



REPORT

Protection of the rights of residents of the North Caucasus in correctional institutions of Russia

2019-2020

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December 2020

MOSCOW

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ABBREVIATIONS IN THE TEXT

EPKT - a single chamber-type room

Committee - Civic Assistance Committee

PDL - places of deprivation of liberty

PMC - Public Monitoring Commission

PKT - chamber type room

RI - Republic of Ingushetia

RF PEC - Criminal Executive Code of the RF

UIS - penitentiary system

CR - Chechen Republic

ShIZO - punishment cell

IS - correctional institution

SUON - strict conditions for serving a sentence

Convention - Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

INTRODUCTION

The project "Protection of the rights of residents of the North Caucasus in the prisons of the Russian Federation" was launched by the Civic Assistance Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) in 2011¹ and continues to focused on:

- protection of rights, and the prevention of discrimination based on ethnic and religious signs of convicted residents of the republics of the North Caucasus who are serving a sentence in places of deprivation of liberty (PDL),
- development of public control in places of detention,
- analysis of the national and cultural needs of the inhabitants of the North Caucasus,
- humanization of the penal system as a whole.

The report "Protection of the rights of residents of the North Caucasus in Russian prisons (2019-2020)" sums up the results of the project in the last two years and is focused on attracting public and government attention to the problems of violations in prisoners' rights – specifically residents of the republics of the North Caucasus.

Violations of the rights of residents of the North Caucasus in the penitentiary system are built into the general system of violations of the rights of prisoners in Russia, but they have their own characteristics, related to nationality and religion. Most of the colony employees are hostile to residents of the republics of the North Caucasus, specifically to the Chechens. This common stereotype ingrained in the citizens of the Russian Federation was formed by official propaganda during the years of two wars in Chechnya, especially typical for “power” departments, including the Federal Penitentiary Service. The colony personnel also have a general negative attitude towards Islamic prisoners, assuming all Muslims are part of radical Islamist groups. In addition, many colony employees do not understand the needs associated with the practice of Islam. It all creates grounds for discrimination and cruel treatment of prisoners from the republics North Caucasus.

22 years ago, Russia made a commitment to fulfill the fundamental human rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, including the right to freedom of religion, and the right not to be discriminated and tortured. However, the Court continues to find violations of the above rights, in particular, in the prison system. The fact that in modern Russia, a person is subjected to discrimination and torture due to religion or ethnicity, is shameful.

This is the third report in a row. The first report “About the situation of residents of the Chechen Republic and the Republic of Ingushetia in penitentiary institutions systems” covered the period from September 2011 to August 2014 and concerned only residents from Chechnya and Ingushetia. This is because the discrimination in the penitentiary system is primarily concerned around the Chechens and Ingush people. This is most likely the result of two Chechen wars, and the arrival of a large number of employees in the penitentiary system, who were participating in hostilities. Over time, these lines have faded because the Committee started to expand the geographical boundaries of their project due to appeals beginning to arrive from residents of other North Caucasian republics. The second report covered the period from 2015 to 2018 and

¹ Protection of the rights of residents of the North Caucasus in the prisons of the Russian Federation // Civic Assistance Committee URL: https://refugee.ru/zaschita_prav/

works to protect the rights of imprisoned residents of different constituent entities of the Russian Federation North Caucasus region.

During the preparation of the report, the materials used by the Committee “Civil Assistance” were: open data of partner human rights organizations, authorities, mass media.

The project team consists of three coordinators and a lawyer who work in Moscow, Ingushetia, and Dagestan, each of who, during the reporting period, received, and processed information from prisoners and their relatives, and took response measures. Involved in protecting the rights of prisoners are attorneys and lawyers from different regions of the Russian Federation.

Oyub Titiev became the project manager at the start of 2020. In June 2019, he was released from a colony-settlement, where he was serving a sentence on trumped-up charges. Leading international and Russian human rights organizations recognized Oyub Titiev's conviction as politically motivated, and related to his human rights activities.

I. LEGAL ASPECTS

The legal status of prisoners in Russia is determined by: the European penitentiary rules, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, The Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Criminal Executive Code of the Russian Federation, the Federal Law “On detention of suspects and accused of committing crimes”, Internal regulations of pre-trial detention centers and penitentiaries, and other documents. Here are the main norms guaranteeing the rights of prisoners.

European Penitentiary Rules

Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion

29.1. The freedom of thought, conscience and religion of prisoners should be respected.

29.2. The prison system must be organized in such a way that allows prisoners to practice their religion and adhere to their faith, attend services or meetings held by authorized representatives of their religions and beliefs, to be able to meet and talk with such representatives of their religion and beliefs, as well as have books or literature available concerning their religion or beliefs.

The Constitution of the Russian Federation provides for the ban of discrimination based on any form and guarantees equality regardless of nationality, language, origin, religion, etc.

Part 2 of Article 19 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation:

The state guarantees equality of human and civil rights and freedoms regardless of gender, race, nationality, language, origin, property and official position, place of residence, attitude to religion, beliefs, membership of public associations, as well as other circumstances. Any form of restriction of the rights of citizens on the basis of social, racial, national, linguistic or religious affiliation is not allowed.

Part 2 of Article 29 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation:

Propaganda or agitation inciting social, racial, national or religious hatred and enmity. Propaganda of social, racial, national, religious or linguistic superiority is prohibited.

Part 2 of Article 14 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation:

Religious associations are separated from the state and equal before the law.

Federal Law "On the detention of suspects and those accused of committing crimes "

Article 4. Principles of detention

Detention is carried out in accordance with the principles of legality, justice, the presumption of innocence, equality of all citizens before law, humanism, respect for human dignity, and in accordance with The Constitution of the Russian Federation, the principles and norms of international law, and also international treaties of the Russian Federation, and should not be accompanied by torture, or other actions aimed at causing physical or moral suffering to suspects and accused of committing crimes, in custody (hereinafter - suspects and accused).

Criminal Executive Code of the Russian Federation

Article 14. Ensuring freedom of conscience and freedom of religion for convicts. They have the right to practice any religion, choose freely, have and disseminate religious beliefs, and act in accordance with them.

The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms states that, although the right "To freedom of thought, conscience, religion" is not absolute, interference with it must be prescribed by law, meet a legitimate aim, and be proportionate and necessary in a democratic society.

In accordance with the Convention and the practice of the European Court of Human Rights, the right to freedom of religion gives rise to a positive duty of the state to ensure or contribute to the realization of this right, rather than create obstacles in its implementation.

II. STATISTICS and characteristics of requests

In less than two years (2019-2020), the Committee received 543 applications from prisoners and their relatives with complaints about violations of their rights in connection with their national or religious affiliation.

In person, the staff of the Committee accepted and consulted 117 applicants who are relatives of the convicts. By phone, the "Hot line" provided 951 consultations.

Lawyers and attorneys hired by the Committee have visited the convicts 44 times in correctional institutions to conduct lawyer interviews and provide legal assistance.

Appeals were sent to the authorities in the interests of 78 applicants.

In the case of 6 applicants, applications were sent to the European Court for People's Rights. Of these, the complaints were as followed- 3 due to the remoteness of the place of serving the sentence from the place of residence relatives, 1 due to lack of medical care, and 2 due to inhuman and degrading conditions of detention. All complaints are registered ECHR and are at different stages of consideration.

In the cases of 13 applicants, the Committee hired lawyers to participate in proceedings.

From year to year, the Committee continues to record facts of discrimination against people from the North Caucasus by nationality and religion in the execution system punishments. This problem gives rise to all the other violations of rights from the specified category of prisoners.

The petitioners' applications to the Committee, as a rule, contain information about not just one, but sometimes several violations of rights at the same time. So, for example, a convicted person can be placed in a punishment cell for performing a prayer during a time that is not established by the rules of the internal schedule, as well as for their complaints about the actions and decisions of employees that unlawfully used physical force and degrading treatment. In this way, one complaint often contains an indication of several violations: the right to religion, placement in a punishment cell, and the use of physical force.

The staff of the Committee aids all applicants who apply, including those who come from the North Caucasian republics, regardless of where they are serving their sentences. During the reporting period, the Committee accepted complaints from 17 constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The largest number of appeals came from convicts serving sentences in Republic of Mordovia, Vladimir, Irkutsk, Saratov, Orenburg, Arkhangelsk regions.

III. SYSTEMIC VIOLATIONS OF Prisoners' Rights

Religion

According to the Constitution, Russia is a multinational, secular, and Democratic state. Freedom of thought, conscience and religion is one of its fundamental foundations, which is important to both believers and atheists, agnostics, and skeptics.

With regret we have to admit that in 2020, the confession of Muslim convicts in prisons faced serious obstacles due to the formal approach of correctional officers and authorities to meeting the religious needs of Muslims.

In 2016, the position of assistant chief was introduced into the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia in the territorial body of the Federal Penitentiary Service for the organization of work with religious people. The assistants were appointed in 81 constituent entities of the Russian Federation, of which 70 are Orthodox priests, 5 are Muslim Imams, and 1 Buddhist priest². Assistants have been appointed in Dagestan, Karachay-Cherkessia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Tatarstan, and the Chechen Republic.

As of October 2020, the list of assistants has not been updated. Therefore, it does not seem possible to assess how much this practice has expanded in recent years, and how the rights of Muslim convicts for freedom of conscience and religion in those 76 constituent entities of the Russian Federation where the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, does not have assistants to work with Muslim believers.

The key problems for Muslims in places of forced contents are:

- the prevention of being able to perform prayer 5 times per day
- impossibility of observance of ritual purity
- use / storage of religious items
- food

² List of assistants to the heads of territorial bodies of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia // URL:<http://www.apu.fsin.gov.ru/territory/Apu/almanah/rpc/1.pdf>

Prayer for Muslims involves performing five prayer cycles a day. The daily routine established in correctional facilities as interpreted by correctional officers and authorities does not always allow Muslims to carry out a prayer cycle. At the same time, if the institutions allows, it is possible to establish such a daily routine.

To perform ritual ablution (symbolic cleansing), which precedes prayer, access to a place where one can perform this ablution is necessary, as well as a clean place where one is able to pray. Generally, such an opportunity in correctional facilities do not exist.

The Qur'an, as well as other religious literature, are subjects of the Muslim religion. However, sometimes they are perceived as extremist literature.

Correctional meals do not include a special diet for Muslims, which bans the consumption of pork and meat not cooked in accordance to the Muslim laws. In this situation, Muslims have to give up pork-based foods, or eat a vegetarian diet, which leads to malnutrition and problems with health. During the holy month of Ramadan, Muslims fast and eat only before sunrise and after sunset. At this time, the correctional institution prohibit eating during lights out (sleep), which leads to convicted Muslims remaining hungry, posing a threat their health.

It should be noted that there are problems with worship and diet in those areas of the Russian Federation where a significant part of the population practices Islam (North Caucasus, Tatarstan, and Bashkortostan). In correctional institutions of these regions, religion is harmoniously embedded in the Internal Regulations correctional institutions.

The violation of the rights of imprisoned Muslims to practice Islam is systemic. The decisions of the three courts presented below illustrate just how fundamentally different the views on the needs of Muslim people, and their respectful treatment of the right to religion.

Determination of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation of January 30, 2020³

A Muslim man applied to the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, indicating that he was not able to pray five times a day and perform the Friday prayer collectively with other Muslim convicts, and also that the current laws do not separate meals that are provided for convicts depending on their religion.

The Constitutional Court refused to consider the complaint from the applicant, and ordered priority to the Internal Regulations of the correctional institution, indicating that exercising the right to freedom of religion must not be violated.

According to the Constitutional Court and the European Prison Rules, providing the prisoner with food in accordance with religion, is only recommended.

The decision of the Staropromyslovsky District Court in the city of Grozny from 04/15/2019⁴

A convict used the right to file an administrative claim at the place of his residence, the Staropromyslovsky district court in the city of Grozny. He challenged the disciplinary sanctions imposed on him in connection with the administration of religious rites. The court partially satisfied the claim, indicating- “The administrative claimant ... follows the religion of Islam, and

³ Definition of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation // URL:
<http://doc.ksrf.ru/decision/KSRFDecision453073.pdf>

⁴ Decision of the Staropromyslovsky District Court of Grozny dated 15.04.2019 // URL:
https://staropromyslovsky--chn.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=doc&number=93499_79_&delo_id=1540005_&new=0_&text_number=1

this right is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation. According to him, all actions surrounding the administrative defendant have them prohibiting him from this religion, including conducting religious rituals that are mandatory for a Muslim, violating the constitutional rights of the convict ... According to the daily routine at the correctional institution, convicts that are held in a quarantine department are allowed physical activity from 06:00 to 06:15. However, the convict ... using his right, instead of doing physical exercises, he was praying. The court does not see it as a violation of the current internal order. In spite of the arguments of the administrative defendant, a disciplinary measure in the form of placing a convicted person in a punishment cell for a period of 5 days is not proportionate punishment, and the decision itself is subject to cancellation as it illegal. It is a violation of the convicted person's guaranteed... his constitutional rights ”. The same court declared that transfers to the EPKT (a single chamber-type room) as a form of disciplinary penalty is illegal.

Judgment of the ECHR in the case "Korostylev v. Russia" dated 12.05.2020⁵

On May 12, 2020, the European Court of Human Rights issued an important judgment in the case “Korostylev v. Russia” on the complaint of a life-sentenced prisoner about the impossibility of performing prayers at night.

For performing night prayers the applicant was subjected to disciplinary sanctions on several occasions, which he unsuccessfully challenged in Russian courts, after which he applied to the European Court.

As the court clarified, nothing in the present case showed that the applicant posed any threat to the SIZO regime or security. He had not used any dangerous objects, and did not insist on collective prayers with other prisoners. The performance of namaz in a solitary confinement cell was without noise, and did not generate any other irritating issues. In addition, prayers could not undermine the health of the prisoner himself or lead to his exhaustion. The court considers that the interference with the applicant's rights was unjustified and excessive. The court found a violation of Art. 9 of the Convention (Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion) and awarded the applicant 2.6 thousand euros in compensation for non-pecuniary damage and 2 thousand euros for legal costs in the case.

Ramzan Tepsuev's case

Ramzan has been serving his sentence in colony No. 7 of the Republic of Mordovia for two years and most of the time is kept in a cell (punishment cell, PKT, SUON, etc.), where he is sent every time that he allegedly violates the detention regime.

In September 2020, a lawyer hired by the Committee visited Ramzan, who said that Muslim convicts in IK-7 regularly face violations of the right to freedom of religion, and that employees of the colony administration deliberately create obstacles for Muslims to perform religious rituals.

It is necessary to clarify that in one colony, convicts can be held in several different conditions: in ordinary, light and strict conditions of serving their sentences (CMS). The latter involves living in locked rooms with a limit on the number of visits, parcels, the amount of money that can be spent on a monthly basis, as well as other restrictions.

⁵ Judgment of the European Court of Human Rights "Korostylev v. Russia" // URL: <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#%7B%22itemid%22:%5B%22001-202429%22%5D%7D>

Most often convicts practicing Islam find themselves in strict conditions in IK-7, and Ramzan was no exception.

In Islam, there is a certain time of the day for each of the five prayers. Before the prayer, washing is required, but in the SUNC convicts can use only one washbasin, access to the rest is closed. Because of this, about 20 Muslims, who are inside for a permanent stay in the UNSD, cannot timely carry out the ritual of ablution and perform prayer.

There is no designated smoking area in SUON, and convicts smoke in the same room where Muslims perform their religious rituals, which is strictly forbidden in Islam. This causes conflicts between convicts.

Administration employees often commit provocative actions: they enter the premises of the UNCS exactly at the time of the namaz and demand from the convicts to interrupt their prayer and do a "report" (introduce themselves, name the article of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation under which they are convicted and the term of punishment); ... In Islam, prayer can only be interrupted in case of mortal danger.

In August 2020, the Civic Assistance Committee sent appeals to two representative offices of the Spiritual Directorate of Muslims in the Republic of Mordovia with a request to assist in protecting the rights of prisoners in IK-7 who practice Islam. But, unfortunately they did not receive a response.

As already mentioned, complaints from applicants generally include complaints about several violations at the same time. So Ramzan's case was not limited only to the violation of the right to religion. On August 30, 2020, the colony was visited by the acting head of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia for the Republic of Mordovia, to whom Ramzan was able to inform of the violation of his rights - about the refusal to provide medical care, placement in a punishment cell on far-fetched grounds, and other violations. The acting chief promised to consider the complaints, but the next day Ramzan was placed in a punishment cell for 5 days, and was told that this was a punishment for complaining to the authorities. In the punishment cell, Ramzan was put on the floor and struck with a blunt object on the spine below the waist.

Because of this blow, his legs went numb for a while. Driven to despair, in the hope of protecting himself from further physical violence, Ramzan decided to cut his wrist, and soon was hospitalized. After returning to the colony, Ramzan was placed in a punishment cell, where he repeatedly committed mutilation to himself, and was again sent to the hospital, and then returned to the colony. He went on a hunger strike to protest the persecution.

In October 2020, the Committee in defense of Ramzan received a reply signed by the head of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia for the Republic of Mordovia, L.V. Mustaykin, in which he denied the violations of Ramzan's rights, including to religion, referring to the fact that on the territory of the correctional institution №7 there is a mosque, while "omitting" that the convicts held in the SUON are not taken to the mosque. Mustaykin admitted that physical force and special means were used against Ramzan, but only in accordance with the law. At the same time, the materials proving this were sent to the investigating authorities for a decision in accordance with Art. 144-145 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation (on a crime statement).

The Committee also provided legal assistance to Ramzan in transferring him to serve his sentence on the territory of the Chechen Republic. In August 2020, Ramzan received a transfer refusal from the FSIN, which was appealed by the Committee's lawyer in court.

Torture, cruel and humiliating treatment on the basis of racial, religious intolerance

The Civic Assistance Committee continues to receive information about the cruel and degrading treatment of Muslim prisoners in prisons. Generally, this is due to the general situation of hostility towards the representatives of the North Caucasian republics, the desire to break and suppress their will.

There are no effective mechanisms for conducting checks and investigating complaints of torture and ill-treatment by convicts in Russia. Investigations into the use of torture against people from the republics of the North Caucasus show that law enforcement or correctional officers guilty of torture are prosecuted only in exceptional cases.

The case of Khumayd Khaidayev ("Prison riot" case)

In April 2020, the largest prisoner protest in recent years took place in correctional facility, No.10 of the Irkutsk region. It started on April 9, when one of the convicts, Anton Obolenichev, posted a video message on the Internet, in which he said that he had been beaten by the colony officers and showed the harm that was done to his body.

On the morning of the next day, April 10th, the convicts of the colony IK-15 committed an act of civil disobedience- refusing to go to exercise, and demanding an explanation for the reason of beating Obolenicheva. The inmates inflicted cut wounds on their forearms in protest over the actions of the administration. At lunchtime on the same day, the head of the GUFSSIN, L.A. Sagalakov, arrived at the colony. After he arrived, there was a riot. A fire was started, which was extinguished only the next day, causing significant damage to the property. The riot was brutally suppressed by special forces GUFSSIN⁶. According to the video record, the special regime of guards brutally suppressed the protestors actions. The footage shows how the FSIN officers severely beat and humiliated the convicts. Obviously, the footage recorded a possible fact of abuse of office with the use of violence by the employees of the GUFSSIN.

The investigating authorities have initiated two criminal cases under Part 1 and 2 of Act. 212 and part 3 of Act. 321 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation on the organization and participation in mass riots, and disorganization of the activities of the correctional institution. The charges were brought against 15 convicts, including a native of Chechnya, Khumaid Khaidayev, whom the FSIN named as one of the organizers of the riot.

After the riot, Khaidayev was placed in SIZO-1 in Irkutsk. Lawyers and human rights activists have been trying to get in contact with him since April 13th, but the GUFSSIN officers refused them, referring to the decision of the chief sanitary doctor of the service to limit visits in connection with coronavirus infection.

On April 16, his lawyer managed to meet with him. The lawyer said that, when Khaidayev was brought in for questioning, he was shocked by his condition, since his entire body was covered with bruises, his fingers and toes were broken, his face disfigured, he could not speak freely, and with difficulty spoke about the torture. According to Khaidayev, he was tortured after the riot- his hands were handcuffed behind his back on the very first day in the pre-trial detention center, and was chained to a battery in the cell. His face was covered with a sticky mask, which five days

⁶ Video from Irkutsk CI-15 // Gulagu-no. Official channel // <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCja6dlIbgA&feature=youtu.be>

later on the day before the interrogation, was removed along with the skin⁷. Medical assistance did not occur- fractured fingers were not plastered. It should be noted that no other defendant in the present case was tortured as severely as Khadaev.

According to the version of the story from the investigating authorities, Khadaev's role as the organizer of the riot was in the fact that he supported the convicted Oblenichev, when he, being held in the punishment cell, began to shout that physical force was being used against him illegally. At this time, Khadaev was sitting in the punishment cell opposite and began to shout that there was lawlessness, violence, etc. "He began to call for disobedience and riots started." says the report from the head of colony No. 15⁸

Lawyers cooperating with the Civic Assistance Committee met with Khadaev twice a month to defend him. The committee and lawyers sent appeals to the authorities with a demand to investigate the torture of Khadaev in SIZO-1.

The human rights community in Russia made a statement to the President of the Russian Federation and federal authorities with the requirement to ensure an open and transparent investigation to analyze the reasons, and prevent such events in the future⁹

Work to get Khadaev the right to a fair trial continues. The lawyer hired by the Committee is seeking to transfer the investigation to Moscow, or to another city of the Russian Federation. The investigation was extended until December 10, 2020.

Khadaev was convicted by the Supreme Court of the Chechen Republic in 2006. According to the verdict, his sentence was to end in February 2020. Since that time, Khadaev has been illegally detained in the correctional institutions of the Irkutsk region. The fact of unlawful deprivation of freedom is appealed by lawyers to the prosecutor's office and in the courts.

In the interests of Khadaev and a number of other convicts, a complaint was sent to the ECHR due to the use of torture against them.

Fabrication of criminal cases

The fight against terrorism in the North Caucasus is often commonplace; many residents of this region ended up behind bars on trumped up charges, with the use of torture especially with those in long term prisons convicted on crimes based on terrorism or extremist nature.

In correctional institutions, those convicted under such articles are considered especially dangerous criminals, inclined to violate the internal order, and therefore, "just in case" the prisons create the most strict regime of detention for them - regardless of the actual behavior of the convict.

⁷ Consequences of the riot in CI-15: the accused of the riots was tortured. 04/16/2020 // Civic Assistance Committee // URL: <https://refugee.ru/news/%D0%B1%D1%83%D0%BD%D1%82-%D0%B2-%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B3%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B9-%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B8/>

⁸ MK

<https://www.mk.ru/incident/2020/04/17/advokat-predpolagaemogo-zachinshhika-bunta-v-kolonii-masku-snyali-s-ko-zhey.html>

⁹ Statement by the Coalition of Human Rights Defenders

<https://hrdco.org/news/zayavlenie-pravozashhitnikov-o-provedeniya-nezavisimogo-rassledovaniya-obstoyatelstv-bu-nta-v-ik-15/>

During the implementation of the project, the Committee repeatedly became aware of cases when a Muslim convict serving a sentence in a correctional institution suddenly wrote a "confession" on one or more crimes, and he is again brought to criminal responsibility, adding a new sentence to another not yet served. As a rule, such events develop according to the same pattern. The convicted person is transferred to a correctional institution, which has a reputation as a "torture colony", where after a while he announces his decision to write a "confession".

These colonies are used not only to obtain confessions, but also to "re-educate" those convicts who complain about illegal actions/inaction of employees.

In this way, law enforcement agencies improve crime detection statistics, and their employees solve career problems. People from the North Caucasus who have already been convicted of especially grave articles are often chosen as the object of torture.

The Makharbi Tosuev case

In March 2006, the Supreme Court of the Chechen Republic sentenced Makharbi Tosuev to 14 years in prison. He was supposed to be released in 2019.

Makharbi was sent to serve his sentence in the Arkhangelsk region. According to the law, convicts must serve their entire sentence in one correctional institution. In 2017, Makharbi was suddenly transferred to Colony No. 7 of the Vladimir Region, where he confessed to committing a crime under Article 317 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (encroachment on the life of a law enforcement officer), and in December 2018, the Shelkovsky District Court of Chechnya increased his sentence to 17.5 years, pushing the exemption back to 2021

After the new verdict, Makharbi was returned to the Vladimir region, where in August 2019, he again wrote another "confession", declaring his involvement in the attack in May 2002 by a group of militants on the official vehicle of the Shelkovsky District Department of Internal Affairs of Chechnya. In his statement, he indicated that none of the law enforcement officers knew about his participation in the crime, but "he decided to clear his conscience with this confession." This means that the investigation did not have any evidence of Makharbi's guilt, except for his confession, and that he himself, by his confession, condemned himself to a longer sentence.

In March 2020, in order to investigate this crime, Makharbi was transferred to the SIZO in Pyatigorsk. There, he turned to the Civic Assistance Committee for help, who hired a lawyer to defend him. Prior to that, Maharbi had been assigned attorneys who had little concern for his fate.

Maharbi told the new defender that both "confessions" were obtained from him as a result of severe torture. According to him, after returning to colony No. 7 with the verdict of the Shelkovsky District Court of Chechnya, he was beaten and tortured with electric currents in the bathhouse. Unable to withstand the torture, he stuck a nail in his stomach, after which he was transferred to the psychiatric ward of IK-3 in Vladimir. He was held there for about 6 months, where he was tied to a bed and tortured, raped with a plastic pipe or sticks, and covered with warming ointment, from which he received severe burns to his internal organs.

Maharbi was tortured by other convicts on the instructions from the head of the operational department of the colony. Having "broken" Makharbi with the help of torture, the torturers forced him to rewrite his confession several times until the operatives liked the text.

On July 10, 2020, Maharbi, in the presence of his new lawyer, was charged with a number of particularly serious crimes. During an interrogation, Maharbi did not admit his guilt, and instead said that he incriminated himself as a result of being tortured. He also refused to agree to the termination of the criminal prosecution due to the expiration of the statute of limitations for certain crimes, as this would mean that he agreed with the charges and admitted his guilt.

According to Makharbi, in both the Arkhangelsk and Vladimir colonies, he was constantly persuaded to self-incriminate himself by the same FSB officer, whose name he does not know. Does this person make a career “revealing” with the help of Maharbi all new crimes, or help his department to improve statistics to prove its effectiveness? Or is he carrying out some kind of imperious directive to ensure that prisoners from Chechnya, overwhelmingly tortured, should not be released and join the ranks of those dissatisfied with the current political regime? There is no definite answer. However, the Makharbi Tosuev case, like many similar cases, raises such questions.

In October 2020, the preliminary investigation of the case was completed, and the case was transferred to the Rostov District Military Court for deliberation. The lawyer will have to take measures to transfer the case to the court of the Chechen Republic.

The Committee will continue to provide legal assistance in the present case¹⁰

Medical Services

Inmates' complaints about poor medical care is usually associated with the refusal/inadequate provision of medical care, the refusal of doctors to record beatings, placement of inmates into isolation wards (punishment cells, PKT, EPKT) without taking into account the state of health, and the lack of medications and medical specialists.

A prisoner's access to medical care often depends on the will and decision of the administration of the correctional colony, not on medical indications or doctor's orders. The administration of the institution uses denial of medical assistance as one of the methods of pressure, humiliation, and torture. If the administration of the institution decides that the prisoner should be placed in the punishment cell, they will be placed there, regardless of their health condition, and the medical workers will issue a conclusion that the prisoner can be kept in the punishment cell.

The problem of ineffectiveness of departmental control should be noted: complaints about poor medical care for prisoners sent to the medical department of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia and its territorial subdivisions are never confirmed.

The level of prison medicine as a whole is very low. Physicians, as a rule, have neither the capacity (especially in remote settlements) nor the desire to fulfill their direct obligations. As a result, some prisoners do not receive the necessary medical care for years, which leads to irreversible consequences.

Ruslan Magomadov's case

¹⁰ Maharbi wants to sit forever? 07/21/2020 // Civic Assistance Committee // URL: <https://refugee.ru/news/%d0%bc%d0%b0%d1%85%d0%b0%d1%80%d0%b1%d0%b8-d1%85%d0%be%d1%87%d0%b5%d1%82-%d1%81%d0%b8%d0%b4%d0%b5%d1%82%d1%8c-%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%87%d0%bd%d0%be/>

In 2016, Ruslan was accused of “participating in the activities of an illegal armed group” and “undergoing training in a training camp of a terrorist organization”. For financial reasons, he was unable to hire a lawyer, and his defense was carried out by an appointed lawyer. On his advice, Ruslan signed all documents provided by the investigator. As a result, Ruslan was sentenced to 16 years in prison. In 2017, he was sent to a correctional colony in the Vologda Region.

In February 2020, Ruslan's wife contacted the Committee and said that she had not received news from him since August 2019 and that, according to an anonymous report, her husband was in a hospital with a serious condition.

In March 2020, the Committee sent a lawyer to Ruslan, who conducted a survey and found out that the convict has health problems, he could only walk on crutches, but was still active and sociable.

Responses were given to the lawyer's inquiries from the authorities- Ruslan was in a hospital from October 16, 2019 to March 30, 2020. During an examination, he was diagnosed with encephalopathy of mixed genesis, spastic tetraparesis deep in the legs, and symptomatic epilepsy. These diseases are associated with disruption of the brain, damage to the nervous system and motor function of the limbs.

In September 2020, the lawyer of the Committee again visited Ruslan and stated serious deterioration of his condition. He could no longer sit, his arms and legs were immobilized, and he could only pronounce vowel sounds¹¹

In May 2020, Ruslan applied to the court with a petition to be released from further serving his sentence due to his health condition. The medical commission confirmed that Ruslan had a serious illness that prevented him from serving his sentence. Court hearings were repeatedly postponed.

On October 2, the Committee's lawyer joined the case. Since the filing of the application for release, three medical commissions have been held. The first two came to the conclusion that Ruslan had a serious illness that prevented him from continuing to serve his sentence. And the third commission came to the opposite conclusion, that there was an absence of such a disease. The lawyer, together with medical specialists, prepared a position with the aim of recognizing the last medical report as illegal and unfounded.

On December 4, 2020, the Vologda City Court ruled to dismiss Magomadov's petition for release from further serving a sentence due to health conditions. The attorney brought in by the Committee appealed the court decision, but so far, the appeal has not taken place. Work on the case continues.

Disciplinary practice (transfer to isolation wards)

An analysis of the complaints filed by inmates submitted to the Committee show that the transfer of convicts to PKT, EPKT, SHIZO, SUON is often a form of pressure and intimidation of inmates who are displeased by the administration.

¹¹ For six months of treatment in the colony, the convict's limbs were denied. 09/25/2020 // Civic Assistance Committee // URL:

<https://refugee.ru/news/%d0%bb%d0%b5%d1%87%d0%b5%d0%bd%d0%b8% d0 % b5-% d0% be% d1% 81% d1% 83% d0% b6% d0% b4% d0% b5% d0% bd% d0% bd% d0% be% d0% b3% d0% be-% d0 % b8% d0% ba-12-% d0% b2% d0% be% d0% bb% d0% be% d0% b3% d0% b4% d0% b0 />

Placement of a prisoner in a punishment cell is the most severe disciplinary punishment and entails serious negative consequences:

- prevention of visits and telephone conversations with friends and family,
- serves as a widespread basis for refusing parole and replacing it with a milder type of punishment, since the convicted person is negatively characterized as “not having proven their improvement”,
- double placement in a punishment cell may become the basis for recognizing the convicted person as a “malicious violator of the detention regime” in accordance with Article. 116 of the RF PEC, which in turn may lead to additional punishment
- the establishment of administrative supervision, a description of which is given in the subsequent section of this report,
- transfer to strict conditions of serving a sentence to a prison regime.

Despite the fact that the law defines the grounds and procedure for the application of disciplinary sanctions, in practice they are widely and easily applied to prisoners on far-fetched grounds - and people from the North Caucasus are often victims of this illegal practice. Prison staff have a wide margin of appreciation when imposing penalties, and an employee's report of an identified disciplinary violation, which is not confirmed by anything, is usually sufficient enough for imposing a penalty. For example, a report from an employee that a convicted person violated the uniform (for example- did not fully button up the buttons), not supported by any evidence, will serve as a basis for imposing a penalty. And the appeal of the punishment with reference to the lack of evidence of the violation will be futile. The established practice creates ample opportunities for abuse by the employees of the colonies.

Albek Dakhtaev case

Albek is a native of Chechnya. In 2004 he was convicted to 25 years in prison for the murder to the life of a law enforcement officer, and sent to serve his sentence in the colony No. 17 of the Murmansk region. He denies his involvement in these crimes. During confessions during the preliminary investigation, he and another person convicted in this case - Deni Abdulkadyrov - were tortured using an electric current. In 2018, the European Court of Justice in the case “Abdulkadyrov and Dakhtaev against Russia ”admitted violation of Article 3 (prohibition of torture), Article 6 (right to a fair trial) and Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life). Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms ordered the Russian authorities to pay 37 thousand euros each in compensation for non-pecuniary damage¹²

While serving his sentence, Dakhtaev was repeatedly placed in a punishment cell, PKT & EPKT. The relatives of the convict insisted that the placement in isolation cells was based on fabricated reports drawn up on the instructions of the deputy head of PKU IK-17, who has a personal dislike for Dakhtaev and considered him an “enemy of the state” in connection with his appeal to the ECHR.

This conflict has continued for several years, and intensified after the ECHR awarded Dakhtaev with monetary compensation. To his direct question to the deputy head of IK-17 on why he would not be left alone despite the fact that he does not violate the detention regime, Alebk received the answer that if he wants to live peacefully, then the compensation must be divided in half. It was a hint that Dakhtaev would have to share the compensation that was awarded to him by the ECHR.

¹² A prisoner in the Murmansk colony went on a hunger strike // Civic Assistance Committee. 02.09.2020.

URL:

<https://refugee.ru/news/%d0%b4%d0%b0%d1%85%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b5%d0%b2-%d0%b8%d0%ba-17-%d0%b3%d0%be%d0%bb%d0%be%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%b2%d0%ba%d0%b0/>

On August 21, 2020, another penalty was imposed on Dakhtaev. He was placed in a punishment cell for a uniform violation, specifically for the fact that he was wearing a dark blue T-shirt and not black one. At the same time, the administration of the colony is obliged to provide Dakhtaev's with a black T-shirt, which was not done during the entire period of his sentence.

Immediately before his placement in the punishment cell, Dakhtaev's temperature rose, but his complaints of discomfort were ignored. On August 24, Dakhtaev, in protest against the illegal placement in the punishment cell, went on a hunger strike for two weeks. He notified the head of IK-17 about this in writing. Dakhtaev's lawyer, who worked with the Civic Assistance Committee, sent complaints to the prosecutor's office, to the Internal Security Service of the Federal Penitentiary Service of the Russian Federation, and the Ombudsman for Human Rights of the Russian Federation. On behalf of the Committee in the interests of Dakhtaev, an appeal was sent to the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia. The results have not yet been received.

A reply was finally received in October from the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia for the Murmansk region. It was reported that the Committee could not be provided with information in order to protect Dakhtaev's personal information. The reply did not contain any information on the merits of the submitted complaint. This response was contested in court.

Administrative Supervision (Parole)

In recent years, prisoners from the North Caucasian republics have faced another problem- on the eve of their release, the administrations of the colonies apply to the courts with requests to establish administrative supervision with respect to convicts with a maximum list of restrictions for a very long period.

Administrative supervision began in 2011 in relation to the following categories of people released from places of detention:

- convicted of certain types of heinous crimes (terrorism and extremist articles, etc.),
- malicious violators of the regime in the colony who were convicted of repeated crimes (recidivism), grave, and especially grave crimes.

Administrative supervision was established by the court at the request of the colony administration or law enforcement agencies for a period of 1 to 10 years. A person may be prohibited from visiting certain places, leaving the region of residence, or leaving their own apartment at night. Anyone under supervision is required to report regularly to the police.

For violation of this supervision, an administrative penalty can be imposed, in the form of a fine, arrest, and as well as a criminal penalty - imprisonment for up to 1 year.

The human rights community criticizes this institution and believes that restrictions on supervised people are often arbitrary, ignoring the principle of individual responsibility. The courts will usually grant the requests of colonies for the establishment of supervision.

The authorities believe that surveillance is a preventive measure, that it will prevent the new crimes from being committed. It is noteworthy that in 2015, the prosecutor's office of the Trans-Baikal Territory actually admitted that administrative supervision did not help to prevent

crime from happening by pointing out that the even if a person was under supervision, this did not stop them from committing more crimes¹³

Repeated attempts in the Constitutional Court by the convicts to obtain recognition that the restrictions imposed on them by the administrative supervision are illegal have not been successful.

The European Court of Human Rights is pending at least one complaint in connection with the imposition of administrative supervision on a convict. The applicant asked to disclose a violation of his right to a fair trial, freedom of speech, assembly, movement, and the imposition of punishment on him, not provided for by the criminal law, etc¹⁴

These restrictions are actually an independent type of punishment, since they restrict freedom of movement, choice of place of residence, and choice of work for a long period of time. These restrictions are sometimes more severe than, for example, a conditional sentence of imprisonment. This additional punishment dooms former prisoners to a miserable reality – mainly due to high unemployment in the republics of the North Caucasus and the inability to go to work in other regions of the country.

The Committee is working in the interests of three applicants to appeal against the established administrative supervision over them.

Shamil Aliyev case

A native of the Chechen Republic, Shamil was tortured for a month and a half in the police department, and then in 2019 was convicted in a fabricated criminal case under Part 1 of Article 30 and part 2 of Article 208 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (attempted participation in an armed formation) to 3 years and 3 months in prison. He served his sentence in the correctional colony No. 5 in the Nizhny Novgorod region, and was released on May 13, 2020

On the eve of completing his time in prison, the administration of the colony appealed to the court to establish administrative supervision for Shamil for 10 years with the following conditions: report to the police 4 times a month, a ban on leaving the territory of his residence, a ban on leaving the place of residence from 22:00 to 6:00, a ban on attend mass events, and other restrictions.

On March 13, 2020, the Kanavinsky District Court of Nizhny Novgorod supported this application. A lawyer brought in by the Committee appealed the court's decision, but so far the appeal has not taken place, partially due to the pandemic. Work on the case continues.

Remoteness of the location of serving the sentence

On September 29, 2020, amendments to Articles 73 and 81 of the Criminal Executive Code of the Russian Federation entered into force, which allow convicts to apply for transfer to a colony at the place of residence of their next-of-kin (spouse, parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, adoptive parents or adopted children).

¹³ The regional prosecutor's office analyzed the effectiveness of administrative supervision over people released from places of detention. 04/02/2015 // Official website of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation // URL: <https://genproc.gov.ru/smi/news/regionalnews/news-687686/>

¹⁴ Sergei Udaltsov appealed to the ECHR against administrative supervision. 10.01.2019 // BFM.ru // URL: <https://www.bfm.ru/news/404086>

Transfer is possible by the approval of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia on the basis of a written application from the convicted person. An application can also be submitted by one of the relatives, in which case, consent is required for the transfer of the convicted person. Transfer is possible only once for the entire period of serving the sentence. If accommodation is not possible in this region, the prisoner should be transferred to the nearest correctional institution.

These changes in the law became possible only thanks to the practices that Russian applicants and lawyers have developed in the European Court of Human Rights. The number of applications to the ECHR with complaints about the remoteness of the place of serving a sentence and the violation of the right to see family increased significantly after the implementation of the judgment “Polyakova and Others v. Russia” in 2017, in which the Court indicated that Russian law was not responsible for the issue of the “remoteness” quality requirements. Thus, over three years, the number of complaints to the ECHR formed such a critical mass that Russia adopted the above amendments to the law. Within the framework of the Committee's project “Protection of the rights of residents of the North Caucasus in Russian prisons”, several complaints about “remoteness” were also filed, which are still under consideration by the ECHR.

Since September 29th, the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia has received a large number of requests for transfer. The Committee assists in the preparation of applications to the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia for transfer in accordance with the new changes. Practice will show how this opportunity will be put into place.

It is important to note that these changes do not apply to people convicted of several especially grave crimes under Part 4 of Article 73 of the RF PEC, in particular, for terrorism, extremism, banditry, treason, people sentenced to life imprisonment, and some others. The places of serving sentences in respect of these categories of convicts will continue to be determined by the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, regardless of the right to respect for family life guaranteed by Article 8 of the Convention.

Most of the natives of the North Caucasus are serving their sentences in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, which are significantly far from the place of residence of their relatives, and many have been convicted of especially grave, often trumped-up charges. This means that the work of the Committee in this direction will continue. In particular, a lawyer cooperating with the Committee represents the European Court the interests of A. sentenced to life imprisonment, on a complaint about the remoteness of the place of serving his sentence and the violation of his right to respect for family life.

Case A.

In 2011, A., a native of the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic, was sentenced to life imprisonment. In 2012, after starting the sentence, he was sent to serve his sentence in a correctional colony of the Perm Territory, located at a distance of more than 2,700 kilometers from his previous place of residence. Throughout the entire period of serving the sentence, A.'s parents have never been able to exercise the right to visit their son due to their health condition and old age (over 70 years).

A.'s parents were helped with preparing a petition to the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia with a request to transfer A. to the closest correctional colony, where those sentenced to life imprisonment are serving their sentences. In January 2018, a refusal to transfer was received from the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, with reference to Article 81 of the RF PEC that convicts should serve their sentences in one correctional institution.

In March 2018, in the interests of A. and his parents, an application was sent to the European Court with a request to recognize a violation of Article 8 and 13 of the Convention (right to respect for family life and lack of effective remedies).

In May 2018, one of the applicants, the mother of convict A., died without being able to see her son.

In August 2018, the application was registered by the ECHR.

In 2020, the applicants were asked to settle the dispute by signing a peace agreement, which would have them receive compensation from Russia, and then to refuse further consideration of the complaint to the ECHR. The applicants refused to settle the dispute amicably, which means that the consideration of their complaint to the ECHR continues.

Timur Tumgoev's case

The Committee provided legal assistance to Timur Tumgoev for the implementation of his right to serve his sentence at the place of residence of his relatives. Before his arrest, he lived in the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania, and to serve his sentence, was sent to a colony in the Saratov region, which is more than 1000 km away from the place of residence of his relatives.

In March 2020, a petition was sent to the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia with a request to transfer him to the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania, with the justification that the location of the correctional facility at a far distance deprives the applicant of the opportunity to maintain family ties.

In June, the Federal Penitentiary Service refused to transfer due to “not having enough room”, but there was no evidence that was presented stating this. This decision was appealed to the court, which on October 30th 2020, recognized the response of the FSIN as illegal and ordered the re-examination of the statement from T.Kh. Tumgoev. about transfer to the place of residence. The decision was appealed by the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia in the appeal order, and has not yet entered into legal force.¹⁵

¹⁵ T.Kh. Tumgoeva // Zamoskvoretsky District Court of Moscow // URL: https://mos-gorsud.ru/rs/zamoskvoreckij/services/cases/kas/details/b646c5da-fe2c-4dac-bcf4-9c7cf3ccf359?parti_cipants=%D0%A2%D1%83%D0%BC%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B5%D0%B2

RECOMMENDATIONS

An analysis of the cases that were in the proceedings from the Committee's draft in 2019-2020 shows that the systemic problems of prisoners from the republics of the North Caucasus, which were reflected in the previous reports of the Committee, are still relevant.

The overall decline in the prison population should be noted as a positive trend. As of October 2018, 575,000 people were kept in penitentiary institutions, and as of October 2020 – 491,000. In two years the number of prisoners decreased by 85 thousand people.

On January 27, 2020, a new solution appeared in Russia - Article 227.1 from the Code of Administrative Procedure of the Russian Federation, according to which Russian convicts have the right to receive compensation for improper conditions of detention in pre-trial detention centers and colonies. Before applying to the Court with a complaint about the conditions of the detention, it is necessary to exhaust this remedy. It is too early to talk about the effectiveness of this remedy, since the applicants only were able to start to use it only from July 2020. In general, the human rights and legal community is skeptical about this rule, believing that it was introduced solely to create additional barriers to applying to the ECHR.

On September 29, 2020, amendments to the Criminal Executive Code of the Russian Federation came into force, related to resolving the problem of the remoteness of the place of serving. Time will tell how these amendments will be implemented. It is necessary to seek the extension of these amendments to people convicted under certain grave crimes.

The recommendations that were proposed by the Committee in the reports for the previous period of the project implementation will remain valid today.

Eradication of torture practices

The impunity of FSIN officers who torture prisoners is the most serious problem that must be eradicated. Most cases of torture, violence, and humiliation of human dignity, including those against people from the republics of the North Caucasus, have not been investigated. The perpetrators have not been found, or they have escaped responsibility. Investigation of such cases often goes endlessly in a circle: criminal cases are opened and canceled.

A large personnel reform with the personnel of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia is required for professional suitability. It is necessary to exclude the work in the FSIN and law enforcement agencies of those who served in “hot spots”. As practice shows, the officers of the penitentiary system, past wars, including the “Chechen” ones, are distinguished by particular cruelty towards prisoners - and not only from the republics of the North Caucasus. Such people can only hold positions in the correctional system after undergoing a rehabilitation course and receiving an opinion from an independent commission of psychologists.

Humanization of the penal system

The concept of the development of the penal system (2010–2020) declares its goal - the humanization of conditions of detention and the rejection of repressive forms of correction, convicted in favor of educational work, social rehabilitation and resocialization.

Human rights organizations and members of the PMC state that the announced goals of the reform are not supported by real practical work. The penitentiary system in Russia is still focused on strict control over prisoners and ensuring the rules are adopted in the institution, and not on increasing the level of social, psychological, and educational work with convicts.

A general humanization of the penal and law enforcement systems is necessary. Measures leading to this goal have been repeatedly proposed human rights community: this is the widespread use of alternative punishments not related to isolation from society (fines, correctional labor, etc.), the introduction of the institution of probation, the development of a socialization system, assistance in maintaining and strengthening family ties, etc.

Penitentiary staff training

It is necessary to conduct educational, legal and other seminars that raise the professional, legal, and cultural level of employees of the penal system, as well as members of public monitoring commissions that monitor the observance of prisoners' rights.

Employees should periodically undergo training in the course "Human Rights" with a mandatory lesson on the unconditional prohibition of torture and ill-treatment, as well as classes on the obligations of the Russian Federation arising from the main international treaties regarding human rights in places of detention. For training, it is advisable to involve specialists from state human rights institutions (Council under the President of the Russian Federation for the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights, the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation), scientists and human rights activists. Such experiences exist, but it needs to be expanded.

The attention needs to be brought to all employees of the penal system the decisions of the European Court, in which facts of violations of the rights of Russian prisoners are established, including decisions on violation of the right to religion.

Freedom of religion

It is necessary to carry out educational and explanatory work with the employees of the penal system on freedom of religion and respect for the national traditions of people in prison.

To eliminate doubts about whether this or that literature is extremist, the administration of correctional institutions can cooperate with the Muslim clergy.

It is necessary to introduce additions to the daily routine of correctional institutions, allowing Muslims to visit the prayer room for five times prayer, and to pray at a later time after lights out and before getting up.

Allow convicted Muslims to eat after lights out during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Introduce dishes for Muslims respect their diet, replacing pork with poultry or beef.

To date, the state has paid huge compensation to the victims of torture and violations of other rights guaranteed by the European Convention¹⁶. Instead of spending the funds of Russian taxpaying citizens on compensation for violations by the state of the rights of Russian citizens, it is necessary to take measures to respect these rights, including in prisons.

The slogan of our project is "Punishment should correct, not humiliate and cripple!"

¹⁶ The Ministry of Justice paid 1.1 billion over the year according to the decisions of the ECHR // RBK.ru // URL <https://www.rbc.ru/society/20/07/2020/5f1558949a79470a05feaac7>