

## **10 CHANGES SUGGESTED BY THE OMBUDSMAN IMMEDIATELY MADE BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY SERVICE OF ARMENIA**

Upon the recommendation of the Ombudsman, Mr. Karen Andreasyan, the director of NSS, Mr. Gorik Hakobyan, ordered to undertake urgent measures towards the existing drawbacks in place of detention. Within 20 days the following amendments were made:

1. Hereinafter, detainees' admission hours shall mandatory be mentioned in the respective register, thus excluding the probability of keeping the detainees more than it is envisioned by law.
2. To fix the poor condition of the cell, respective repair activities were undertaken.
3. The issue of ensuring detainees' right for calls wasn't regulated formerly, now the detainees will be able to call through the installed payphones.
4. The appointments of detainees with their relatives shall be regulated and registers shall be available to fix the dates and hours.
5. The Ombudsman expressed concern on the possibility to keep the detainees under arrest more than 72 hours, as a result of which the director of NSS in partnership with the NSS Department of Investigation strictly ordered to exclude its possibility.
6. Cells bathrooms were completely isolated from the residential part of the cell.
7. A seat was placed in places of walks.
8. Previously, no menu was provided for the detainees; hereinafter, it will be posted on the respective place.
9. 2 beds were placed in the cell, one of which was removed in order to ensure the requirement of 4 sq. m. per person envisaged by the Legislation.
10. To reveal and prevent possible cases of violence, hereinafter, the absence or existence of bodily injuries of detainees after the interrogations will be recorded.

The aforementioned issues were recorded by the National Preventive Mechanism of the RA Human Rights Defender. The Ombudsman stresses and highly appreciates the constructive cooperation with the director of the National Security Service so as to reveal the problems of the sphere and with joint efforts to provide effective solutions to them.

