



Ministerie van Justitie en Politie
CENTRUM KPA
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Aan: de Minister van Justitie en Politie
Zijne Excellentie dhr. mr. Kenneth Amoksi MSc.

Plaats/ Datum: Bomapolder, 7 november 2023

Kenmerk : CKPA/ /23

Onderwerp : invullen van de questionnaire afkomstig van de minister van BIBIS terzake de Mensenrechtenraad

Excellentie,

Als bijlage bij het schrijven van de minister van Buitenlandse Zaken MBIBIS/8766/23 d.d. 19 oktober 2023 is een questionnaire meegestuurd in verband met het rapport ter zake "current issues and good practices in prison management", welke tijdens de 55^{ste} sessie van Mensenrechtenraad gepresenteerd zal worden. Het verzoek is gedaan om deze questionnaire in te vullen en digitaal op te sturen. In de bijlage zit de ingevulde questionnaire ingesloten.

Hopende u omstandig te hebben geïnformeerd, verblijf ik met de vriendelijke korpsgroeten.

Het wnd. Korpshoofd van het
Korps Penitentiaire Ambtenaren,

Mevr. J. Pané-Alfaisi MPA.

Bijlage1: Questionnaire

Current issues and good practices in prison management – Thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on Torture.

ISSUED BY

Special Rapporteur on torture

DEADLINE

13 November 2023

Purpose: Report to be presented to the 55th session of the Human Rights Council

Background

The Special Rapporteur's fourth report will focus on current issues and good practices in the management of prisons, including pre-trial detention facilities. The report will consider ongoing and emerging challenges in preventing and responding to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and hopes to identify concrete solutions to these challenges.

Objectives

The Special Rapporteur has noted that there is growing pressure on national prison systems, many of which are severely overcrowded, under-resourced and poorly managed. Authorities report struggling to manage facilities safely, humanely and in accordance with international human rights standards. In these circumstances, the risks of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are elevated, including its most severe form as torture, and opportunities for meaningful rehabilitation are limited.

The Special Rapporteur seeks to identify the best ways in both policy and practice to relieve the pressure on detention authorities and to work collaboratively with different stakeholders to prevent adverse human rights impacts. The Special Rapporteur considers that humane and dignified treatment and a focus on protecting and promoting mental health of prisoners, including through meaningful activities, is vital to assist prisoners' re-integration into their communities upon release and for the protection of the public.

The forthcoming report will highlight new and emerging areas of concern but will also consider ongoing issues which have seen developments or where authorities would still benefit from further clarification and guidance. Inadequate conditions of detention, high levels of violence, the lack of effective risk and needs assessments for individuals, and problematic discipline and rewards systems, and specifically the (mis)use of solitary confinement, are all elements that have repeatedly come to the attention of the Special Rapporteur.

The Special Rapporteur is interested in hearing about the experiences of particular groups of people and the ways that their specific needs have been – or have failed to be – addressed. She will pay particular attention to women and girls, children and youth, indigenous peoples, members of national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, LGBTQI+ persons, people living with past trauma and/or people with neurodiverse conditions.

The report will be also framed within broader global issues which impact the management of prisons and the security, health and wellbeing of those detained, and which can threaten progress towards fully human rights compliant approaches. These include the threat of future pandemics (learning lessons from Covid-19 responses), and climate-related and other emergency responses. She is also interested in maintaining standards in prisons outsourced to private companies.

Types of input/comments sought

The Special Rapporteur seeks contributions from States, including the responsible government agencies and administrators (for example, justice or prison ministries or departments, correctional services, asylum or immigration authorities). The Special Rapporteur would particularly welcome contributions from National Preventive Mechanisms or other national or local visiting or inspection bodies, and National Human Rights Institutions.

Recognizing that the prevention of torture and other ill-treatment in places of detention involves all State actors, the Special Rapporteur invites responses, including best practice examples, from parliamentarians, prosecution service, the judiciary, and others involved in decisions of whether and where to detain individuals (e.g. parole boards).

She would also welcome contributions from civil society organisations and academics, including those representing the views and experiences of people directly impacted by detention.

Short on time?

If you have limited time, the Special Rapporteur would still like to hear from you. You may choose to respond on an issue which is most pressing in your country or simply provide a summary of the main issues of concern in your country. She is looking for good practices that address specific issues.

Areas of particular focus

The Special Rapporteur seeks inputs and submissions to inform work on this report. She is interested to receive submissions that provide information on:

- Major challenges and their causes;
- Innovation and good practices;
- Recommendations on how to improve existing prison management.

She is also open to hearing about other issues of pressing concern that are not specifically listed.

Areas of particular focus:

1. Measures to reduce overcrowding:

For the time being, there is no overcrowding within the prisons of the KPA.

FACILITY	CAPACITY	arrestee	convicted	appeal	Psychosocial disabilities
CENTRALE PENITENTIAIRE INRICHTING	332 Men: 283	11	203	69	} 29
	Women:25	6	12	7	
	Childeren:24				
HUIS VAN BEWARING PENITENTIAIRE INRICHTING DUISBURGLAAN	196 200	116	68	12	1
		8	158	34	8
PENITENTIAIRE INRICHTING HAZARD	64	none	62	2	2

Looking at the numbers above, we can conclude that the prisons in Suriname are not over crowded. Meaning that there are no necessary steps to take to reduce the number of inmates or to increase the capacity of the prison.

2. Designing daily life in prisons to be focused on meaningful and productive activities, rehabilitation and reintegration, and achieving good physical and psychological health.

The prisoners day starts at 5 a.m. in the morning. They are given the opportunity to practice personal and cell hygiene. They have breakfast around 6:30 am. The various rehabilitation and reintegration activities start at 8 a.m. The detainees will perform work for occupational therapy in the various departments, namely: technical, bakery, kitchen, garden, library, hospital ward, building cleaning work. They will work until 12 noon, after which they will receive their lunch around 12.30 pm. For prisoners who work inside the prison, after getting food, they have a mandatory rest from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. After 3.30 pm they can either exercise indoors or go to the gym or to the sports field. They also play sports and games, can go to the hairdresser and have conversations with each other as well as watch television in the communal recreation room. All this always takes place under the supervision of Penitentiary officials. There are also prisoners who are working outside the walls to carry out construction, gardening and cleaning work. This group will be back in the prison no later than 5 p.m. After the sports and recreational activities, they are again given the opportunity to bathe and around 7 p.m. all prisoners are locked back in their cells.

3. Challenges and innovations for providing mental health provision, including for different groups of prisoners such as those with pre-existing psychological issues, victims of torture, persons with neurodiverse conditions etc.

For the time being, the medical staff within the KPA has not been trained to detect physical and psychological conditions. Each prison has a doctor who treats detainees and, if necessary, refers them for specialist help and guidance. And because we are not trained to deal with this group of prisoners, it is a challenge. What is then done is that this group is placed separately on the medical section of the prison and guided on the instructions of the doctor or specialist. We usually do not know how to deal with this group and rely heavily on the prescribed guidance, medication and instructions from the specialist.

4. Measures taken to mitigate the use and impact of solitary confinement and the development of alternative approaches for both disciplinary and non-disciplinary segregation.

It will be indicated that prisoners are entitled to food, clothing, location, medical care, education, recreation, wages, visits and religious assistance as stated in chapter 2 "care and maintenance of detainees" of the Penitentiary Institutions Regulations 14 June 2022 Jno. 22/04183. On the other hand, there are also obligations that the prisoners must follow with regard to safety, order, peace, discipline and following instructions as stated in chapter 5 "safety, order, peace and discipline" of the Law of January 29, 2020 SB 27

5. Laws, policies, special measures and management innovations adopted for groups with specific needs, such as women and girls, children and youth, indigenous peoples, members of national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, LGBTQI+ persons, and people living with past trauma and/or people with neurodiverse conditions.

In the various prisons, men, women, children and the sick are kept separate. As indicated, the boys are kept in the youth section (JOG). The girls are kept in the women section. Here in the women's section they are kept separate from the adult women as much as possible. They go to the JCC every day for their daily program such as visiting the school, recreation, sports & games, education in the field of agriculture, professional oriented and various computer courses. As previously indicated, men, women and children are admitted and supervised separately in prison. Maintaining hygienic living conditions is also part of the resocialization process. They are taught how to deal with personal and building hygiene. The sleeping situation is for women: 1 woman in a cell space, young people: 2 per cell space (bunk bed) and for men this is 3 per cell space (bunk bed).

6. Preparing for next pandemic (what worked and what didn't in COVID-19 responses to prison management? Any negative consequences of those measures?).

During the COVID 9 pandemic, drastic measures were taken for the wellbeing of all detainees and staff within all prisons. Good health is a priority and a right. During the pandemic it has become apparent that prisons need closed spaces for shelter and guidance when it comes to a virus of this caliber. The staff was not trained to deal with the cases of infection. The KPA lacked a plan to deal systematically with mutual contamination at this level. What the KPA now has is a contingency plan that indicates step by step how to deal with the situation and what to do.

7. Responding to climate-change effects on prisons and prison populations and climate-proofing prison management and conditions of detention.

Suriname has mainly sunny weather with a tropical climate. The building structure of the various prisons are open and closed. Prisoners have the right to be outside under the guard of a correctional officer. In warm weather, the prisoner will be provided with a fan with permission

8. Maintaining human rights standards in prisons outsourced to private companies.

As far as human rights standards are concerned, this is not outsourced to private companies, because the KPA regulations are very clear in this regard. The prisoners are entitled to food, clothing, location, medical care, education, recreation, wages, visits and religious assistance as stated in chapter 2 "care and maintenance of detainees" of the Penitentiary Institutions Regulations 14 June 2022 Jno. 22/04183. The State must ensure that the KPA receives the finances to implement these matters. It will also be indicated that the KPA is financially dependent on the Ministry of Justice and Police for the maintenance of the buildings, safety, sanitation within the various prisons.

Next Steps

Responses should be submitted by 13 November 2023

Email address: sharon.critoph@un.org and copy hrc-sr-torture@un.org

Email subject line:

Call for input current issues and good practice in prison management

File formats:

Word, PDF

Accepted languages:

English, Spanish, French

Postal address:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Hoping to have provided you with sufficient information, I remain with kind regards.

Het wnd. Korpshoofd van het
Korps Penitenciaire Ambtenaren,

Mevr. J. Pané-Alfaisi MPA.

