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Date: 14/11/2016

**DH-DD(2016)1223**

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Meeting: 1273 meeting (6-8 December) (DH)

Item reference: Updated action plan (14/10/2016) (53 pages)

Communication from Hungary concerning the István Gábor Kovács group of cases and the case of Varga and others against Hungary (Applications No. 15707/10, 14097/12)

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Réunion : 1273 réunion (6-8 décembre) (DH)

Référence du point : Plan d'action mis à jour

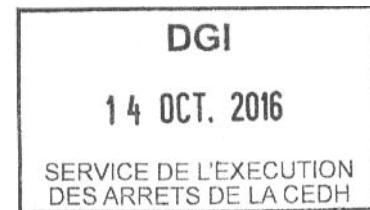
Communication de la Hongrie concernant le groupe d'affaires István Gábor Kovács et l'affaire Varga et autres contre la Hongrie (Requêtes n° 15707/10, 14097/12) (**anglais uniquement**)

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**Revised Action Plan  
of the Government of Hungary  
October 2016**

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**István Gábor Kovács Group of cases and  
Varga and others v. Hungary**



**List of applications concerned:**

István Gábor KOVÁCS v. Hungary (no. 15707/10, judgment of 17/01/2012)

SZÉL v. Hungary (no.30221/06, judgment of 07/06/2011)

ENGEL v. Hungary (no. 46857/06, judgment of 20/05/2010)

CSÜLLÖG v. Hungary (no. 30042/08, judgement of 7/06/2011)

FEHÉR v. Hungary (no. 69095/10, judgment of 02/07/2013)

HAGYÓ v. Hungary (no. 52624/10, judgment of 23/04/2013)

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Lajos VARGA (no. 14097/12, judgment of 10 March 2015)

Tamás Zsolt LAKATOS (no. 45135/12, judgment of 10 March 2015)

Gábor TÓTH (no. 73712/12, judgment of 10 March 2015)

László PESTI (no. 34001/13, judgment of 10 March 2015)

Attila FAKÓ (no. 44055/13, judgment of 10 March 2015)

Gábor KAPCZÁR (no. 64586/13, judgment of 10 March 2015)

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## **I. Introductory case summary**

On 10 March 2015 the European Court of Human Rights (hereinafter: “the Court”) delivered a pilot judgment in the case of Varga and Others v. Hungary resulting mainly from a detected structural problem of widespread overcrowding in Hungarian detention facilities.

The Court concluded that the limited personal space available to all six detainees in the case, aggravated by the lack of privacy when using the lavatory, inadequate sleeping arrangements, insect infestation, poor ventilation and restrictions on showers or time spent away from their cells, had amounted to degrading treatment as per Article 3 of the Convention. The Court also found that the domestic remedies available in the Hungarian legal system to complain about detention conditions, although accessible, were ineffective in practice and as a result also established the violation of Article 3 in conjunction with Article 13 of the Convention.

Therefore the Court held that the Hungarian authorities should produce a timeframe, within six months of the date of the judgment becoming final, for putting in place an effective remedy or combination of remedies, both preventive and compensatory, to guarantee genuinely effective redress for violations of the European Convention originating in prison overcrowding.

In order to present a full picture in the subject the Government note that previously, the Court had already found violations of Article 3 on account of similar conditions of and had underlined the seriousness of the problem and the need for the authorities to “react rapidly in order to secure appropriate conditions of detention for detainees” (István Gábor Kovács group of cases).

The necessity to remove the prison conditions defined by the Court’s decision as inhuman or degrading in violation of Article 3 of the Convention has been acknowledged by the Government. Accordingly, the Government hereby present both the individual and general measures already executed and those to be executed in the near future in compliance with the expectations arising from the judgment and at the same time wish to express its goal to consider further legislative actions in the near future to remedy the problems identified.

## **II. Payment of just satisfaction and individual measures**

### **A. Payment of just satisfaction**

#### **1. István Gábor Kovács group of cases**

In the case of *István Gábor Kovács v. Hungary*, just satisfaction awarded in respect of non-pecuniary damage sustained by the applicant (EUR 10,000) as well as in respect of costs and expenses (EUR 1,500) was paid to the applicant on 11 June 2012 (amount paid: HUF 3,309,815; exchange rate: 287.81).

In the case of *Szél v. Hungary*, just satisfaction awarded in respect of non-pecuniary damage sustained by the applicant (EUR 12,000) as well as in respect of costs and expenses (EUR 3,750) was paid to the applicant on 23 November 2011 (amount paid: HUF 4,840,448; exchange rate: 307.33).

In the case of *Engel v. Hungary*, just satisfaction awarded in respect of non-pecuniary damage sustained by the applicant (EUR 12,000) as well as in respect of costs and expenses (EUR 2,680) was paid to the applicant on 28 September 2010 (amount paid: 4,385,290 HUF; exchange rate: 277.55).

In the case of *Csüllög v. Hungary*, just satisfaction awarded in respect of non-pecuniary damage sustained by the applicant (EUR 6,000) as well as in respect of costs and expenses (EUR 3,750) was paid to the applicant on 23 November 2011 (amount paid: HUF 2,667,624; exchange rate: 307.33).

In the case of *Fehér v. Hungary*, just satisfaction awarded in respect of non-pecuniary damage sustained by the applicant (12,000 EUR) as well as in respect of costs and expenses (2,000 EUR) was paid to the applicant on 29 October 2013 (amount paid: 5,100,600 HUF; exchange rate: 292.90).

In the case of *Hagyó v. Hungary*, just satisfaction awarded in respect of non-pecuniary damage sustained by the applicant (12,500 EUR) as well as in respect of costs and expenses (6,000 EUR) was paid to the applicant on 23 September 2013 (amount paid: 5,522,805 HUF; exchange rate: 298.53).

## **2. Varga and others v. Hungary**

In the case of *Lajos Varga v. Hungary*, just satisfaction awarded in respect of non-pecuniary damage sustained by the applicant (EUR 5,000) as well as in respect of costs and expenses (EUR 3,000) was paid to the applicant on 23 September 2015 (amount paid: HUF 2,481,120; exchange rate: 310.14).

In the case of *Tamás Zsolt Lakatos v. Hungary*, just satisfaction awarded in respect of non-pecuniary damage sustained by the applicant (EUR 14,000) as well as in respect of costs and expenses (EUR 3,000) was paid to the applicant on 3 September 2015 (amount paid: HUF 4,354,660; exchange rate: 314.98).

In the case of *Gábor Tóth v. Hungary*, just satisfaction awarded in respect of non-pecuniary damage sustained by the applicant (EUR 14,000) as well as in respect of costs and expenses (EUR 3,000) was paid to the applicant on 3 September 2015 (amount paid: 4,354,660 HUF; exchange rate: 314.98).

In the case of *László Pesti v. Hungary*, judicial deposit has been requested in respect of the just satisfaction awarded, including the non-pecuniary damage sustained by the applicant (EUR 3,400) as well as the costs and expenses, (EUR 2,000). Currently, the competent court is examining whether the conditions for the deposit have been met.

In the case of *Attila Fakó v. Hungary*, just satisfaction awarded in respect of non-pecuniary damage sustained by the applicant (11,500 EUR) as well as in respect of costs and expenses (1,000 EUR) was paid to the applicant on 3 September 2015 (amount paid: 3,937,250 HUF; exchange rate: 314.98).

In the case of *Gábor Kapczár v. Hungary*, just satisfaction awarded in respect of non-pecuniary damage sustained by the applicant (26,000 EUR) as well as in respect of costs and expenses (150 EUR) was paid to the applicant on 3 September 2015 (amount paid: 8,236,727 HUF; exchange rate: 314.98).

## **B. Individual measures**

The Government further present the current situation of the applicants concerned in the *Varga and others v. Hungary* case and the István Gábor Kovács group of cases:

Lajos VARGA was released from prison on 3 September 2011 due to the fact that he had served his sentence in full.

Tamás Zsolt LAKATOS is currently being detained in a single cell in the Sátoraljaújhely Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The cell measures 9,4 square metres with a net living space of 6,71 square metres.

Gábor TÓTH is currently being detained in a single cell in the Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The cell measures 7,9 square metres with a net living space of 4,87 square metres.

László PESTI was released from prison on 6 September 2013 due to the fact that he had served his sentence in full.

Attila FAKÓ is currently being detained in Budapest Prison in a cell with a living space of 33,46 square metres (gross). The net living space of the cell is 25,47 square metres. The cell is aimed to accommodate 6 people and is full now considering that 6 people are being held there at present. Accordingly, the living space per inmate is 4,24 square metres.

Gábor KAPCZÁR is currently being detained in a single cell in the Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The cell measures 9 square metres with a net living space of 6 square metres.

László SZÉL was released from prison on 3 September 2014 on parole.



Sándor FEHÉR was released from prison on 18 May 2013 due to the fact that he had served his sentence in full.

István Gábor KOVÁCS was released from prison on 7 July 2011 due to the fact that he had served his sentence in full.

Zoltán Péter ENGEL is currently being detained in the Sopronköhida Strict and Medium Regime Prison in a cell designed for paralyzed prisoners.

Zsigmond CSÜLLÖG was released from prison on 10 February 2009 due to the fact that he had served his sentence in full.

Miklós HAGYÓ was released from prison on 23 February 2011 due to the fact that he had served his sentence in full.

#### **Balogh and others :**

**1. András Balogh** (08.05.1965) He was released from Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 04.10.2013.

**2. Zsolt Tóth** (30.05.1975.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 02.10.2015.

**3. László Pataki** (06.05.1979) is currently kept at cell AB-32-356 in facility "A" of Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The floor area of the cell is 5.88 m<sup>2</sup>, its useful floor area is 3.48 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are two persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 1.74 m<sup>2</sup>.

The prisoner has been working since 23.04.2013, and therefore has access to a hot water shower every day. All cells of the Left Star sub-unit of facility "A" of the prison are equipped with toilets, which are separated with a curtain but lack independent ventilation.

The prison guarantees 1 hour outdoor exercises a day as required by the law. Approximately 80 persons walk in the external yard dedicated for outdoor exercises concurrently. The floor area of the yard in facility "A" is 1,779.1 m<sup>2</sup>. There are 3 stretch bars in the external yards.

**4. Zsolt Nagy** (07.01.1971) is currently kept at cell B-240 in facility “B” of Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The floor area of the cell is 25.7 m<sup>2</sup>, its useful floor area is 16.3 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 9 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 1.81 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner has been working since 02.03.2016, and therefore has access to a hot water shower every day. All toilets of facility “B” of the prison have walls but lack independent ventilation.

The prison guarantees 1 hour outdoor exercises a day as required by the law. Approximately 80 persons walk in the external yard dedicated for outdoor exercises concurrently. The floor area of the yard in facility “B” is 930 m<sup>2</sup>. There are 3 stretch bars in the external yards.

**5. Csaba Járóka** (22.09.1982) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 29.12.2015.

**6. János Zuschlag** (07.05.1977) He was released from Bács-Kiskun County Remand Prison on 18.09.2013.

**7. Tamás József Bulenda** (18.09.1982) is currently kept in Márianosztra Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The gross floor area of the cell is 39.7 m<sup>2</sup>, while its net floor area is 30.54 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 11 persons in the cell where the per capita floor area is 2.78 m<sup>2</sup>. The toilet in the cell is separated by walls and a door. It is ventilated into the airspace. The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a shower three times a week according to the house rules of the prison. There is cold tap water in the cells. Each walk lasts 1 hour on weekdays and 2 hours for working prisoners at week-ends. The sports yard is 2005 m<sup>2</sup>, where at least 1 person and no more than 180 prisoners can stay concurrently. The external yard contains a football pitch, a basketball court, a volleyball court, a football tennis court, body mass weight exercise instruments and a phone are available in the external yard. Prisoners may run in the yard.

**8. Attila Földes-Szabó** (18.11.1969) is currently kept at cell AJ-J2-209 in facility “A” of Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The floor area of the cell is 6.4 m<sup>2</sup>, its useful floor area is 3.2 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there is 1 person in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 3.2 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a hot water shower three times a week. The toilets of all cells of the Right Star sub-unit of facility “A” of the prison are

separated by walls and have independent ventilation. The prison guarantees 1 hour outdoor exercises a day as required by the law. The prisoner is kept in the section designated to prisoners serving a long-term sentence and therefore can perform outdoor exercises only together with the prisoners kept in the Right Star sub-unit. The external yard, the floor area of which is approximately 800 m<sup>2</sup>, can be used by approximately 30 people concurrently.

**9. Kornél Lelkes** (02.04.1980) He was released from Állampuszta Remand Prison on 22.08.2015.

**10. László Sanyó** (24.02.1979) is currently kept in Márianosztra Strict and Medium Regime Prison, in a cell of gross 39.7 m<sup>2</sup>, net 30.54 m<sup>2</sup> floor area. At present there are 10 persons in the cell where the per capita floor area is 1.829 m<sup>2</sup>. The toilet is separated with a curtain. It is ventilated into the airspace. The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a shower three times a week according to the house rules of the prison. There is cold tap water in the cells. Each walk lasts 1 hour on weekdays and 2 hours for working prisoners at week-ends. The sports yard is 2005 m<sup>2</sup>, where at least 1 person and no more than 180 prisoners can stay concurrently. The external yard contains a football pitch, a basketball court, a volleyball court, a football tennis court, body mass weight exercise instruments and a phone are available in the external yard. Prisoners may also run in the yard.

#### **Ligeti and others:**

**1. Attila Ligeti** (25.05.1967) He was released from Central Transdanubia Remand Prison on 01.10.2014.

**2. At present György Benedek** (25.09.1973.) is kept in a 33.94 m<sup>2</sup> floor area cell at the Remand Prison of Pálmahalma. The useful floor area of the cell is 22.89 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 8 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 2.86 m<sup>2</sup>.

The cell is equipped with cold tap water. The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a shower three times a week. The cell has a toilet separated with a wall and door and equipped with ventilation. The cell is ventilated with 2 two-wing windows. Outdoor exercises are

guaranteed for 1 hour a day. The outdoor exercises are done on a sports field covered by a lawn that is suitable for sports also.

**3. Dániel Gábor Mécs** (17.09.1986) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 16.11.2013.

**4. Gábor Madocsai** (15.04.1982.) is kept in Győr-Moson-Sopron County Remand Prison. At present the cell is shared by 10 persons. The cell has gross 43.59 m<sup>2</sup> and net 32.72 m<sup>2</sup> floor area, with 3.27 m<sup>2</sup> per capita useful floor area. The toilet is separated by a wall and ventilation through the window. The cell has 3 windows. The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a shower three times a week. The cell is equipped with hot water. The prison guarantees 1 hour outdoor exercises a day for the prisoners. There are two external yards in the prison. Respective sizes: 110 m<sup>2</sup> and 130 m<sup>2</sup>. There is an exercise table mounted to the wall and a table tennis table in the yard. Basketball can also be played. The yards can be shared by 15 and 25 prisoners concurrently.

**5. Előd Kakszi** (03.11.1984.) He was released from Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Remand Prison on 30.05.2016.

**6. Antal Oláh** (15.07.1967.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 30.04.2016.

**7. József Udvardi** (02.03.1989.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 02.11.2013.

**8. Norbert Károlyi** (26.12.1980) is currently kept at cell B1-133 in facility "B" of Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The floor area of the cell is 25.7 m<sup>2</sup>, its useful floor area is 16.3 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 10 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 1.63 m<sup>2</sup>.

The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a hot water shower three times a week. All toilets of facility "B" of the prison have walls but lack independent ventilation.

The prison guarantees 1 hour outdoor exercises a day as required by the law. Approximately 80 persons walk in the external yard dedicated for outdoor exercises concurrently. The floor area of the yard in facility “B” is 930 m<sup>2</sup>. There are 3 stretch bars in the external yards.

**9. Tivadar Ferenc Herczig** (23.10.1953) is currently kept at cell B1-128 in facility “B” of Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The floor area of the cell is 25.7 m<sup>2</sup>, its useful floor area is 16.3 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 10 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 1.63 m<sup>2</sup>.

The prisoner has been working since 21.01.2010, and therefore has access to a hot water shower every day. All toilets of facility “B” of the prison have walls but lack independent ventilation.

The prison guarantees 1 hour outdoor exercises a day as required by the law. Approximately 80 persons walk in the external yard dedicated for outdoor exercises concurrently. The floor area of the yard in facility “B” is 930 m<sup>2</sup>. There are 3 stretch bars in the external yards.

**10. László Huszár** (23.09.1975.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 01.07.2013.

#### **Polgár and others:**

**1. Sándor Rezső Polgár** (09.03.1956.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 05.11.2013.

**2. Zoltán Molnár** (21.06.1973.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 20.12.2015.

**3. Gábor Mézga** (01.12.1983.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 05.07.2013.

**4. Szabolcs Asbolt** (04.08.1990) is currently kept at cell 052 in facility I Star Ground Floor of Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison. There are 8 persons in the cell. The floor area of the cell is 27.42 m<sup>2</sup>, its useful floor area is 16.3 m<sup>2</sup>. The per capita useful floor area is 2.28 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner has been working since 14.07.2016, and therefore has access to a hot water

shower on workdays. In cell 052 the toilet is separated by a screen with a door. It is made of OSB sheets and is ventilated only through the cell. In the second half of September the windows will be replaced and the toilets will be refurbished and therefore by the end of the year the toilets are likely to have their independent ventilation. The outdoor exercises of working prisoners take place after lunch (at 4 p.m.) in external yard III, which has 760 m<sup>2</sup> floor area and may be shared by 100 prisoners concurrently. However, during the period kept for working prisoners there are usually no more than 60-70 prisoners in the yard concurrently. There is also a shower in the yard, which can be used depending on the weather. There are also 2 outdoor sports instruments and 2 stretch bars. The prisoners had and still have opportunities to take part in various sports exercises (football, basketball, table tennis, general fitness).

**5. Róbert Kökény** (02.02.1971) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 30.11.2015.

**6.** At present **László Ignác** (01.12.1972.) is kept in a 33.94 m<sup>2</sup> floor area cell at the Remand Prison of Pálmahalma. The useful floor area of the cell is 22.89 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 8 persons in that cell where the per capita useful floor area is 2.86 m<sup>2</sup>.

The cell is equipped with cold tap water. The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a shower three times a week. The cell has a toilet separated with a wall and equipped with a door and ventilation. The cell is ventilated with 2 two-wing windows. Outdoor exercises are guaranteed for 1 hour a day. The outdoor exercises are held on the sports field covered by a lawn, where sports activities can also be pursued.

**7. Zoltán Galó** (29.09.1972) is currently kept at cell B1-124 in facility "B" of Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The floor area of the cell is 25.7 m<sup>2</sup>, its useful floor area is 16.3 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 7 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 2.32 m<sup>2</sup>.

The prisoner has been working since 05.08.2015, and therefore has access to a hot water shower every day. All toilets of facility "B" of the prison have walls but lack independent ventilation.

The prison guarantees 1 hour outdoor exercises a day as required by the law. Approximately 80 persons walk in the external yard dedicated for outdoor exercises concurrently. The floor area of the yard in facility "B" is 930 m<sup>2</sup>. There are 3 stretch bars in the external yards.

**8. Tibor Kormont** (01.06.1964.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 14.01.2015.

**9. Viorel Florin Csapár** (21.07.1971.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 16.07.2014.

**10. Mihály Janics** (16.05.1959) is currently kept in cell 3A-613 in facility III of Budapest Remand Prison. The cell which has a gross floor area of 14.6 m<sup>2</sup> and useful floor area of 9.6 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 4 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 2.4 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a shower three times a week; furthermore hot water is available in the cell. The toilet is separated by a light-structure wall and has independent ventilation. The cell itself is aired through windows. Outdoor exercises are guaranteed to the prisoner for 1 hour a day.

**Bota and others:**

**1. Sándor Bota** (12.03.1978) He was released from Remand Prison of Pálmahalma on 19.04.2016.

**2. Roland Nagy** (01.06.1975.) He was released from Vác Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 07.10.2014.

**3. András Tibor Varga** (03.03.1978.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 25.01.2016.

**4. Miklós Csicsák** (11.02.1971.) He was released from Békés County Remand Prison on 28.06.2012.

**5. Vendel Boda** (24.06.1946.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 10.06.2015.

**6. Imre Farkas** (26.05.1987.) He was released from Budapest Remand Prison on 13.08.2014.

**7. László Csaba Véték** (05.03.1979.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 26.09.2015.

**8. István Megyeri** (11.10.1974.) He was released from Állampusztá Remand Prison on 27.11.2015.

**9.** At present **Kálmán Gulyás** (01.04.1968.) is kept in cell B3-233 in facility III of Budapest Remand Prison. The cell has a gross floor area of 14.1 m<sup>2</sup> and useful floor area of 9.1 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 4 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 2.2 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner works, and therefore can have a shower once a day. In addition, hot water is also available in the cell. The toilet is separated by a light-structure wall and has independent ventilation. The cell itself is aired through windows. Outdoor exercises are guaranteed for 1 hour a day.

**10. Sándor Csemer** (07.06.1981.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 09.06.2016.

**11. Péter Szabó** (04.03.1975.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 16.12.2013.

**12. Elemér Bihari-Sztojka** (20.09.1966.) He was released from Middle Transdanubium Remand Prison on 10.12.2014.

**13. Krisztián Gál** (12.05.1975) is currently kept at cell B2-231 in facility "B" of Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The floor area of the cell is 25.7 m<sup>2</sup>, its useful floor area is 16.3 m<sup>2</sup>. At present 10 prisoners are kept in the cell where the per capita useful area is 1.63 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner has been working since 03.05.2016, and therefore has access to a hot water shower every day. All toilets of facility "B" of the prison have walls but lack independent ventilation.

The prison guarantees 1 hour outdoor exercises a day as required by the law. Approximately 80 persons walk in the external yard dedicated for outdoor exercises concurrently. The floor area of the yard in facility "B" is 930 m<sup>2</sup>. There are 3 stretch bars in the external yards.



### **Gégény:**

At present **János Gégény** (18.08.1966.) is kept in a 18.42 m<sup>2</sup> floor area cell at the Sátoraljaújhely Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The useful floor area of the cell is 12.39 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 4 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 3.225 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner works and therefore can have a shower every day. The cell is equipped with a toilet, which is separated by a wall and is ventilated through a ventilation gap installed in the wall. There is 1 two-wing window in the cell, where one wing can be opened for airing the cell. In addition, when a heat alert is applied, the food supply windows are also opened. Outdoor exercises are guaranteed to prisoners daily, at least for 1 hour whenever the prisoners request them. Prisoners can use a 14.12x43.65 m and 13x9.13 m closed yard to pursue outdoor exercises at Sátoraljaújhely Strict and Medium Regime Prison.

### **Juhász and others:**

1. At present **Gyula Juhász Gyula** (04.08.1968.) is kept in cell 220 on the 2nd floor or Section III of Vác Strict and Medium Regime Prison. At present there are 2 persons in that cell. The cell has 4.37 m<sup>2</sup> useful floor area, and therefore the per capita useful floor area is 2.18 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a shower three times a week. The toilet is open at the top and at the bottom, ventilates into the residential area and is separated by a screen. The prison guarantees outdoor exercises for 1 hour a day. There are four external yards in the prison, each of which has 600 m<sup>2</sup> area. The number of prisoners in the outdoor yards varies depending on the capacity of the section between at least 1 person and no more than 80-120 persons. The prisoners can use the available sports equipment in the external yards without any specific permission.

2. **Péter András Nyerges** (21.07.1984.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 25.09.2013.

3. **László Bogár** (26.02.1959.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 02.10.2013.

**4.** At present **András Gábor Gábryel** (31.07.1973.) is kept in cell 426 in facility I of Budapest Remand Prison. The cell has a gross floor area of 8 m<sup>2</sup> and useful floor area of 3.67 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are two persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 1.835 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner works, and therefore has access to a shower every day. The cell is not equipped with hot water. The toilet is separated by a light-structure wall and has independent ventilation. The cell itself is aired through windows. Outdoor exercises are guaranteed for 1 hour a day.

**5.** 25. 05. 1983. He was released from the Remand Prison of Pálmahalma on 13.02.2014.

**6. József Pál Baki** (08.05.1955.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 06.04.2014.

**7. Miklós Zord** (17.02.1989.) He was released from Sopronkőhida Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 28.08.2014.

**8. Alajos Mátyás**(20.12.1964.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 24.03.2014.

**9. Zsolt Nagy** (27.03.1983.) He was released from Sopronkőhida Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 23.11.2014.

**10. József Minyák** (27.04.1971.) He was released from Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 18.11.2014.

#### **Magyar and others:**

**1. Zoltán Magyar** (03.06.1961.) is currently kept in Márianosztra Strict and Medium Regime Prison in a cell of gross 17.1 m<sup>2</sup> and net 12.22 m<sup>2</sup> floor area. At present there are 6 persons in the cell where the per capita floor area is 2.037 m<sup>2</sup>. The toilet in the cell is separated by walls and a door. It is ventilated into the airspace. The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a shower three times a week.

Each walk lasts 1 hour on weekdays and 2 hours for working prisoners at week-ends. The sports yard is 2005 m<sup>2</sup>, where at least 1 person and no more than 180 prisoners can stay concurrently. The external yard contains a football pitch, a basketball court, a volleyball court, a football tennis court, body mass weight exercise instruments and a phone are available in the external yard. Prisoners may also run in the yard.

**2. Tibor Szabó** (24.08.1962.) He was released from Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 29.03.2016.

**3. Csaba Kristóf** (03.02.1974.) is currently kept at cell B2-239 in facility “B” of Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The floor area of the cell is 25.7 m<sup>2</sup>, its useful floor area is 16.3 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 9 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 1.81 m<sup>2</sup>.

The prisoner has been working since 17.06.2014, and therefore has access to a hot water shower every day. All toilets of facility “B” of the prison have walls but lack independent ventilation.

The prison guarantees 1 hour outdoor exercises a day as required by the law. Approximately 80 persons walk in the external yard dedicated for outdoor exercises concurrently. The floor area of the yard in facility “B” is 930 m<sup>2</sup>. There are 3 stretch bars in the external yards.

**4.** At present **László István Vitányi** (03.10.1957.) is kept in cell 69 m<sup>2</sup> on the 2nd floor of Hajdú-Bihar County Remand Prison. The gross floor area of the cell is 24.5 m<sup>2</sup> and its useful floor area is 18.2 m<sup>2</sup>. There are 8 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 3.03 m<sup>2</sup>.

The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a shower three times a week. In the cell the toilet is separated with a wall and is also ventilated. The prison guarantees 1 hour outdoor exercises a day.

**5. Ferenc Kiss** (06.10.1972.) is currently kept at cell 180 in section 2/B of Vác Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The useful floor area of the cell is 18.24 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 8 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 2.28 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner has been working since 17 April 2016, and therefore has access to a hot water shower every day. The toilet is separated with a wall within the cell. The prison guarantees outdoor exercises for 1

hour a day. There are four external yards in the prison, each of which has 600 m<sup>2</sup> area. The number of prisoners in the outdoor yards varies depending on the capacity of the section between at least 1 person and no more than 80-120 persons. The prisoners can use the available sports equipment in the external yards without any specific permission.

**6. Zsolt Hajnal** (12.09.1979) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 31.01.2015.

**7. Mátyás Horváth** (09.03.1971.) He was released from Budapest Remand Prison on 18.05.2012.

**8. Gábor Kiss** (10.02.1979.) He was released from Middle Transdanubium National Prison on 05.08.2016.

**9. Zoltán Albert** (12.06.1984.) is currently kept in cell 3B-318 of facility of III of Budapest Remand Prison. The cell has a gross floor area of 14.6 m<sup>2</sup> and useful floor area of 9.6 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 4 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 2.4 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner works, and therefore has access to a shower every day. In addition there is also hot water in the cell. The toilet is separated by a light-structure wall and has independent ventilation. The cell itself is aired through windows. Outdoor exercises are guaranteed for 1 hour a day.

**10. László Juhász** (02.04.1970.) He was released from National Standardised Prison of Pálmahalma on 20.08.2015.

**11. András Mógor** (18.06.1988.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 10.06.2015.

**Bakos and others:**

**1. Zsolt Bakos** (13.04.1972.) He was released from Middle Transdanubium National Prison on 28.03.2016.

**2. Béla Máté** (11.08.1965.) is currently kept at cell B2-239 in facility “B” of Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The floor area of the cell is 25.7 m<sup>2</sup>, its useful floor area is 16.3 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 9 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 1.81 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner has been working since 01.09.1025 and therefore has access to a hot water shower every day. All toilets of facility “B” of the prison have walls but lack independent ventilation.

The prison guarantees 1 hour outdoor exercises a day as required by the law. Approximately 80 persons walk in the external yard dedicated for outdoor exercises concurrently. The floor area of the yard in facility “B” is 930 m<sup>2</sup>. There are 3 stretch bars in the external yards.

**3. Árpád Pap** (18.11.1972) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 06.03.2014.

**4. Árpád Reckó** (02.03.1985.) is currently kept in cell 3B-822 of facility of III of Budapest Remand Prison. The cell has a gross floor area of 14.1 m<sup>2</sup> and useful floor area of 9.1 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 4 persons in the cell, and therefore the per capita gross floor area is 3.5 m<sup>2</sup>, the per capita useful floor area is 2.2 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a shower three times a week. The toilet is separated by a light-structure wall and has independent ventilation. The cell itself is aired through windows. Outdoor exercises are guaranteed for 1 hour a day.

**5. Károly Must** (24.12.1976.) He was released from Juvenile Prison (Tököl) on 26.04.2015.

**6.** At present **József Kanalas** (31.07.1978.) is kept on his own in a 8 m<sup>2</sup> floor area cell at Tiszalök National Remand Prison. The useful floor area of the cell is 6 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner has been working since 01.02.2016, and therefore has access to a shower every day. Each cell is equipped with hot and cold tap water. In the cells the toilet is separated with a wall and a door and is equipped with a ventilation equipment. Each cell is aired with an 1.12 m<sup>2</sup> window. 1 hour outdoor exercises guaranteed in the prison. Each building has an external yard (size: 400 m<sup>2</sup>). Concurrently no more than 80 prisoners can use the external yard. The external yard is designed for outdoor exercises and is suitable for walking and strolling.

**7. István Korber** (31.10.1967.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 31.05.2015.

**8. György Korondán** (18.07.1974.) He was released from Hajdú-Bihar County Remand Prison on 06.11.2013.

**Bóday and others:**

**1. Pál Péter Bóday** (06.03.1972.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 20.03.2013.

**2.** At present **Péter Haraszti** (31.07.1975.) is kept in cell 3B-113 of facility of III of Budapest Remand Prison. The cell has a gross floor area of 14.1 m<sup>2</sup> and useful floor area of 9.1 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 4 persons in the cell where the per capita gross floor area is 3.5 m<sup>2</sup>, the useful floor area is 2.2 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a shower three times a week. The cell is equipped with hot water. The toilet is separated with a light structure wall and has its own ventilation system. The cell can be aired with a window. Outdoor exercises are guaranteed for 1 hour a day.

**3. Kálmán Varga** (14.10.1972.) is currently kept at a 12 m<sup>2</sup> floor area cell (useful floor area 8.15 m<sup>2</sup>) of Tiszalök National Remand Prison. There are 3 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 2.72 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner has been working since 14.09.2015, and therefore has access to a shower every day. Each cell is equipped with hot and cold tap water. In each cell there is a toilet separated with a wall and a door and equipped with a ventilation equipment. Each cell is aired with an 1.12 m<sup>2</sup> window. 1 hour outdoor exercises guaranteed in the prison. Each building has an external yard (size: 400 m<sup>2</sup>). Concurrently no more than 80 prisoners can use the external yard. The external yard is designed for outdoor exercises and is suitable for walking and strolling.

**4. Roland Ramos** (25.03.1992.) is currently kept in cell 128 on the 1st floor or Section III of Vác Strict and Medium Regime Prison. There are 2 persons in the cell which has 3.97 m<sup>2</sup> useful area, thus 3.03 m<sup>2</sup> per capita useful floor area.

The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a shower three times a week. The toilet is open at the top and at the bottom, ventilates into the residential area and is separated by a screen. There are two-wing windows in the cell, and it can be opened by the prisoners. The prison guarantees outdoor exercises for 1 hour a day. There are four external yards in the prison, each of which has 600 m<sup>2</sup> area. The number of prisoners in the outdoor yards varies depending on the capacity of the section between at least 1 person and no more than 80-120 persons. The prisoners can use the available sports equipment in the external yards without any specific permission.

**5. Ervin Baranyi** (08.04.1975.) is currently kept in cell 411 of facility of I of Budapest Remand Prison. The cell has a gross floor area of 7.5 m<sup>2</sup> and useful floor area of 3.17 m<sup>2</sup>. There are 2 persons in the cell where the per capita gross floor area is 3.8 m<sup>2</sup>, the useful floor area is 1.6 m<sup>2</sup>. The prisoner is working, and therefore has access to a shower every day. The toilet is separated with a light structure wall and has its own ventilation system. The cell can be aired with a window. The prison guarantees 1 hour outdoor exercises a day for the prisoners.

**6. Tamás Katona** (13.10.1981.) is currently kept in cell 071 of Section 1/b of Vác Strict and Medium Regime Prison. There are 7 persons in the cell which has 15.53 m<sup>2</sup> useful floor area, and therefore the per capita useful floor area is 2.21 m<sup>2</sup> . The prisoner is working, and therefore has access to a shower every day. The toilet is within the cell but is separated by a wall. The prison guarantees outdoor exercises for 1 hour a day. There are four external yards in the prison, each of which has 600 m<sup>2</sup> area. The number of prisoners in the outdoor yards varies depending on the capacity of the section between at least 1 person and no more than 80-120 persons. The prisoners can use the available sports equipment in the external yards without any specific permission.

**7. Tibor Salamon** (25.06.1981.) is currently kept at cell AB-12-139 in facility "A" of Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The floor area of the cell is 7.84 m<sup>2</sup>, its useful floor area is 3.92 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 2 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 1.96 m<sup>2</sup>.

The prisoner has been working since 12.06.2015, and therefore has access to a hot water shower every day. All cells of the Left Star sub-unit of facility "A" of the prison are equipped with toilets, which are separated with a curtain but lack independent ventilation.

The prison guarantees 1 hour outdoor exercises a day as required by the law. Approximately 80 persons walk in the external yard dedicated for outdoor exercises concurrently. The floor area of the yard in facility "A" is 1,779.1 m<sup>2</sup>. There are 3 stretch bars in the external yards.

**8. Miklós Nagy** (15.12.1972.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 20.09.2013.

**9. Zoltán Árvai** (15.06.1976.) He was released from Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 07.10.2014.

**10. Sándor László Göncz** (21.12.1971.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 27.11.2014.

**Tamási and others:**

**1. Viktor Tamási** (09.03.1980.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 27.08.2015.

**2. Gergely Horváth** (15.01.1975.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 19.04.2013.

**3. József Szabó** (01.10.1966.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 20.09.2014.

**4. Attila Zoltán Molnár** (29.05.1978.) He was released from Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 21.07.2016.

**5. Péter Gyula Kálmán** (30.06.1972.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 05.01.2015.



**6. Zsolt Bónyai** (31.05.1979.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 19.09.2013.

**7. István Fekete** (24.04.1987.) is currently kept in Márianosztra Strict and Medium Regime Prison in a cell of gross 30.6 m<sup>2</sup> and net 21.5 m<sup>2</sup> floor area. At present the cell is shared by 9 persons, and therefore each person has 2.39 m<sup>2</sup> per capita area. The toilet in the cell is separated by walls and a door. It is ventilated into the airspace. The prisoner is working, and therefore has access to a shower every day.

Each walk lasts 1 hour on weekdays and 2 hours for working prisoners at week-ends. The sports yard is 2005 m<sup>2</sup>, where at least 1 person and no more than 180 prisoners can stay concurrently. The external yard contains a football pitch, a basketball court, a volleyball court, a football tennis court, body mass weight exercise instruments and a phone are available in the external yard. Prisoners may also run in the yard.

**8. Imre Balogh** (08.01.1958.) is currently kept in cell 013 on the ground floor or Section III of Vác Strict and Medium Regime Prison sharing it with another prisoner. There are 2 persons in the cell which has 4.37 m<sup>2</sup> useful area, and therefore the per capita useful floor area is 2.18 m<sup>2</sup> for the 2 persons. The prisoner does not work and therefore can have a shower three times a week. The toilet is open at the top and at the bottom, ventilates into the residential area and is separated by a screen. There are two-wing windows in the cell, and it can be opened by the prisoners. The prison guarantees outdoor exercises for 1 hour a day. There are four external yards in the prison, each of which has 600 m<sup>2</sup> area. The number of prisoners in the outdoor yards varies depending on the capacity of the section between at least 1 person and no more than 80-120 persons. The prisoners can use the available sports equipment in the external yards without any specific permission.

**9. Károly Nagy** (17.03.1969.) is currently kept at cell B2-228 in facility "B" of Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The floor area of the cell is 25.7 m<sup>2</sup>, its useful floor area is 16.3 m<sup>2</sup>. At present there are 9 persons in the cell where the per capita useful floor area is 1.81 m<sup>2</sup>.

The prisoner has been working since 18.05.2015, and therefore has access to a hot water shower every day. All toilets of facility "B" of the prison have walls but lack independent ventilation.

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The prison guarantees 1 hour outdoor exercises a day as required by the law. Approximately 80 persons walk in the external yard dedicated for outdoor exercises concurrently. The floor area of the yard in facility "B" is 930 m<sup>2</sup>. There are 3 stretch bars in the external yards.

**10. Rezső József Mihalovics** (12.07.1952.) He was released from Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison on 22.06.2014.

### **III. General measures on account of the Varga and others v. Hungary judgment**

#### **A. Actions aimed at increasing the capacity of penal institutions (Expansion of Capacity Program)**

##### *Realized increase in capacity in 2015*

The capacity-expansion project launched by the Hungarian Prison Service in 2010 with the support and supervision of the Ministry of Interior is being continued in 2015 as well.

- A new Long-Term Special Regime unit capable of housing 44 inmates was constructed in the Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison.
- The Martonvásár facility of the Middle-Transdanubium National Prison has been renovated, thereby increasing its capacity by 126 places. A new facility of the Szombathely National Prison with 396 new places was opened along with 280 new PPP places.
- Besides, new units providing housing for 32 and 37 detainees have been established in the Vác Strict and Medium Regime Prison and the Márianosztra Strict and Medium Regime Prison, respectively.
- The Government note that in the meantime, the capacity of the Budapest Remand Prison has decreased by 16 places due to the ongoing establishment of a new classroom for prisoners.

Consequently, the number of available places in the Hungarian prison facilities increased by 899 between 1 January 2015 and 5 November 2015.

##### *Planned expansions between 2016 and 2017*

- In 2016 the Solt unit of the Állampuszta National Prison will undergo an expansion, increasing the facility's capacity by 108 places.
- In addition, the Márianosztra Strict and Medium Regime Prison and the Vác Strict and Medium Regime Prison will undergo a further expansion of 38 and 88 places. These initiatives will increase the number of available places by 234 in 2016.

- Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Prison's Szirmabesenyő unit will serve as a location for the construction of a new facility capable of housing 500 prisoners by 2017.

#### *Planned capacity-building projects between 2015 and 2019*

- The acquisition of the Debrecen District Court's property rights is currently in progress, after which the implementation of a concept aimed at increasing the capacity by at least 140 places would begin. The expansion will likely continue in the Állampuszta National Prison by beginning constructions of a new Low-Security Regime with a capacity of 500 places.
- On 26 January 2015, the Hungarian National Prison Administration issued a tender for local governments to provide free-of-charge properties for prison constructions. Altogether, 40 local governments handed in their applications. A new prison capable of housing 1000 inmates will be constructed in Kunmadaras, while in Ózd, Csenger, Komló and Kemece a facility each with a capacity of 500 places will be built. The initiative will soon commence with the drafting of the engineering specifications.

The Government delivered its decision on rescheduling the capacity building program and securing the necessary resources on its meeting held on 24 February 2016. (See Government Decree 1125/2016 (10 March) on securing the necessary resources for the expansion of penal institutions). In accordance with the Government's decision, more - altogether 6207 places - will be constructed than envisaged in the action plan before.

Therefore the Hungarian penitentiary system will have the necessary capacities in the future to provide detainees with Convention complaint conditions of detention.

## **B. Legislative actions**

### **1. Reduction of prison population**

#### **a. Action aimed at increasing prison exiting flows – Reintegration custody**

With the beginning of 1 April 2015, persons convicted of infractions or misdemeanours have been offered the option of spending the last six months of their captivity at home, using a

specially designed electronic locating device. This way, the prisoners could be provided assistance in establishing the conditions required by civic life, thereby developing their family and micro-social relations, reintegration into the labour market and their competence of personally taking care of certain matters regarding their life. Essentially, the role of this legislation is to provide assistance in the reintegration of lower risk non-habitual offenders into society, and to indirectly and slightly alleviate the capacity problems of the facilities. The new legislation was introduced by Act CCXL of 2013 (Prison Code). Since its introduction, the option for submitting a prisoner to reintegration custody has become available 524 times; out of which 479 were requests from either the prisoner or his or her attorney, while another 45 were initiated by the facilities themselves. Judicial permission was granted in 176 cases.

Currently, reintegration custody may be applicable only in case of those who have been sentenced to an enforceable imprisonment for the first time. Additionally, the person concerned cannot be convicted for a violent crime, the sentence imposed cannot exceed the period of five years, the regime of the penal institution where the sentence is to be served shall be a low-security prison, the convicted person shall consent to his placement in reintegration custody, an apartment suitable for the person's placement shall be available and the convicted person shall be accepted there.

In contrast, the scope of the amended law would be extended to any person having committed the offence with negligence and to habitual offenders not qualifying as re-offenders such as those previously sentenced to imprisonment for a negligent offence or should the offence had been committed intentionally maximum three years have elapsed from the date the offender had been set free.

In comparison to the regulation in force reintegration custody may be applied not only 6 months before the date of the expected release, but also before 10 months or exceptionally before 1 year. (See 8. § of the draft bill.)

b. Notice form to begin treatment

Since 1 January 2015, in cases regulated by law, the National Prison Administration has become responsible for sending the notice form to the convicted person in order to have them

begin their incarceration. This procedure makes it possible to choose the most suitable institution for the person with regards to employment and education options, which in turn helps to achieve the goals of reintegration that promotes the reintegration goals. Furthermore, the HQ keeps taking into account the capacity reports of the individual facilities in order to reduce the burden on the overcrowded county prisons and assist them in other tasks such as admissions and transport.

c. Reducing the ratio of pre-trial detentions

In order to accomplish the tasks specified in the Action Plan for tackling prison overcrowding, sent to the Council of Europe on 9 December 2015, and to carry out the measures related to the supplementation of the Action Plan, it is of paramount importance that a clear and comprehensive view be obtained about the current detention situation. Therefore the Ministry of Justice has requested data from the Office of the Chief Public Prosecutor and the National Office for the Judiciary on the practice of ordering coercive measures depriving or restricting personal liberty. Based on the data received, the following developments can be established:

The house arrest rules as contained in Act No. XIX of 1998 (henceforth: Be) were amended significantly as of 1 January 2014. The amendment eliminated the former house arrest condition that the defendant's consent to the use of a technical device capable of monitoring his movement and thus capable of checking his compliance with the house arrest rules was to be obtained from the defendant. The amendment enacted certain cases in which courts are under an obligation to order the monitoring of the house arrest by such a device. Due to the amendment it became easier to monitor and check compliance with the house arrest rules which situation has, in turn, resulted in an increasing willingness on the part of the judges to order house arrest, as a result of which the number of pre-trial detentions, which restrict personal liberty to a rather great extent, has decreased. We think that it is a move to the right direction, which also helps reduce the high number of pre-trial detainees and, thereby, the number of inmates in general.

From the statistical data provided by the Office of the Chief Public Prosecutor and the National Office for the Judiciary it can be established that the scope of application of house arrest is growing. Though in 2014 and 2015 the investigation authorities and the public

prosecutors requested house arrest in more or less the same proportion (in 2014 0,099 per cent of the defendants were requested to be placed in house arrest whereas in 2014 the respective percentage was 0,086), the courts ordered house arrest instead of pre-trial detention in a much higher proportion: in 2014 upon 4900 requests 116 house arrests were ordered, whereas in 2015 upon 4502 requests 165 house arrests were ordered.

From the statistical data it can also be established that in 2015 the investigation authorities and the prosecutors requested pre-trial detention in fewer cases than in 2014. In 2014 the total number of defendants was 186 855, whereas pre-trial detention was requested by the prosecutors in 5223 cases. The respective figures in 2015 were 214 377 defendants and 5081 requests for pre-trial detention. The ratio of defendants placed in pre-trial detention was 2,79 percent in 2014; in 2015 the ratio dropped to 2,37 percent.

## **2. Preventive and compensatory remedy**

### **a. New decree in force governing the enforcement of sentences**

As the pilot judgment refers to this, on 27 October 2014 the Constitutional Court held, in decision no. 32/2014. (XI. 3.), that the prohibition of inhuman and degrading treatment, as enshrined in Article 3 of the Convention and Article III (1) of the Constitution, entailed an obligation to guarantee to detainees held in multi-occupancy cells a minimum living space and space for activities that would ensure the respect of their rights to human dignity. Thus, in the Constitutional Court's view, it was the duty of the State, in particularly that of the legislature, to regulate, in an obligatory manner, the minimum living space to be ensured to detainees. Given that Decree no. 6/1996. (VII.12.), following its amendment of 2010, did not contain any cogent requirements, it was found unconstitutional and to be contrary to international obligations.

In compliance with the Constitutional Court's decision declaring the impugned legislation null and void with effect from 31 March 2015 paragraph 121 § of Decree no. 16/2014. (VII.12.) of the Minister of Justice on the Rules Governing the Enforcement of Imprisonment, Custodial Arrest, Pre-trial Detention and Fines transformed into Custodial Arrest as in force from 1 January 2015 sets forth that "The number of persons allocated to a cell should be

determined in a manner that each detainee should have six cubic metres air space and, in case of male detainees, at least 3 square metres living space, in case of juvenile and female detainees, 3.5 square metres living space. The Decree prescribes that its provisions shall be applied also to motions and complaints already in progress as per Decree 6/1996. (VII. 12.) of the Minister of Justice.

It is of utmost importance that the new law abandons the wording “in so far as possible” and uses the wording “at least” meaning that securing the living space as indicated in the Decree has become a must and is no longer desirable. Accordingly, from 1 January 2015 it may be established that the detention conditions contradict the law also when enforcing claims for non-pecuniary damages under the old Civil Code or when enforcing claims for compensation on account of the infringement of personality rights (sérelemdíj) under the new Civil Code (see below). Therefore this new approach, as opposed to what has been said in 54 § of the judgment at hand, offers prospect of success for the plaintiffs’ tort actions.

b. Compensation on account of the infringement of personality rights

On 15 March 2014 the new Civil Code came into effect which, among others, introduced changes regarding the regulation of non-contractual liability. Although non-contractual liability remained to be linked to the culpability of the injuring party, it is an absolute novelty that the new law explicitly prescribes that all torts are prohibited by law (§ 6:518) and that, as a general rule, all torts shall be considered unlawful (§ 6:520). The exceptions are as follows:

The injuring party has committed the tort

- a) with the consent of the aggrieved party;
- b) against the aggressor in order to prevent an unlawful assault or a threat suggesting an unlawful direct assault, if the injuring party did not use excessive measures to avert the assault;
- c) in an emergency, to the extent deemed proportionate; or
- d) by way of a lawful conduct, and such conduct does not violate the legally protected interests of others, or if the injuring party is required by law to provide compensation.

Therefore the new Civil Code makes it unambiguous that the mere fact that the injuring party caused the damages by a conduct permitted by law cannot render the damages lawful. Such



conduct may only be lawful provided that it does not violate the legally protected interests of others or provided that the injuring party is obliged by law to provide compensation.

The law-maker coupled the above mentioned novelties with the alteration of the sanction system resulting in the abolishment of the former institution of claims for non-pecuniary damages (nem-vagyoni kártérítés) and introduced a new type of compensation connected to the infringement of personality rights (sérelemdíj).

The alteration allows for a more effective protection for the person whose personality rights have been infringed as the courts are no longer required to seek and establish any disadvantages arising on the part of the injured party. Therefore apart from the fact of infringement no other harm has to be shown for the entitlement to compensation. The court shall determine the amount of compensation in one sum, taking into account the gravity of the infringement, whether it was committed on one or more occasions, the degree of liability, and the impact of the infringement upon the aggrieved party and his environment.

The Government submit that the provisions governing the institution of compensation on account of the infringement of personality rights are to be applied to legal affairs arising after the coming into force of the new Code. As a result, the development of domestic case-law relevant for determining the effectiveness of the remedy, considering the short period of time elapsed, cannot be examined at this point.

Accordingly, the Government is of the view that this new kind of compensation shall be considered to be an effective remedy considering that exclusively being able to show the sole fact of infringement in itself calls for compensation without any other harm to be proved. Besides the new Civil Code sets forth that the mere fact that the impugned conduct is permitted by law does not suffice to establish its lawfulness but the injuring party can only exempt himself provided that his conduct does not violate the legally protected interests of others or provided that he is obliged by law to provide compensation.

c. Complaint to the prison governor

As a preventive legal remedy called for by the Court, a new legal institution providing for the submission of a complaint to the prison governor is envisaged to be introduced by amending Act No. CCXL of 2013 on the enforcement of punishments, measures, certain coercive measures and confinements for regulatory offences. In case relocation is impossible, the head of the institution will be legally obliged to take specific other measures to improve the situation. The complaint is to be examined and determined within 15 days. This will be regulated in 144/B § (see draft bill).

If the complaint is well-founded, the prison governor shall take actions for relocating the inmate to another cell within the prison facility or may propose, within the framework of the Occupancy Level Balancing Programme, to the designated organisational unit of the National Prison Administration, the inmate's relocation to another prison facility. The head of the designated organisational unit of the National Prison Administration shall adopt reasoned decision about the relocation within 8 days from the receipt of the proposal to that effect. The prison governor may take other actions as well to remedy a violation, namely he may:

- order more open-air stays
- permit further contacts
- increase the visit time
- take action for improving the placement conditions: e.g. by separating the toilet, by allowing more frequent shower or bath.

The decisions according to 144/B § of the draft bill have binding forces

It must be noted that in deciding on the inmate's relocation, the inmate's contact rights must be taken into consideration and in case the inmate's relocation would violate his contact rights, the relocation decision may be challenged by a request to be filed by the inmate or his counsel to the penitentiary judge. Upon such a request the penitentiary judge shall uphold or quash the relocation decision.

As to the regulation, it is also to be noted that such a complaint can only be submitted during the detention. After the inmate's release only compensation (see below) may provide redress. With the progress of the prison capacity expansion programme there is a real prospect that penal institutions with sufficient capacity will be available, to which inmates may be relocated without violating their right to family contact. Hence, a compensation claim is envisaged to be allowed only in case the right of complaint about the Convention-infringing placement

conditions has, as a preventive tool capable of barring the occurrence of injury, been exhausted.

d. Compensation procedure

The amendment of Act No. CCXL of 2013 envisages to introduce, in addition to the legal institution of complaint, a compensatory remedy too, by enacting a compensation procedure. In elaborating the rules pertaining to this remedy, special attention has been paid to the effectiveness and efficiency requirements specified by the Court:

- decision shall be taken within a short time, on an objective basis
- the decision shall be duly reasoned
- the decision shall be enforced without delay
- the compensation award shall not be “unreasonable”, that is, shall not be too low – but may be lower than the compensation amount likely to be awarded by the Court.

The proceedings shall be conducted by the penitentiary judge having jurisdiction at the place of the detention or, in case the inmate has already been released, at the place where the penal institution having released the inmate is seated, thus the impartial and quick adjudication by an independent organ of the compensation claim is ensured.

Post-conviction inmates and inmates detained on other grounds may submit the compensation claim by themselves or via their legal representative.

In the course of the proceedings the penal institution shall submit an opinion on the compensation claim in which data related to the impugned placement conditions shall be given, and shall annex a summary of the inmate’s records and other documents required for the adjudication of the claim.

Decision by the penitentiary judge may also be made in writing. In such cases a court clerk may also proceed in the case. In all other respects the proceedings shall be subject to the general rules applicable to other penitentiary judge proceedings.

The daily minimum and maximum tariffs of the financial compensation will be determined at Act of Parliament level. The compensation amount will be calculated by the penitentiary judge on the basis of the daily tariff which will be multiplied by the number of detention days spent in placement conditions violating the Convention. According to Eurostat data the average monthly wage in Hungary is EUR 871 therefore, in contrast to the recommended example of Italy where the average monthly wage is EUR 2,002, the daily compensation tariff specified in the Act is 3-5 euros, that is 800-1,500 Hungarian forints. This solution allows sufficient room for judicial discretion and enables the penitentiary judge to assess overcrowding together with any other inappropriate placement conditions and to award a compensation amount proportionate to the gravity of the injury suffered.

Inmates will be able to file a compensation claim within six months from the termination of the placement conditions violating fundamental rights. After this time limit no compensation claim can be filed. We note that allowing six months for the submission of such a claim is an established practice on the part of the Court as well. It is envisaged that the right to submit a compensation claim will, in a transitional provision, be also ensured for inmates having suffered injury earlier, provided that less than one year has elapsed from the termination of the injurious placement condition to the entry into force of the right to file a compensation claim. Moreover, the right to file a compensation claim will also be ensured to inmates whose applications complaining about placement conditions allegedly violating the Convention are already registered by the Court, except where the inmate filed his application at a date later than 10 June 2015 and by the date of the submission of the application more than one year has elapsed from the termination of the injury. In respect of such applications the six-month absolute time limit will start to run from the day of the entry into force of the amendment.

As to Subsection (1) Section 10/A § of the draft bill „Post-conviction inmates and inmates detained on other grounds are entitled to compensation for not having been provided with the inmate living space specified in the law and for any other placement conditions violating the prohibition of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, in particular for violations caused by unseparated toilets, lack of proper ventilation or lighting or heating and insects (henceforth together: placement conditions violating fundamental rights). Compensation shall be granted for the number of days spent in placement conditions violating fundamental rights. Compensation shall be paid by the state.”

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As to Subsecion (1) Section 10/A § (2) „Under the head specified in subsection (1) no further indemnification or damages for infringement of personality rights shall be sought but post-conviction inmates and inmates detained on other grounds may seek additional damages exceeding the compensation amount before a civil court.”

Consequently the cases concerning this matter pending with the Court will be dealt with the domestic level.

#### **IV. General measures taken on account of the István Gábor Kovács Group of cases**

##### **A. Detention under special security regimes**

The principles and regulation applicable to the assessment of inmate security risk level and the consequences for the enforcement of sentences of the inmate's security classification are presented below:

###### **1. Enforcement of a sentence of imprisonment**

*(See Section 97 of Act No. CCXL of 2013 on the enforcement of punishments, measures, certain coercive measures and confinements for regulatory offences)*

The sub-regimes (general, lenient and strict) created in line with this Act or with the purposes of this Act by the heads of the penal institutions within the various prison regimes (minimum security prison, medium security prison, maximum security prison) provide an enforcement environment which complies with the principle of individualisation and which promotes the attainment of the reintegration goals specified in respect of a given inmate. It is a basic aim of the Act that, in addition to maintaining the security and order of the detention, individualisation be achieved and the range of advantages and disadvantages be widened. The differentiated enforcement regimes, which are set forth in *Act No. CCXL of 2013 on the enforcement of punishments, measures, certain coercive measures and confinements for regulatory offences* and which were created by having regard to the Risk Analysis and Treatment System, are designed to achieve this end. In the so-called regime-system, graduality functions as an important motivating factor. The filling with content of this principle enables inmates to make a "reintegration career" in a positive sense. It practically means that if an inmate participates in a cooperative manner in the reintegration programs offered to him (subjective side), he may, in line with the legal provisions (objective side), take steps for the improvement of his life conditions within the penal institution.

Sentences of imprisonment are enforced by the prison administration system. Sentences of imprisonment are enforced by the prison administration system under a prison regime (maximum, medium or minimum security) determined by the court, in a penal institution

designated by the law or by a measure of the national commander and located as close as possible to the inmate's place of residence, where it is feasible. A maximum security prison has a stricter regime than a medium security prison, and a medium security prison has a stricter regime than a minimum security prison.

The order of the enforcement of an imprisonment is determined by having regard to the inmate's individual circumstances, personality, previous life record, lifestyle, family circumstances, conduct during the detention, the offence committed, the length of the sentence and the regime under which the sentence is to be served.

During the enforcement of an imprisonment the order of enforcement may, subject to the results of the inmate's risk analysis, conduct and participation in the reintegration activities, vary within a given prison regime, and the advantages that may be provided to inmates may also differ according to the regime rules pertaining to the various regimes.

Within a given prison regime an inmate may be subjected to general, lenient or strict regime-rules.

In the interest of maintaining the security of the enforcement of imprisonments, from among the regime-rules pertaining to the various prison regimes the rules governing an inmate's guarding, supervision, control, the locking of his cell door, his in-prison movement, the reception of a visitor in an enclosed secure booth or through safety bars, work outside the prison facility, leave of absence, committal or transfer may, depending on the inmate's security classification, even be stricter than the other rules.

An inmate's security classification will, in itself, not bar the inmate from being subjected to the more lenient regime-rules that may be applied within a given prison regime.

The order of the enforcement of an imprisonment under a given prison regime shall vary if more lenient enforcement rules become applicable or the inmate is relocated to a transitory unit or to a security cell or unit. The prison administration may set up special units for special needs inmates in which the order of the enforcement is adjusted, primarily, to the inmates' special needs.

## **2. Admission and Detention Committee**

*(See Sections 95-96 of Act No. CCXL of 2013 on the enforcement of punishments, measures, certain coercive measures and confinements for regulatory offences)*

Penal institutions operate an Admission and Detention Committee (ADC).

Individualised decision on an inmate's assignment to or removal from a regime and on his classification as high security risk inmate shall be taken by the ADC by having regard to Section 26(4).

An inmate's assignment to a regime must, at least every six months, be reviewed in the penal institution by involving the expert areas responsible for detention. Decision on an inmate's assignment to a regime shall be taken by the ADC.

The ADC's inmate-related tasks are the following:

- b) assignment and reassignment of an inmate to a given regime
- c) the review of an assignment to a given regime
- d) involving, placing or removing an inmate into or from the reintegration program, and assessing the success of the inmate's participation in the program
- e) classifying and reclassifying an inmate's security risk grading

Against the decisions of the prison governor and the ADC, inmates shall have the remedy provided in this Act. Recourse to the remedy shall have no suspensive effect on the enforcement of the decisions.

## **3. Assessing the security risk level posed by an inmate**

*(See Section 50 of Minister of Justice Decree No.16/2014 (XII.19.) )*

In order to safely carry out the tasks specified in Section 97(5) of the Act on the enforcement of punishments inmates are, in the framework of a risk analysis and risk assessment, classified according to the security risk level they pose as high-risk, medium-risk or low-risk inmates. In assessing the security risk level posed by an inmate, data contained in the inmate's records



about his security classification during any former imprisonment as well as the disciplinary breaches he committed and the sanctions he was subjected to may be taken into consideration.

Inmates who on account of the nature of the committed offence or the duration of the imprisonment served or the role played in a criminal organisation or in the inmate subculture or on account of their attitude to the order and security of the penal institution or the conduct performed during a former detention or on account of any other personal circumstances are likely to commit an act grossly violating the order of the penal institution or are likely to flee or to perform a conduct injuring or endangering their own lives or the life or bodily integrity of other persons and whose safe detention therefore can only be guaranteed by guarding them, shall be classified as high security risk inmates.

Inmates who, in light of their conduct, are likely to wilfully oppose the order of the penal institution and to breach the conduct rules and whose safe detention can only be guaranteed by guarding or surveillance shall be classified as medium security risk inmates.

Inmates who are likely to respect the order of the penal institution and are unlikely to flee or to commit another offence and whose safe detention can be guaranteed by checks shall be classified as low security risk inmates.

In addition to determining the security risk levels, if certain conditions specified in the law and posing a threat to the security of the enforcement of imprisonment exist, the law allows for an inmate's special placement in a long-term prisoners' special unit or in a security cell or unit.

#### **4. Special placement**

Where certain conditions specified in the law and posing a threat to the security of the enforcement of imprisonment exist, the law allows for an inmate's special placement. At present the following special placement forms exist: long-term prisoners' special unit and security cell or security unit.

##### **a. Long-term prisoners' special unit**

*(Section 105 of Act No. CCXL of 2013 on the enforcement of punishments, measures, certain coercive measures and confinements for regulatory offences)*

Inmates serving a life sentence or an imprisonment of at least fifteen years and found, on the basis of their detention conduct, willingness to cooperate, attitude to the order and security of the penal institution and the individual risk analysis, to be in need of special treatment and placement in order to be prepared for their integration and reintegration in the community, may be placed in a long-term prisoners' special unit.

Placement in and removal from a long-term prisoners' special unit may take place under the ADC's decision. Placement in such a unit shall be reviewed every three months and shall be terminated as soon as the underlying conditions cease to exist. In deciding about and in reviewing such a placement the inmate to be placed in such a unit shall be heard and the decision shall be communicated to him in writing.

In a long-term prisoners' special unit:

- a) inmates are under constant guard and surveillance
- b) inmates may only move on the area of the penal institution with permission and under supervision and the cell doors are kept locked
- c) where it is appropriate, inner safety bars may be employed within the cells
- d) inmates may only work within the long-term prisoners' special unit or in a place designated by the prison governor
- e) inmates may educate themselves and may participate in cultural, sports and leisure time group activities within the long-term prisoners' special unit or with the prison governor's permission
- f) inmates may, individually, avail of the services of a priest or pastor and may practice community pastoral care according to the prison governor's permission
- g) the scope and quantity of the personal belongings inmates may keep in the unit may be limited
- h) the frequency of the contact opportunities specified for inmates under Sections 175-177 may be increased

The above provisions and security measures may, upon the prison governor's written decision, be applied jointly or separately. The prison governor' right of decision-taking may be delegated. Orders and decisions on the application or review of a placement in a long-term prisoners' special unit shall be executed without delay.

Long-term prisoners' special units at present operate in:

Szeged Maximum and Medium Security Prison (suitable for housing 10 inmates)

Budapest Maximum and Medium Security Prison (suitable for housing 8 inmates)

Sátoraljaújhely Maximum and Medium Security Prison (suitable for housing 8 inmates)

b. Security cell/unit

*(See Sections 147 and 73 of Act No. CCXL of 2013 on the enforcement of punishments, measures, certain coercive measures and confinements for regulatory offences)*

An inmate in case of whom it can, on the basis of the inmate's past life, committed offence, length of imprisonment, conduct, informal social network, attitude to the order and security of the penal institution and personal circumstances, be reasonably inferred that:

a) he may be preparing, or attempted to commit, or committed an act grossly violating the order and security of the penal institution

b) he will perform or did perform a conduct violating or endangering his own life, bodily integrity or property or the life, bodily integrity or property of other persons and who shows a behaviour which is openly or latently aggressive

may be placed in a security cell or unit.

An inmate's placement in a security cell may be ordered for maximum three months by the prison governor's reasoned decision. Placement in such a cell may be prolonged for three months per occasion, but for no longer than one year.

Placement in a security cell or security unit after the elapse of one year may be prolonged in reasoned decision by the national commander, for maximum six months per occasion.

In passing a decision on an inmate's placement in a security cell or unit and in reviewing such a decision the inmate shall be heard. Such a hearing may be dispensed with in the interest of the security of the penal institution or the prevention of a crime.

An inmate may seek the judicial review of the decisions of the prison governor and the national commander.

The inmate's request for the judicial review of the prison governor's decision placing him in a security cell or prolonging his placement in such a cell or of the national commander's decision prolonging his placement in a security cell or ordering or prolonging his placement in a security unit shall be determined by the penitentiary judge within five days from the receipt of the request. Criminal costs shall be borne by the state. These provisions shall also be applicable to detainees on remand.

In case an inmate is placed in a security cell or unit:

- a) the inmate is under constant control and supervision,
- b) the inmate may only move in the area of the penal institution with permission and under supervision and his cell door is kept locked
- c) in justified cases inner safety bars may be employed in his cell
- d) the inmate may receive his visitor in an enclosed secure booth or through secure technical devices from which rule derogation may be permitted by the prison governor
- e) may only work in the security cell or in the area of the security unit and in a place designated by the governor
- f) may educate himself and may participate in cultural, sports and leisure time group activities only within the security unit or with the prison governor's permission
- g) may, individually, avail of the services of a priest or pastor and may practice community pastoral care according to the prison governor's permission
- h) the scope and quantity of the personal belongings the inmate may keep in the unit may be limited

The above provisions and security measures may, upon the prison governor's written decision, be applied jointly or separately.

The inmate may, upon his request or ex officio, be placed in a safety cell or unit in case his separation from the other inmates in the interest of protecting him is necessary and no other method is successful. In such cases the provisions set forth in subsection (7) shall be applied by taking into consideration the reasons for the inmate's placement in the security cell; where the conditions specified in subsection (1) a-b) exist, the provisions of subsection (7) may be applied where appropriate.

To date only one security unit has been set up, namely in the Sopronkőhida Maximum and Medium Security Prison. There exists one safety cell, in the Győr-Moson-Sopron County Penitentiary Institution.

## **B. Right to keep contact in detention (family visits)**

*Act No. CCXL of 2013 on the enforcement of punishments, measures, certain coercive measures and confinements for regulatory offences* clearly regulates the forms and extents of the available contact opportunities, while allowing for positive departure from the rules pertaining to the various prison regimes and regime categories. The precise extents of the contact opportunities available under the various prison regimes are regulated in Minister of Justice Decree No. 16/2014.

### **1. Leave of absence and prison furlough**

*(See Sections 179-180 Act No. CCXL of 2013 on the enforcement of punishments, measures, certain coercive measures and confinements for regulatory offences)*

In addition to the contact forms allowed under the former regulation, leave of absence and prison furlough shall be enacted as new forms of contact. Moreover, reward leave of absence and reward prison furlough will also be grantable. Leave of absence may be granted for inmates having served at least one third of their sentence but minimum one year in a maximum security prison, minimum six months in a medium security prison and minimum three months in a minimum security prison or in a transitory unit. The length of the leave of absence may not exceed 24 hours.

Prison furlough may be granted for inmates having served at least one third of their sentence but minimum one year in a maximum security prison, minimum six months in a medium security prison and minimum three months in a minimum security prison. The length of the prison furlough is maximum 5 days in a maximum security prison, maximum ten days in a medium security prison and maximum fifteen days in a minimum security prison or a transitory unit.

## **2. Receiving a visitor outside the prison facility**

*(Section 178 of Act No. CCXL of 2013 on the enforcement of punishments, measures, certain coercive measures and confinements for regulatory offences)*

Receiving a visitor outside the prison facility for two hours per occasion may be granted for inmates having served at least one third of their sentence but minimum one year in a maximum security prison, minimum six months in a medium security prison and minimum three months in a minimum security prison or in a transitory unit. Receiving a visitor outside the prison facility may also be permitted out of turn, as a reward.

## **3. Social bonding programme**

*(Section 187 of Act No. CCXL of 2013 on the enforcement of punishments, measures, certain coercive measures and confinements for regulatory offences)*

The social bonding programme is also a novelty to be enacted. The programme is designed to prepare and strengthen a welcoming environment, to help the inmate return to his former workplace or, if it is not possible, to find a new workplace or public employment for him, to detect and strengthen his social connections and to help to find housing for him.

Inmates sentenced for a misdemeanour to maximum one-year imprisonment may be admitted into such a programme. In order to strengthen social bonding the inmate is entitled to maximum 10 days prison furlough per month on days when he does not work, to work at a workplace outside the prison facility without surveillance, and to pursue studies outside the prison facility.

#### **4. Regulation of the contact opportunities**

The following contact opportunities are available under the various prison regimes (see Sections 39-41 of Minister of Justice Decree No. 16/2014):

##### A maximum security prison inmate assigned to strict regime

- a) may receive a visitor once a month for 60 minutes
- b) may talk with his contact person via telephone twice a week, each time for five minutes
- c) may, following the deductions specified in law, spend 50 per cent of the amount allowed to be spent for his personal needs
- d) may not be allowed a leave of absence
- e) may not be allowed a prison furlough
- f) the scope of personal items held may, subject to the conditions specified in Section 100(2) f) of the Act on enforcement may, in respect of points 2.2, 3.4-3.5, 5.4 and point 6, save the appliance for telephoning, of Annex no. 1, be restricted and the number of the personal items held may be reduced.

##### A maximum security prison inmate assigned to general regime

- a) may receive a visitor once a month for 90 minutes
- b) may be permitted to receive a visitor outside the prison facility once a year for two hours
- c) may talk with his contact person via telephone three times a week, each time for 10 minutes
- d) may, following the deductions specified in law, spend 75 per cent of the amount allowed to be spent for his personal needs
- e) may be allowed a leave of absence once a year for 12 hours
- f) may, exceptionally, be allowed a prison furlough once a year, for a total of two days, unless he is a life prisoner
- g) may only possess the personal items specified in this Decree.

##### A maximum security prison inmate assigned to more lenient regime

- a) may receive a visitor in the prison facility twice a month, each time for 60 minutes

- b) may be permitted to receive a visitor outside the prison facility twice a year, each time for two hours
- c) may talk with his contact person via telephone four times a week, each time for 10 minutes
- d) may, following the deductions specified in law, spend 100 per cent of the amount allowed to be spent for his personal needs
- e) may be allowed a leave of absence three times a year for 12 hours
- f) may, exceptionally, be allowed a prison furlough twice a year, for a total of five days, unless he is a life prisoner
- g) the scope and quantity of the personal items held may be increased.

A medium security prison inmate assigned to strict regime

- a) may receive a visitor once a month for 75 minutes
- b) may talk with his contact person via telephone twice a week, each time for ten minutes
- c) may, following the deductions specified in law, spend 60 per cent of the amount allowed to be spent for his personal needs
- d) may not be allowed a leave of absence
- e) may not be allowed a prison furlough
- f) subject to the conditions specified in Section 101 f) of the Act on enforcement the scope of personal items may, in respect of point 6 of Annex no. 1, save the inmate's phone card, be restricted and the number of personal items possessed may be reduced.

A medium security prison inmate assigned to normal regime

- a) may receive a visitor inside the prison facility once a month for 90 minutes
- b) may be permitted to receive a visitor outside the prison facility twice a year, each time for two hours
- c) may talk with his contact person via telephone three times a week, each time for 10 minutes
- d) may, following the deductions specified in law, spend 80 per cent of the amount allowed to be spent for his personal needs
- e) may be allowed a leave of absence once a year for 24 hours
- f) may, exceptionally, be allowed a prison furlough once a year, for a total of two days
- g) may only possess the personal items specified in this Decree.



A medium security prison inmate assigned to more lenient regime

- a) may receive a visitor twice a month, each time for 75 minutes
- b) may be permitted to receive a visitor outside the prison facility three times a year, each time for two hours
- c) may talk with his contact person via telephone five times a week, each time for 10 minutes
- d) may, following the deductions specified in law, spend 100 per cent of the amount allowed to be spent for his personal needs
- e) may be allowed a leave of absence three times a year, each time for 12 hours
- f) may, exceptionally, be allowed a prison furlough twice a year, for a total of ten days
- g) the scope and quantity of the personal items possessed may be increased.

A minimum security prison inmate assigned to strict regime

- a) may receive a visitor once a month for 90 minutes
- b) may talk with his contact person via telephone three times a week, each time for ten minutes
- c) may, following the deductions specified in law, spend 70 per cent of the amount allowed to be spent for his personal needs
- d) may not be allowed a leave of absence
- e) may not be allowed a prison furlough
- f) may only possess the personal items specified in this Decree and the quantity of the items may be reduced.

A minimum security prison inmate assigned to normal regime

- a) may receive a visitor twice a month, each time for 90 minutes
- b) may be permitted to receive a visitor outside the prison facility three times a year, each time for two hours
- c) may talk with his contact person via telephone five times a week, each time for 10 minutes
- d) may, following the deductions specified in law, spend 90 per cent of the amount allowed to be spent for his personal needs
- e) may be allowed for leave of absence twice a year, each time for 24 hours

- f) may, exceptionally, be allowed for prison furlough twice a year, for a total of eight days
- g) may possess only the personal items specified in this Decree.

#### A minimum security prison inmate assigned to more lenient regime

- a) may receive a visitor twice a month, each time for 90 minutes, and once in a quarter-year for 90 minutes
- b) may be permitted to receive a visitor outside the prison facility five times a year, each time for two hours
- c) may talk with his contact person via telephone five times a week, each time for 15 minutes
- d) may, following the deductions specified in law, spend 100 per cent of the amount allowed to be spent for his personal needs
- e) may be allowed a leave of absence four times a year, each time for 24 hours
- f) may, exceptionally, be allowed a prison furlough three times a year, for a total of fifteen days
- g) the scope and quantity of the personal items possessed may be increased.

It must be noted that the extents of the contact opportunities specified in Minister of Justice Decree No. 16/2014 in respect of the various inmate contact forms are applicable to the regimes inmates are assigned to. Inmates, however, may individually request the prison governor to permit extra contact opportunities for them, hence individual aspects and specific circumstances (e.g. serious illness of a child) may be taken into consideration by the prison governor. Such requests and the decisions on the requests shall be registered in the inmate's records. Against a decision rejecting a request a complaint may be submitted to a higher forum.

### **5. Reintegration detention**

In certain respects, reintegration detention as a new legal institution also serves to strengthen inmates' family and social relations, as inmates in reintegration detention serve their sentence not in a penal institution but in a flat designated for this purpose; hence inmates may serve their sentence in family circle.

## **6. Family consultation and family therapy workshop**

*(Section 194 of Act No. CCXL of 2013 on the enforcement of punishments, measures, certain coercive measures and confinements for regulatory offences)*

Family consultations and family therapy workshops are available to juveniles. Such consultations and workshops are held upon the request of the juvenile or his statutory representative and upon the prison governor's permission. It is to be noted that these contact forms do not constitute visit occasions but may be permitted in addition to the visits.

Family consultation is an informal contact form within the penal institution, in which the juvenile and the parent and the person entitled under the Civil Code to keep contact with the juvenile may participate. Family consultation may be held every three months. Permission for family consultation outside the penal institution may, exceptionally, also be given.

In family therapy workshops parents not entitled to keep contact with the juvenile may not participate. The number of the family therapy workshops is determined by the therapeutic needs.

## **7. Remedy for violation of the contact rights**

### **a. Rights enforcement in general**

*(Section 10 of Act No. CCXL of 2013 on the enforcement of punishments, measures, certain coercive measures and confinements for regulatory offences)*

A post-conviction inmate and an inmate detained on other legal grounds may submit a request concerning the enforcement of his sentence and his detention, may file a complaint against a decision rejecting his request and has other remedies specified under this Act. If the Act allows for a remedy, a post-conviction inmate or an inmate detained on other legal grounds shall be informed of thereof in the decision taken.

The request, the complaint and the request for remedy mentioned above shall be submitted in writing.

Concerning the enforcement of their imprisonment, post-conviction inmates and inmates detained on other legal grounds may

- a) turn, directly, to the public prosecutor supervising the legality of punishments and measures, certain coercive measures, confinements served for unpaid fines and confinements imposed for regulatory offences, and may request to be heard in person by the prosecutor
- b) turn, directly, to the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights or to the officer authorised for performing the tasks arising under the national preventive mechanism set up under Article 3 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (henceforth: national preventive mechanism)
- c) may file a request or complaint to international human rights organs with competence acknowledged in international convention promulgated in Act of Parliament.

In respect of other legal relationships post-conviction inmates and inmates detained on other legal grounds may enforce their rights according to the general rules without restrictions, save for the differences flowing from the fact of detention, or may turn to a court or a state authority, may file a complaint or may report a matter of public interest to the authorities.

b. Decision of the organ responsible for the enforcement of a sentence

*(Section 21 of Act No. CCXL of 2013 on the enforcement of punishments, measures, certain coercive measures and confinements for regulatory offences)*

A complaint may be filed to the head of the organ responsible for the enforcement of a sentence about a measure or decision of the organ responsible for the enforcement of a sentence or about a failure to act by the organ. In cases specified in this Act, post-conviction inmates and inmates detained on other legal grounds may seek the judicial review of a decision or may file a court action against a decision.

A complaint may be filed by a post-conviction inmate, an inmate detained on other legal grounds, a counsel, the statutory representative of a juvenile, the statutory representative, the spouse or the common-law spouse of a person subjected to involuntary treatment or the contact person whose contact with the inmate is affected by the measure or decision or omission.

Unless specified otherwise in this Act, a complaint may be filed within fifteen days from the communication of the measure or decision or from the occurrence of the omission. The complaint shall be made in writing or minutes shall be taken on it.

The complaint shall be determined within 30 days, unless the nature of the case requires urgency. The time limit may, in justified cases, be prolonged for another thirty days. The post-conviction inmate, the inmate detained on other legal grounds and the maker of the complaint shall be informed in writing about the decision and the prolongation of the time limit. Against the decision on the complaint no further remedy shall lie.

c. Other provisions related to the request, the complaint and other remedies

*(Sections 140-142 of Act No. CCXL of 2013 on the enforcement of punishments, measures, certain coercive measures and confinements for regulatory offences)*

In the remedy proceedings the inmate may request information about his rights and obligations at any time and the information shall be provided in due time.

The penal institution shall see to it that the inmate's remedy rights are enforced. In matters related to their detention, inmates may submit written requests to the authorised officers of the prison administration.

Inmates may request to be heard in person by the prison governor or by the head of the relevant organisational unit of the prison. Inmates may also turn, in writing, directly to the prison governor. Inmate requests shall be recorded and attached to the documents handled by the penal institution. A decision granting a request may be communicated to the inmate orally as well. The essence of the decision and the time of the communication must, however, be recorded and the written decision must, at the same time, be handed over to the inmate.

Unless this Act provides otherwise, inmates may file a complaint under Section 21(3) against the decision – save a decision granting the inmate's request – or measure or omission of a prison officer entitled to proceed in the inmate's case to the governor of the penal institution in which the decision or measure has been taken or the omission has been committed.

#### Where

- a) the decision or measure has been taken or the omission has been committed by the prison governor or the head of the designated organisational unit of the prison administration system, the complaint shall be adjudicated by the national commander
- b) the decision or measure has been taken or the omission has been committed by the national commander, the complaint shall be adjudicated by the minister responsible for the enforcement of sentences.

#### **V. Conclusions of the respondent state**

The Government is of the view that the presented measures and legal actions are capable of rectifying the alleged violations of Article 3 and Article 13 of the Convention on account of inhuman and degrading conditions of detention.

Budapest, October 2016



Zoltán Tallódi

Agent for the Government of Hungary