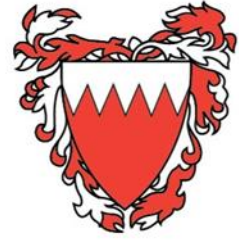


مملكة البحرين
Kingdom of Bahrain

مفوضية حقوق السجناء والمحتجزين
Prisoners & Detainees Rights Commission



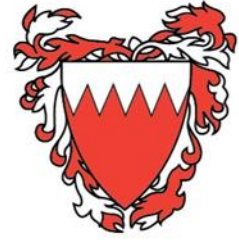
UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION BY THE PRISONERS & DETAINEES RIGHTS COMMISSION

Report No. 6

The Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission (PDRC)

**Unannounced visit to the General
Directorate of Criminal Investigation
and Forensic Science (GDCIFS)**

December 24-25, 2014



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Introduction:

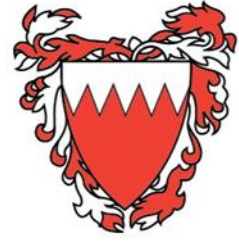
The Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission (PDRC) has set out to make an unannounced visit to the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science (GDCIFS).

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:

1. National Action Charter.
2. Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
3. Penal Code, as amended.
4. Code of Criminal Procedures, as amended.
5. Law 18/2014 of Institute of Reform and Rehabilitation.
6. Law of Public Security Forces, as amended.
7. Prison Systems 1964.
8. Decree 61 / 2013 in regards to establishing Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission.
9. Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
10. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
11. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.
12. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
13. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
14. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
15. Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
16. Charter of the United Nations.
17. Arab Charter of Human Rights.
18. United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners 1955.
19. United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).
20. Standards of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons in the United Kingdom.



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GDCIFS:

GDCIFS is located in Adliya in the capital Manama, surrounded by an approximately three-meter high wall.

It comprises of two General Directorates: The General Directorate of Anti-Corruption, Economic and Electronic Security; and the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science.

The PDRC visited the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science (GDCIFS) that has general and qualitative prerogatives to follow up all crimes committed in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The General Directorate comprises of the Directorate of Criminal Investigation, the Anti-Narcotics Directorate and the Directorate of Forensic Science.

Inspection procedures timings:

The team visited the GDCIFS 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 GDCIFS, MGPD but were transferred from GDFCIFS 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.

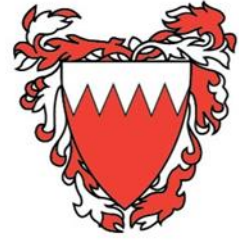
On the second day of the inspection, the team visited GDCIFS headquarters.

The tasks were carried out through access to documents, records and identification of administrative procedures followed and interviewed staff.

PDRC took into account human rights reports published regarding CGPDS as well as reports that a detainee had been tortured by officers from Anti-Narcotics Directorate.

According to reports, officers took the detainee into custody to GDCIFS, tortured and coerced him into confessing Drug Trafficking.

The Special Investigation Unit and the Ombudsman's Office investigated the case and five members of the Anti-Narcotics Directorate, including an officer, were referred to the High Criminal Court. The case is currently in the courts and the next hearing will take place on 4 June 2015.



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Treatment and conditions:

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

Safety equipment and emergency exits were available and clear. Evacuation tests were also conducted.

Main halls, corridors were clean; but there is only one bathroom used by all those being questioned. The bathroom provides privacy.

The team noted that there were two rooms in the same building allocated for questioning and were used by the three directorates. Two rooms are equipped with cameras, but questioning in other rooms without cameras can take place.

Suspects were handcuffed during their stay at the premises. The explanation given was that there was no secure dedicated waiting area at the general directorate for suspects to wait in before transferring to police stations. There is no separate facility to serve females while waiting.

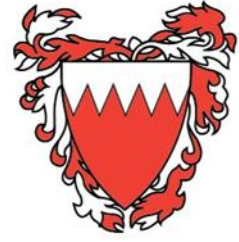
The team investigated the conditions of the premises. Water was available, food was sufficient and varied. However, it was provided at irregular timings.

Calls to the families and lawyers can be made upon arrival to the premises, but they could not call them before their transfer. The suspects were transported in safe vehicles. Foreign nationals could meet representatives from their embassies.

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

The use of force is not documented in the suspect's record, and there were no written procedures for the process of conducting body searches.

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



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Rights and guarantee:

Procedures indicate that suspects were in custody legally, and are informed of their location as well as the reason behind their detention

The team noted that all documents related to legal custody were completed and but leaflets regarding legal rights was only available in a single language.

There is no procedure to ensure suspects are informed of their legal rights and there were no clear procedures for filling complaints.

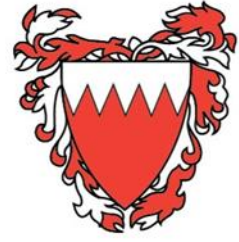
Healthcare:

The team checked the level of healthcare at the premises and took into account that GDCIFS was not a place for detention or jail. Therefore, health services differ. Regardless there is no system for the provision, storage and disposal of medicines or first aid.

Recommendations:

1. To put in place written procedures that specify the path taken by suspects or any person summoned for questioning in the facility, and to have that path monitored by surveillance cameras.
2. More questioning rooms should be allocated and equipped with surveillance cameras.
3. Introducing special and well-organized procedures for the legal use of force in GDCIFS and training staff on them. The use of force in the suspect's record should be documented.
4. Provide a suitable waiting room for male and female suspects pending their transfer.
5. Setting procedures to ensure the regularity of providing meals to suspects.
6. Formulating written procedures that organize body searches.
7. Written procedures that clarify and document the use of restraints based on assessment of risks are required.
8. Setting up a mechanism for handing out bulletins vis-a-vis suspect's guarantees and legal rights.

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9. Procedures that define the process of filing complaints should be put in place.
10. Establish a mechanism to enable the suspect to communicate with his family and lawyer upon transfer.
11. A mechanism for providing, dispensing and removing essential medicine and first aid kits should be introduced. Training staff on first aid skills should be provided.