

Symbolic Increase of the Ombudsman Budget Denied by the Government

Yesterday the 2013 Annual Budget was adopted, where the Government did not include the proposed 11 million AMD (20.500 EUR) increase for the Human Rights Defender Staff envisaged for the prevention of torture and ill-treatment in all closed and semi-closed institutions of the country. This symbolic increase of funds was exceedingly necessary both for comprehensive implementation of international obligations and obligations towards Armenian society.

The proposal for the increase of the Defender Staff budget was considered valid and justified by the National Assembly relevant Standing Committee. Despite this, the Government did not consider the contribution by 11 million AMD for advancing the human rights protection as a priority for the country and society.

Obviously, improper financing of the Institution not only undermines improvement of the overall human rights climate in the country, but also has its negative implications as regards the international standing of Armenia.

Notwithstanding the “non human rights” oriented policy of the Government, in 2013 Ombudsman Staff will continue its active, consistent, apolitical, humane and publicly beneficial mission in cooperation with different partners of the Institution who help to realize comprehensive protection of the rights and fundamental freedoms of the citizens.

The above mentioned trend is undeniably alarming; yet, we hope that 2014 budget will considerably positively differ in its priorities as regards the protection of human rights.

Karen Andriasyan,
Human Rights Defender (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Armenia