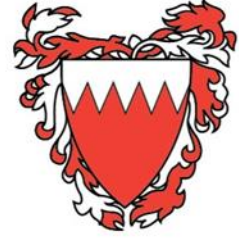


مملكة البحرين
Kingdom of Bahrain

مفوضية حقوق السجناء والمحتجزين
Prisoners & Detainees Rights Commission



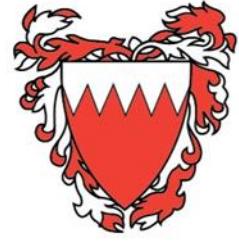
UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION BY THE PRISONERS & DETAINEES RIGHTS COMMISSION

Report No. 4

The Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission (PDRC)

**Unannounced visit to the Northern
Governorate Police Directorate (NGPD)**

December 24-25, 2014



مفوضية حقوق السجناء والمحتجزين Prisoners & Detainees Rights Commission

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Introduction:

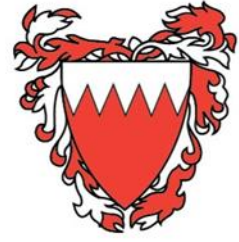
The Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission (PDRC) conducted unannounced inspection to the Northern Governorate Police Directorate (NGPD).

The inspection was carried out in accordance with the principles, criteria and indicators adopted by the Commission.

The procedures included observations made during the visit to the premises and issuing recommendations to raise the standards to be in par with international human rights guidelines and criteria.

The reference points are as stipulated in :

- National Action Charter.
- Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Penal Code, as amended.
- Code of Criminal Procedures, as amended.
- Law 18/2014 of the Institute of Reform and Rehabilitation.
- Law of Public Security Forces, as amended.
- Prison Law 1964.
- Decree 61 / 2013 in regards to establishing Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission.
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Charter of the United Nations.
- Arab Charter of Human Rights.
- United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners 1955.
- United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).
- The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing rules)
- Standards of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons in the United Kingdom.



مفوضية حقوق السجناء والمحتجزين Prisoners & Detainees Rights Commission

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION BY THE PRISONERS & DETAINEES RIGHTS COMMISSION

NGPD:

The NGPD is a two-story building, located in Hamad Town, roundabout 17, and is surrounded by an approximately two meter high wall. It has several rooms, with some allocated as administrative offices and others are used to meet visitors to the Directorate. It also has seven cells and four double beds.

Inspection procedures timings:

The team visited NGPD on 24-25 December 2014 in two stages.

On the first day, the team interviewed a group of 10 detainees who were selected randomly at the Dry Dock Detention Center (DDDC). The group are under the legal custody of NGPD but were transferred from NGPD to DDDC after the legal (48) hour detention period was over. The PDRC team interviewed a diverse group which included 15-18 years old and different nationalities.

On the second day, the team visited the headquarters of the NGPD for inspection.

The tasks were carried out through examination of documents, records and administrative procedures followed, as well as interviews with staff.

Treatment and Conditions:

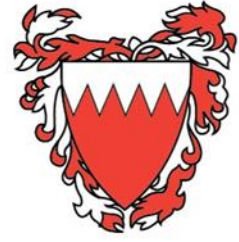
The team noted that there were surveillance cameras installed in the questioning rooms. However, cameras were not available in all facilities.

Fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and emergency exits, as well as safety and security elements were available including in the external area.

The team observed that main corridors, wings, cells, bathrooms and showers were clean and private; in addition, detainees had access to bathrooms and showers.

Temperature, ventilation and lighting levels were adequate.

Detainees received clean mattresses and pillows. However, there were no clear guidelines on dispensing personal hygiene kits for detainees, but had access to washing machines. Food and drink were sufficient and varied. Water was clean and available.



مفوضية حقوق السجناء والمحتجزين Prisoners & Detainees Rights Commission

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION BY THE PRISONERS & DETAINEES RIGHTS COMMISSION

Females were not kept in NGPD but are transferred to the women's detention centre in Isa Town. However, there is no separate facility to serve them while waiting.

Staff did not receive proper training on managing risks, or dealing with detainees with special needs, as well as in the age group of 15-18 years old. However, detainees could request assistance from staff when needed. Detainees were not kept separately based on their age. There was no specialized training on how to use legal force when necessary and was no documentation on the use of it.

There were no written procedures on searching detainees, in addition, there is no procedures for visits. The detainees were able to contact their families while at NGPD, but there was no documentation of phone calls to families, or lawyers before being transferred. Detainees are transported in safe vehicles.

Rights and Guarantees:

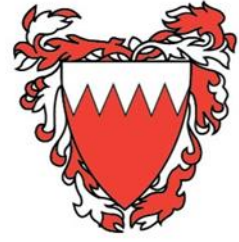
Detainees are informed about their location and the reason behind their detention, and could inform their families of their location. All legal detention documents are included in the detainee's dossier. Posters with legal rights were available; however, there are no clear guidelines on handing them out to detainees.

Furthermore, there was an oral process for filing complaints, but there were no written procedures that clarifies how to file a complaint. There is no written procedure on how to process a complaint and inform detainees of the outcome of their complaints.

Healthcare:

There is a medical record for each detainee that includes health condition details, and procedures indicate detainees are medically examined.

The detainees had access to health services, but the staff were not trained on providing first aid. There were no guidelines on providing, storing, dispensing and removing essential medicines and first aid requirements.



مفوضية حقوق السجناء والمحتجزين Prisoners & Detainees Rights Commission

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION BY THE PRISONERS & DETAINEES RIGHTS COMMISSION

Recommendations:

1. To put in place written procedures that specify the path taken by detainees or any person summoned for questioning in the facility, and to have that path monitored by surveillance cameras.
2. Training the staff on risk management and on dealing with detainees that require special treatment and detainees in the 15-18 age group.
3. Written procedures that clarify and document the use of restraints based on assessment of risk are required.
4. Separating 15-18 year old detainees based on their age group.
5. Formulating written procedures that organize detainees' search according to risk assessment. Training in this regard should be provided to staff.
6. Provide a suitable waiting room for female detainees awaiting transfer.
7. Introducing special and well-organized procedures for the legal use of force in NGPD and training staff on them. The use of force in the detainee's record should be documented.
8. Setting up a mechanism for handing out leaflets vis-a-vis guarantees and legal rights.
9. Taking measures to document and ensure detainees can contact their families and lawyers again while at the center and before being transferred.
10. Setting up specific guidelines that organize visits to the detainees.
11. Establishing a mechanism to dispense personal hygiene kits to detainees.
12. Procedures that define the process of filing complaints should be put in place and to inform detainees of the outcome of their complaints.
13. A mechanism for providing, dispensing and removing essential medicine and first aid kits should be introduced. Also training staff on first aid skills should be provided.