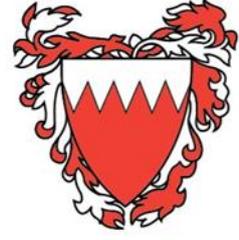


مملكة البحرين
Kingdom of Bahrain



مفوضية حقوق السجناء والمحتجزين
Prisoners & Detainees Rights Commission

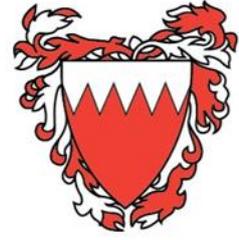
UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION BY THE PRISONERS & DETAINEES RIGHTS COMMISSION

Report No. 5

The Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission (PDRC)

**Unannounced visit to the Southern
Governorate Police Directorate (SGPD)**

December 24-25, 2014



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Introduction:

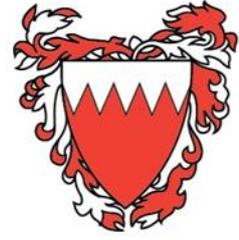
The Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission (PDRC) conducted unannounced inspection to the Southern Governorate Police Directorate (SGPD).

The inspection was carried out in accordance with the principles, criteria and indicators adopted by the Commission.

The procedures included documenting observations made during the visit to the premises and issuing recommendations to raise the standards to be in par with international human rights guidelines and criteria.

The reference points are as stipulated in :

- National Action Charter.
- Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Penal Code, as amended.
- Code of Criminal Procedures, as amended.
- Law 18/2014 of the Institute of Reform and Rehabilitation.
- Law of Public Security Forces, as amended.
- Prison Law 1964.
- Decree 61 / 2013 in regards to establishing Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission.
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Charter of the United Nations.
- Arab Charter of Human Rights.
- United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners 1955.
- United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).
- The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing rules)
- Standards of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons in the United Kingdom.



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SGPD Location:

The SGPD is a two-story building, located in the East Riffa area at the intersection between Sheikh Salman Avenue and Wali Al Ahad avenue, surrounded by an approximately two meter wall. It has several rooms, with some allocated as administrative offices and others used to meet visitors to the Directorate. It also has cells and facilities. SGPD has five cells and three double beds.

Inspection Procedures Timings:

The team visited SGPD on 24-25 December 2014 in two stages.

On the first day, the team interviewed a group of 10 detainees who were selected randomly at the Dry Dock Detention Center (DDDC). The group are under the legal custody of SGPD, but were transferred from SGPD to DDDC after the legal (48) hour detention period was over. The PDRC team interviewed a diverse group

The PDRC team interviewed a diverse group which included 15-18 years old and different nationalities.

On the second day, the team visited the headquarters of the (SGPD) for inspection.

The tasks were carried out through access to documents and records and identification of administrative procedures followed, as well as interviews with staff.

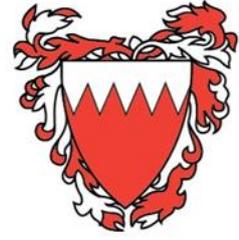
Treatment and Conditions:

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

The main corridors, wings, cells, bathrooms and showers were clean and in good maintenance, in addition, detainees had access to bathrooms and showers.

Temperature, ventilation and lighting levels were adequate. Suitable beds, blankets, washing machines, and personal hygiene kits are available allocated in personal lockers. Food and drink were sufficient, varied, and provided at regular times.

Detainees had access to the external area. However, no written guidelines organizing visits are available; but visitation rights were facilitated.



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The team observed that detainees between 15 -18 years old were not separated according to age. Females were not kept in SGPD but are transferred to the women's detention center in Isa Town. However, there is no separate facility to serve them while waiting.

Based on records, detainees have the right to contact their families upon arrival, but repetitive calls are not organized. Existing procedures enable detainees to communicate with their lawyers, and foreign detainees are allowed to contact their respective embassies.

The team noted the presence of safety devices and emergency exits at the premises and evacuation tests were conducted. Safety and security elements were available in the external area, and detainees could call an officer if needed.

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

The use of force is not documented in the detainee's record, and there were no written procedures for the process of searching detainees.

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

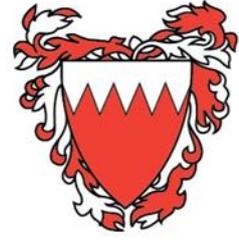
There are no records that show that the detainee is allowed to contact relatives or lawyers when they were transferred.

Rights and Guarantees:

Each detainee had a personal file that includes detention documents; and a dedicated place for detainees to meet with lawyers is provided.

Posters listing the legal rights in three languages are available in the wing; however, there were no procedures to ensure that each detainee receives a copy of the leaflet.

There was a complaints box in the wing, but there were no specially prepared forms for this purpose to be filled by detainees. There was an oral process for filing complaints, but there were no written procedures that clarify how to file a complaint. There is no written procedure on how to process a complaint and informing the complainants of the outcome of the complaints.



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Healthcare:

There is a medical record for each detainee that includes his health condition details, and procedures indicate detainees are medically examined.

The detainees had access to health services, but the staff were not trained on providing first aid or on dealing with emergency medical cases. There were no guidelines on providing, storing, dispensing and removing essential medicines and first aid requirements.

Recommendations:

1. To put in place written procedures that specify the path taken by detainees or any person summoned for questioning in the facility, and to have that path monitored by surveillance cameras.
2. Introducing special and well-organized procedures for the legal use of force in SGPD and training staff on them. The use of force in the detainee's record should be documented.
3. Formulating written procedures that organize detainees' search.
4. Training personnel on ways to deal with special needs and the 15-18 age group detainees, as well as risk management.
5. Taking measures to document and ensure detainees can contact their families and lawyers again while at the center and before being transferred.
6. Setting specific guidelines that organize visits to the detainees.
7. Setting a mechanism for handing out leaflets about guarantees and legal rights.
8. Provide a suitable waiting room for female detainees awaiting transfer.
9. Procedures that define the process of filing complaints should be put in place.
10. A mechanism for providing, dispensing and removing essential medicine. Also, training staff on first aid skills should be provided.