



Facility for Detention of Foreigners Bělá-Jezová

Report on Visit to the Facility

Address of the facility:	Jezová 1501, 294 21 Bělá pod Bezdězem
Founder:	Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior
Director:	Ing. Viliam Andrassy
Type of facility:	facility for detention of foreigners
Capacity:	270 beds standard, increased to 700 at the time of the visit
Date of visit:	31 August 2015
Issue date of the report:	9 September 2015
The visit was carried out by:	Mgr. Anna Šabatová, Ph.D., Mgr. et Mgr. Linda Janků, Mgr. Beáta Szakácsová, JUDr. Pavel Pořízek, Ph.D., JUDr. Ondřej Vala
Interpreters:	Ing. Reza Mirchi, CSc., Ing. Rachid Khalil

Contents

Introduction	3
1. Systematic visit and its aims	3
2. Regime of detention of foreign nationals	4
3. Information on the facility	4
4. Information on the detainees	5
5. Course of the visit	6
Summary	7
Status of the detainees	10
Living conditions and regime	12
1. Tents	12
2. Gym	13
3. Container units	14
4. Dormitory A	16
Children	19
5. Children's needs	19
6. Children's activities	20
Health care	21
7. Interpreting	22
Conclusion	23

Introduction

1. Systematic visit and its aims

Pursuant to Section 1 (3) and (4) of Act No. 349/1999 Coll., on the Public Defender of Rights, as amended, the Public Defender of Rights carries out systematic visits to places (facilities) where persons restricted in their freedom are or may be present. The restriction results either from a decision of a public authority or dependence of the person on the care provided. Facilities for detention of foreigners are facilities in the sense of Section 1 (4)(a) of the Public Defender of Rights Act.

The aim of the systematic visits is to strengthen the protection of persons restricted in their freedom against all forms of ill-treatment. Ill-treatment means treatment which does not respect human dignity and reaches a certain level of severity (by itself or cumulatively due to the effects of the individual interventions). Ill-treatment in a facility for detention of foreigners may consist especially in unsuitable living and hygienic conditions, non-provision of health care, lack of legal counselling, violation of the rights of children or non-respecting of the right to privacy.

As a rule, the visits are unannounced and are usually carried out by the authorised employees of the Office of the Public Defender of Rights.¹ Inquiry consists of inspection of the facility, interviews with the staff and the detained foreign nationals, study of the internal regulations of the facility and the documentation, including medical records.²

I make a report on each visit which serves the various persons active in the facility as well as the founder and the competent authorities.

¹ Pursuant to Section 25 (6) of the Public Defenders of Rights Act.

² Pursuant to Section 21 in conjunction with Section 15 of the Public Defenders of Rights Act and Section 65 (2)(m) of Act No. 372/2011 Coll., on healthcare services and the conditions of their provision (the Health Care Services Act), as amended.

2. Regime of detention of foreign nationals

The conditions of detention at the Facility for Detention of Foreigners are regulated by Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the residence of foreign nationals in the Czech Republic and on amendment to certain laws, as amended.

The detained foreign nationals, including children over 18 months of age, are charged CZK 130 per person per day for accommodation and CZK 112 per person per day for meals.³ After 30 days of stay in the Facility, a detained foreign national is thus required to pay CZK 7,260. A family of four placed in the Facility for 30 days has to pay the total of CZK 29,040.

Aside from the Residence of Foreign Nationals Act, I also base my assessment of the treatment of foreign nationals in administrative detention and the conditions of detention on the recommendations and standards of international organisations which, despite not being formally binding, represent a certain minimum standard of protection of the detainees' fundamental human rights and freedoms. These are especially the standards formulated by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT).⁴ I formulate my recommendations in view of the basic premise that interference with the rights, dignity and autonomy of foreign nationals is justified only in the minimum scope corresponding to the need to maintain safety and order in detention.

3. Information on the facility

The Facility for Detention of Foreigners in Bělá-Jezová (hereinafter the "Facility" or "Facility for Detention of Foreigners") is a facility for administrative detention of foreign nationals. The facility is operated by the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (hereinafter the "Refugee Facilities Administration").

Over the past 6 months, the Facility's capacity has been gradually increased from 270 to 700 beds. At the time of the visit, the Facility housed 659 persons, including 147 children.

³ See Section 1 of Decree No. 447/2005 Coll., stipulating the costs of housing, foods and transport in the territory of the Czech Republic of detained foreign nationals for the purposes of administrative expulsion.

⁴ European Committee for the Prevention of Torture CPT Standards [pdf document] Strasbourg: European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, 2015 [retrieved on 7 September 2015]. Available at: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/docsstandards.htm>. Hereinafter the "CPT Standards".

The facility is divided into a moderate regime ward and strict regime ward. Parts with moderate regime consist of Building A, where families with children and vulnerable persons are accommodated. Further, there are 33 container housing units where families with children and male detainees are accommodated. Male detainees in the part with moderate detention regime are accommodated in tents, a gym, and Buildings B and D (at the time of the visit, there was also one family with children).

The strict detention regime part of the facility has a capacity of 18 beds and is situated in Building F. Pursuant to Section 135 of the Residence of Foreign Nationals Act, the strict detention regime is reserved for detainees exhibiting aggressive behaviour or persons who must be under increased surveillance for some other serious reason, e.g. they repeatedly break the internal rules or repeatedly and seriously violate their duties or prohibitions under the aforementioned Act. At the time of the visit, no foreign national was placed in the strict detention regime part of the Facility.

4. Information on the detainees

The Facility for Detention of Foreigners executes the decisions of the Police of the Czech Republic (hereinafter the "Police") on detention of foreign nationals under the Residence of Foreign Nationals Act. At the time of the visit, this meant, pursuant to Section 129 of the above-specified Act, chiefly the detention for the purposes of transfer under an international treaty or transfer with accordance to European Union laws⁵ (involving approx. 580 persons). Five unaccompanied minors were also detained in the Facility.

Pursuant to Section 140 of the Residence of Foreign Nationals Act, foreign nationals in respect of whom a detained foreign national has the duty of maintenance or guardianship can also be housed in the Facility if they cannot be taken care of by other means. At the time of the visit, the Facility housed 142 children based on the above-specified legal grounds.

The Facility for Detention of Foreigners also executes the decisions of the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic concerning the duty of the applicant for international protection (asylum seeker) to stay in the Facility for Detention of Foreigners on the basis of Section 46a of Act No. 325/1999 Coll.,

⁵ Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (amended wording). Hereinafter the "Dublin III Regulation".

on asylum, as amended. At the time of the visit, the duty to stay in the facility was imposed on 13 persons.

All of the authorities active in the Facility, i.e. the Refugee Facilities Administration, the Police, the Healthcare Facility of the Ministry of the Interior as well as the private security contractor responsible for internal security do not make distinctions with respect to the legal grounds of stay as regards the individual detainees. All detainees, irrespective of their legal status (e.g. asylum-seeker, a foreign national detained for the purposes of transfer under Dublin III Regulation), are treated the same. The employees of the Refugee Facilities Administration refer to the detainees as "clients".

5. Course of the visit

The unannounced visit was carried out on 31 August 2015, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

I carried it out in person together with authorised employees of the Office of the Public Defender of Rights (hereinafter the "Office"), Mgr. et Mgr. Linda Janků, Mgr. Beáta Szakácsová, JUDr. Pavel Pořízek, Ph.D., JUDr. Ondřej Vala, the interpreter of the Persian language (Farsi), Ing. Reza Mirchi, CSc., and the interpreter of the Arabic and Kurdish languages, Ing. Rachid Khalil.

The entry into the facility was hindered by delays (approx. 20 minutes) caused by unavailability of the head of the facility, Mr Andrásy, as well as the chief of the Police unit in the Facility, 1st Lt. Šarapatka. Further delays resulted when the police unit chief initially refused to allow me to bring and use a camera in the Facility for the purposes of photographic documentation of the conditions (the living conditions and documents; no photos of the security arrangements or the detained foreign nationals or Facility employees were to be taken).

I also note that the police unit chief believed the Facility housed approx. 30 children, while in reality their number was 5 times higher.

The visit was carried out in a standard fashion without any irregularities. We spoke with individual persons as well as with whole groups of detainees. We spoke with dozens of the detained foreign nationals and with employees of the Refugee Facilities Administration, the Health Care Facility and the private security contractor.

Summary

Having conducted the personal visit in the Facility, inspection of its premises and interviews with the detainees and with the staff, I must conclude that the situation in the Facility is critical. In this case, it is not necessary to assess the conditions found in the facility in terms of compliance with the Czech Republic's international obligations, or lack thereof, their lawfulness or variance with the international standards for administrative detention of foreign nationals.

The Facility is not prepared, in terms of its equipment, organisation and personnel, to accommodate and provide services to 700 persons (the normal capacity is 270 beds).

This is testified by the fact that the foreign nationals placed in the Facility lack clothing and some do not even have shoes. Some detainees have not received even the most basic personal hygiene items since their arrival in the facility (e.g. 11 days, but sometimes not even in 23 days). Some have not received hot meals for 11 days; they received only bread and cheese three times a day. The Facility is unclean and untidy and a salmonellosis epidemic has broken out.

The Facility's employees, who are under enormous everyday pressure and face non-standard working conditions and an excessive amount of work, are unable to provide the detainees with basic information on their situation and to address the needs of each of the detained foreign nationals.⁶ As a result, the detainees are frustrated by the lack of information and by the fact that nobody is attending to their problems (lack of diapers, obtaining numbers from the confiscated mobiles, shopping, etc.). They often come to believe they have been deprived of their humanity and are treated as a "herd of animals", as they put it themselves. The lack of communication with the detainees is substituted by a naked threat of repression in the form of a larger police contingent at the Facility, including a riot police unit.

The aforementioned situation gives rise to the feeling of helplessness on the part of people with children, 150 of which were accommodated in the facility at the time of the visit. The lack of toys, playgrounds and free time activities (despite the fact that the Facility employs a child activities animator) and conditions resembling a prison (high fence topped with barbed wire, uniformed police officers, riot police and private security guards) in effect make the Facility wholly unsuitable for

⁶ According to the information received from the head of the Facility, there are 5 social workers (3 full-time employees and 2 temporary employees from the Reception Centre in Prague-Ruzyně).

accommodating children. Taking into regard the current situation in the Facility, the violation of Article 3 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms⁷ in relation to the accommodated children, which I found during my visit to the Facility for Detention of Foreigners in Bělá-Jezová of 18 February 2015⁸, is even more serious.

All the findings contained in this report from visit to the Facility bear witness not only to ill-treatment of the detained foreign nationals, but also of the risk of the detainees ill-treating each other, since the Facility is unable to prevent escalation of tensions among them.

During the closing meeting, I informed the head of the Facility, Mr Andrassy, of the most significant of my findings and I requested that remedy be ensured (providing clothes and shoes, providing the detainees housed in the gym with direct access to the toilet and running water, properly informing and feeding the detainees and enabling the detainees housed in the gym to do shopping, outings, etc.). The interpreters, who are well-versed in the eating habits of the detainees, have pointed out the unsuitability of some of the foods and recommended they be replaced with products such as white bread, yoghurt and cream cheese. I advised the head of the facility also of the issues which lie outside his direct competence as a senior employee of the Refugee Facilities Administration (the presence of police guards during the serving of meals, the way of conducting the nightly roll calls, the spread of infectious diseases in the Facility, etc.).

The purpose of this Report is to inform all the responsible authorities of the acute need to adopt adequate measures to remedy the most serious of the shortcomings found. Therefore, this Report provides a structured overview of the most serious shortcoming and the current situation in the Facility for Detention of Foreigners, without giving detailed explanation of the relevant legal grounds.

The Report from the visit to the Facility can, however, be put in a broader context as this is the third time this year the Public Defender of Rights, acting in the role of the national preventive mechanism, has visited the Facility. The Report on the visit to the Facility for Detention of Foreigners in Bělá-

⁷ Memorandum of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs No. 209/1992 Coll., on the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, as amended by subsequent protocols.

⁸ THE PUBLIC DEFENDER OF RIGHTS. Report on Visit to the Facility for Detention of Foreigners in Bělá-Jezová of 18 February 2015 [pdf document]. Brno: Office of the Public Defender of Rights, 2015 [retrieved on: 7 September 2015]. Available at: http://www.ochrance.cz/fileadmin/user_upload/ochrana_osob/ZARIZENI/Zarizeni_pro_cizince/ZZ-Zarizeni_Bela-Jezova_2014.pdf

Jezová of 18 February 2015, including all communication with the individual responsible authorities, is publicly available on the Public Defender of Rights' website.⁹

⁹ THE PUBLIC DEFENDER OF RIGHTS. Reports on Systematic Visits in the Facilities for Detention of Foreigners [online]. Brno: Office of the Public Defender of Rights, 2015 [retrieved on: 7 September 2015]. Available at: <http://www.ochrance.cz/ochrana-osob-omezenych-na-svobode/zarizeni/zarizeni-pro-cizince/>

Status of the detainees

The findings of the visit to the Facility are closely linked to the regime and the conditions of accommodation in the given part of the Facility. They can be summarised as follows:

The detained foreign nationals are not informed of their situation. They do not understand why they were placed in a facility where living conditions resemble a prison. They do not understand why their mobile phones, watches, shoelaces, belts, money etc. were confiscated. They are afraid that they will lose all their money, which they had to hand over to the Refugee Facilities Administration for safekeeping. The Facility's staff do not have the time to address their needs.

Close as well as more distant family members are commonly separated, both within the Facility itself and when some family members are transferred into a different facility of the same kind. Detainees separated from their relatives within the Facility are not informed of the reasons for their separation (e.g. when people are moved into quarantine for medical reasons), which increases their sense of frustration.

The anxiety of the detainees is intensified by the fact that they are unable to contact their relatives. Many have no way to report back home that they are alive, or to try and find a relative with whom they have lost contact. Attempts to establish contact through the social workers are, in their experience, futile. The telephone card, which the detainees receive upon admission into the Facility, is sufficient for an approx. 3-minute call to their country of origin. Not every detainee who asks is brought to the payphone. Detainees are not allowed access to the Internet.

The detainees mentioned the **feeling of utter humiliation caused by the conditions in which they were forced to stay and by the way they were treated.** This is especially so if they do not have sufficient clothing and shoes, not even for their children. The detainees note that they have never been subjected to such treatment in any of the countries they went through.

Parents feel humiliated in front of their children. Not only are they being moved in handcuffs, but they are also kept behind 4-metre fences topped with barbed wire, without being able to explain to their children the reason why or for how much longer will the situation last. According to the parents, their children are anxious and even older children are waking up at night crying.

Lack of information is also caused by the **inadequacy of the legal advice provided in the Facility.** In the Facility, free legal counselling is provided through an NGO once per week; another NGO offers legal counselling once every two weeks. The detainees housed in the gym, the tents and the container units, were not even aware that any legal counselling was available. Those housed in

Building A were informed of the presence of a lawyer in the facility by means of a notice on a bulletin board, where they could also sign up on a waiting list. However, the notice did not indicate whether the legal counselling was free and did not include an Arabic or Persian translation. Despite the claims of the Facility's management that the detainees' needs of legal advice were fully met, when I and my colleagues moved around the facility, dozens of foreign nationals approached us asking for help and legal counselling with respect to their situation; they often came with Czech-language administrative decisions in hands, not knowing the contents of these document.

Living conditions and regime

The living conditions and the detention regime of the detainees differs markedly depending on the environment in which they are accommodated.

1. Tents

Tents (one smaller and two larger military tents for approx. 90 persons; see Figures 1 and 2) were set up as accommodation of male detainees during admission. Sanitary facilities are provided in container units near the tents (Figures 3 and 4).



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

The foreign nationals with whom I spoke had been accommodated there for a period between 1 and 11 days. The detainees accommodated in this part:

- receive only bread and cheese three times a day;
- have not received personal hygiene items upon admission;
- cannot do any shopping;
- have no access to a telephone, which means they cannot contact their relatives despite having a telephone card issued by the Refugee Facilities Administration;
- some of them do not have shoes and lack sufficient clothing;
- have no possibility to store food in a refrigerator;
- are not aware of any social workers' activities;
- have no information of legal counselling.

2. Gym

Similarly to the accommodation in the tents, accommodation in the gym is set up to house detainees during admission. The night before my visit, there were approx. 100 persons placed in the gym; at the time of my visit the number was approx. 60 persons. Sanitary conveniences serving the gym consist of 2 toilets and two showers with no screen (see Figures 5 and 6).



Figure 5



Figure 6

The foreign nationals with whom I spoke had been accommodated there for a period between 2 and 11 days. Besides other issues, the detainees accommodated in this part:

- receive only bread and cheese three times a day;
- have not received personal hygiene items upon admission;
- do not have direct access to the toilet and to running water (in order to get to the toilet, they have to bash the door and wait for a private security guard to arrive);
- have no access to a telephone, which means they cannot contact their relatives despite having a telephone card issued by the Refugee Facilities Administration;
- no regular cleaning of the gym is carried out (as witnessed by a detainee placed in the gym for 11 days);
- have no possibility to store food in a refrigerator (see Figure 7);
- a number of detainees attested to the fact that they had no outings and were thus, in fact, not allowed out of the gym at all.



Figure 7

3. Container units

The 33 container units (see Figure 8) also served as housing, aside from individual male detainees, for families with children who could not be housed in the dormitories due to capacity reasons. A total of 120 persons were housed in container units, including approx. 50 children. Aside from the housing containers, container units with sanitation facilities (see Figures 9 to 11) and units for serving meals were available; these contained the only two electric kettles available to people housed in the container units (see Figure 12).

A payphone is freely accessible in this part of the Facility and this area is also occasionally visited by a social worker who attends to the needs of the detainees. The detainees may do their shopping once

a week. Cleaning is carried out by the detainees themselves, serving of meals is co-ordinated by an employee of the Refugee Facilities Administration.



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12

The situation of detainees in the container units is as follows:

- parents complain about the lack of clothes, not only for themselves but especially for their children (if they have any shoes at all, these are the “cros shoes”);
- no activities are provided for the children – there are no games, swings, climbing frames or TV available;
- the mattresses are not made of washable material, the beds lack pillows, not all persons are provided with bed sheets;
- the container units lack tables and families with children do not have a sufficient number of chairs (the lunches are provided in takeaway boxes and eaten at the units);
- moving between units is uncoordinated to such an extent that people are sometimes moved to a unit housing persons infested with lice, with no additional measures being adopted;
- have no possibility to store food in a refrigerator;
- serving of meals in the container units area is supervised by a riot police unit – 10 to 15 police officers in masks and helmets (see the illustrative picture in Figure 13). According to the staff, some unrest had occurred in the past in this part of the Facility during serving of meals; however, there are currently 50 children accommodated in this area.



Illustration photo, Figure 13 (source: http://i.idnes.cz/09/102/c460/JW2e5a85_HA0P0173.JPG)

4. Dormitory A

Building A is reserved for accommodating families with children and vulnerable persons. On the basis of the personal interviews with the detainees housed in this building, I have established the following:

- some of the detainees have not yet received their hygienic items package (a woman from Egypt has been waiting for 23 days, a Syrian family of four has been waiting for 6 days); women thus also lack sanitary pads, among other items;
- kitchens are used as bedrooms; beds placed in alcoves are sometimes only accessible over the bed-heads (see Figure 14);
- the number of beds does not correspond to the number of people placed in the room, e.g. three adults and five children share 5 beds (see Figure 15);
- a room where a mother and her children is accommodated lacks the door (see Figure 16);
- bed linen is not changed;
- it is impossible to get access to a washing machine;
- food cannot not be stored in a refrigerator;
- no window has curtains or hangings and the detainees often install improvised replacements (see Figure 17).



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17

Children

A total of 147 children, including 5 unaccompanied minors, were present at the Facility at the time of the visit. Children were living together with their families in Building A and the container units.

5. Children's needs

The parents' complains include especially the following:

- they are afraid to bathe their children in the common bathrooms and use the common toilets due to concerns about filth and a diarrhoea outbreak;
- they call attention to the lack of baby formula, which is substituted by semi-skimmed milk;
- when children receive "snacks", e.g. milk products, there is no suitable place to store them;
- the children lack clothing and shoes;
- there are not enough baby diapers;
- there are not enough cups for drinking;
- even very small children receive the same meals as adults (see Figures 18 and 19), merely supplemented with "snacks" (e.g. 0.5 litre of semi-skimmed milk);
- the children are afraid of the police and private security guards;
- we saw children playing at being policemen and private security guards or at escaping from prison, when they tried to dig under the 4-metre fences topped with barbed wire.



Figure 18



Figure 19

6. Children's activities

The Facility has a separate building serving as the children's centre, and a playground with climbing frames; nevertheless, as the children's centre is next to the gym where the male detainees were accommodated, the children's playground is currently used as an outing area for the male detainees accommodated in the tents. Children's activities at the Facility were organised by a single trained animator (entertainer).

6.1 Activities for children housed in the container units

Children housed in the container units are provided neither with entertainment opportunities nor any suitable area for play (see Figures 20 and 21).



Figure 20



Figure 21

6.2 Activities for children housed in Building A

Children housed in Building A are provided with a common room (also a playground), which is open for use 2 hours a day. When the reserved time runs out, children have to leave the room (even if, for example, they have not yet finished watching a cartoon on TV).

6.3 Children's education activities

The staff claim that school lessons should start being provided in the Facility from 1 September 2015. The school lessons will be led by a teacher from the Bělá pod Bezdězem Elementary School; approx. 40 children are expected to attend.

Health care

At the time of the visit, one physician and two nurses were active at the Facility. According to the medical staff, health care services are provided continuously and without interruptions (through the presence of the nurses). One or two physicians have office hours each day.

The information obtained at the health care centre shows that on an average day, 30 persons are examined by a single physician; the recorded numbers of medical interventions without the presence of a physician fluctuate significantly (100 to 600 per day). The average number of administrations of medication to persons is 60 per day.

Approximately 130 detainees placed in the Facility after 20 August 2015 received no chest X-ray as part of the admission examination because of the lack of escort capacity on the part of the Police and the limited operating hours of the X-ray facility at Klauďánova Hospital in Mladá Boleslav.

At the time of my visit, laboratory tests confirmed salmonellosis in 10 of the detainees.

The detainees claimed that:

- it is difficult to get access to a physician for medical attention (the waiting periods were described as random, where sometimes there is no waiting time and at other times there is a 3-day wait);
- even if they get to the physician, they often cannot explain the nature of their health problem due to the lack of a common language. Not a single detainee has confirmed that interpreting during medical examinations is available in the Facility. According to the experience of some of the detainees, some of the physicians do not even speak English;
- they are not examined properly – they are often administered a pill without receiving explanation as to its effects (they suspect that they are only receiving placebo or pain medication);
- they do not know when a relative has been taken into quarantine and why;
- their medication has been confiscated (each medicine was administered by the medical staff separately), including vitamin supplements for pregnant women;

- as stated by one female detainee, she had been held in quarantine for 8 days; the quarantine room contained only a toilet and a wash basin. During the whole time in quarantine, she had not have a bath or a shower (the possibility had not been offered to her).

7. Interpreting

When asked about interpreting and the need for interpreting, the medical staff referred to the translation of the informed consent forms (the entry examination, medical interventions) into 16 world languages. The staff also offered several bilingual questionnaires for the foreign nationals on the basis of which the physician can determine the diagnosis. When asked how the staff of the health care facility would determine the anamnesis (medical history) or the diagnosis in a situation where the patient started describing his or her problems in more details, the staff referred to the possibility of contacting an interpreter through the Refugee Facilities Administration. When further asked about instances where interpreter's services were last used, the nurses (since the physician was holding office hours in the Facility only for the first time) responded that two weeks prior, when they were on duty, interpreting took place "*perhaps once*". The head of the facility, Mr Andrassy, could not recall the last time he was contacted by the employees of the health centre concerning the need to find an interpreter.

As an example of the failure to provide for interpreting services, I will mention a case of a woman suffering from swelling in the area of her eyes and face, witnessed by one of the Office's employees. The medical staff was unable to explain to the patient that she would be escorted to a hospital for examination and that it was necessary for her to arrange for babysitting of her pre-school child. When the foreign national said she spoke Farsi, the medical staff said that it was impossible to provide for interpreting into this language, not even over the phone.

The staff eventually accepted the offer of help by the Farsi interpreter who at the time was providing interpreting services to the Office of the Public Defender of Rights.

Conclusion

I have found cases of ill-treatment of detainees in the facility, especially children, caused by shortcomings in living conditions, organisation and personnel which I described in the Report above.

I call on the Refugee Facilities Administration, the Healthcare Facility of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the Czech Republic – Directorate of the Foreigners Police to immediately adopt measures to remedy the found shortcomings.

Mgr. Anna Šabatová, Ph.D., signed
Public Defender of Rights
(this report bears an electronic signature)