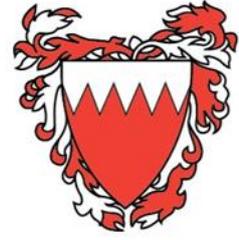


مملكة البحرين
Kingdom of Bahrain

مفوضية حقوق السجناء والمحتجزين
Prisoners & Detainees Rights Commission



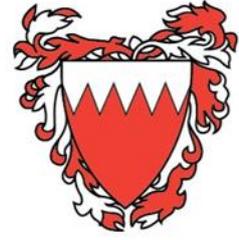
UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION BY THE PRISONERS & DETAINEES RIGHTS COMMISSION

Report No. 3

The Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission (PDRC)

**Unannounced visit to the Muharraq
Governorate Police Directorate
Hidd Police Station (MGPD)**

December 24-25, 2014



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Introduction:

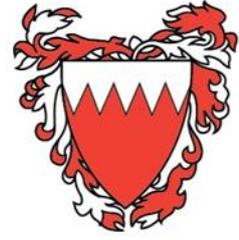
The Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission (PDRC) conducted an unannounced inspection at the Muharraq Governorate Police Directorate (MGPD).

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

The procedures included documenting 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.



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MGPD:

MGPD is a newly constructed building, In the Hala area, and was still being furnished during the inspection. The preparation of the cells and their facilities was not complete at the time of the visit. MGPD has seven cells and four double beds.

Due to the furnishing process, the Directorate held detainees at the police station in Hidd. Therefore, the PDRC team visited the police station in Hidd to view the cells and assess conditions, other related facilities and issues.

Inspection procedures timings:

The team visited MGPD 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 is under the legal custody of MGPD but were transferred from MGPD to DDDC after the legal (48) hour detention period was over. The PDRC team interviewed a diversified group which included 15-18 years old and different nationalities.

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

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

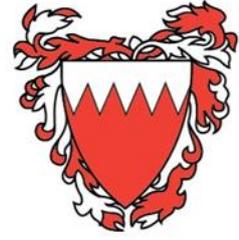
The PDRC team also visited Hidd police station to check the status of the cells and their facilities.

Treatment and conditions:

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

Some cells were not used due to furnishing. Female detainees are not kept in MGPD but transferred to the women's detention center in Isa Town. However, there is no separate facility to serve them while waiting.

Drinking water was clean and available in the building.



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Detainees had access to the external area. No written guidelines organizing visits are available; but visitation rights were facilitated.

In general, personnel were trained on the use of legal force when required; albeit, there was no specialized training on the use of force inside the facility. There is no training for staff to deal with special needs and 15-18 age group detainees.

The use of force is not documented in the detainee's record, and there were no written procedures for the process of searching detainees.

Rights and Guarantees:

Procedures indicate that detainees are legally detained, and are informed of their location as well as the reason behind their detention. Moreover, they were allowed to inform their families about their location. There were no posters or leaflets detailing rights and guarantees and no written procedures to ensure that detainees receive a copy.

There was an oral process for complaints, but there were no written procedures that clarify how to file one. There is no written procedure on how to process a complaint and finalize it.

Healthcare:

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

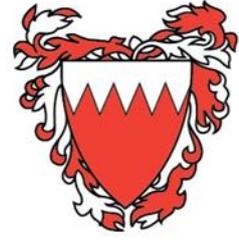
Detainees had access to health services, but staff were not trained on providing first aid. There were no guidelines on providing, storing, dispensing and removing essential medicines and first aid requirements.

Detainees were transferred to hospital whenever it was required and they had access to their prescribed medicine.

Visit to the cells and facilities at Hidd police station (HPS)

Since refurbishment was under way at (MGPD), detainees were transferred to HPS.

Therefore the team made an exceptional inspection visit and noted that the main hall, corridors, rooms, cells, beds and blankets were clean. Food was sufficient and varied and water was available.



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Detainees had access to toilets and showers, but were not clean and needed immediate maintenance.

Some of the air conditioners and lighting fixtures needed urgent maintenance.

Fire extinguishers are available, but staff were not trained on evacuation in case of an emergency.

In general, personnel were trained on the use of legal force when required; albeit, there was no specialized training on the use of force inside the facility. There is no training for staff to deal with special needs and 15-18 age group detainees. The use of force is not documented in the detainee's record, and there were no written procedures for the process of searching detainees or risk management.

Detainees were transferred in safe vehicles and were allowed to take their documents and private possessions while transferred.

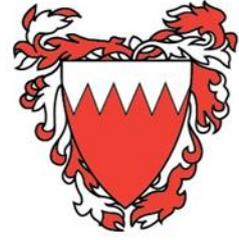
There are no records showing that detainees can contact family or lawyers upon transfer from MGPD.

PDRC received a letter from the Ministry of Interior after reviewing the report stated that MGPD has become fully operational.

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 personnel on ways to deal with special needs and the 15-18 age group detainees.
3. Separating 15-18 year old detainees based on their age group.
4. Written procedures that explain the use of restraints based on assessment of risks are required.
5. Formulating written procedures that organize detainees' search and handcuffing according to risk assessment. Training in this regard should be provided to staff.
6. Provide a suitable waiting room for female detainees awaiting transfer.

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7. Urgent maintenance is required for toilets, air conditioners, and lighting fixtures at HPS.
8. Taking measures to document and ensure detainees can contact their families and lawyers again while at the center and before being transferred.
9. Setting specific guidelines that organize visits to the detainees.
10. Setting a mechanism for handing out leaflets about detainees guarantees and legal rights in a number of languages.
11. Introducing special and well-organized procedures for the legal use of force in MGPD and training staff on them and documenting the use of force in the detainee's record.
12. Providing staff with training on emergency evacuation.
13. Procedures that define the process of filing complaints should be put in place and to inform the detainee of the complaint's outcome.
14. 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.