the treatment and conditions of detention of persons of Armenian origin. Visits have been conducted during the pre-trial investigation and court proceedings, as well as following their transfer to the penitentiary institutions where they are serving their sentences.

During unannounced visits by the Commissioner and members of the National Preventive Group, the persons concerned were informed of their rights in their native language, and their health condition was assessed by the Group's medical member. Legislative materials in their native language and books in various languages were provided in response to their requests. They also have access to the Ombudsman's 916 Call Centre operating 24/7, and their applications have been responded to in accordance with the law.

During the successive visits there have been examined their access to medical and notarial services, contact with family members, access to information, as well as opportunities for exercise and recreational activities.

The Ombudsman also directly observed the provision of notarial services to Araik Harutyunyan. In connection with a notarial matter concerning his family members, the Ombudsman also facilitated the translation, approval, and transmission of the relevant documents.

His requests concerning additional medical examinations and telephone calls have also been addressed. Araik Harutyunyan personally expressed his gratitude to the Ombudsman for the assistance provided in addressing these matters.

Based on its independent monitoring, the Ombudsman has observed that the rights of the persons concerned are being ensured without discrimination. The Ombudsman will continue to monitor their treatment, conditions of detention and access to relevant services within the framework of her mandate.