

Concerning the access survey of “Global Detention Project”, MoI, and in particular the Migration Directorate, submits the following information:

1. Places for accommodation of illegally staying third-country nationals who have been imposed compulsory administrative measures under the Law for the Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria

The Migration Directorate with MoI is responsible for the management and operation of two Special Homes for Temporary Placement of Foreigners, which are built in Sofia – residential area Busmantsi (functioning since 2006) and in the town of Lyubimets (functioning since 2011, with capacity of 300 detainees). The functioning of the two centers is in line with the European experience, practices and standards in this field.

2. Accommodation of illegally staying persons in the Reception Centers. Rights of detainees – access to legal and medical assistance, etc.

A new procedure of registration, control and monitoring concerning the movement of documents has been introduced and is being applied in the Centers. Applications for refugee status are provided by the Refugee Agency. The Center in the village of Pastrogor was commissioned in the spring of 2012.

The orders of imposing administrative measures are handed to the foreigner/s in the presence of an interpreter. It is **obligatory** to indicate the date and time of handing the order on all copies, which are signed both by the foreigner and the interpreter. The latter writes down his full name and permanent address. In the cases where it is impossible to provide an interpreter, assistance is provided through the UNHCR Representation and the Bulgarian

Helsinki Committee for making translation from rare languages through the regional BHC representatives.

Upon admission in the Specialized Homes, the foreigners receive a copy of the Rules governing their stay in the Home in the language they have chosen. These are brochures prepared with the help of the Open Society Institute, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee. They get familiar with the Internal Rules, with the possibilities of their release, of receiving legal, social, psychological and medical assistance in the language they understand. They are also informed about the possibility that each of them can meet a representative of the administration. **A project of providing technical connection between the Specialized Homes and BCCP** is currently developed for videoconferencing with the Refugee Agency. This will facilitate the use in real time of the Agency's capacity to help with translation from/to rare languages. The other possibility, which we will expand as practice, is the utilizing the capacity of **the Republic of Greece for border cooperation under Frontex**.

We rely on the cooperation of the consulates and representations on the territory of Bulgaria, which are in all cases informed about detaining their nationals at the border or in the interior of the country. Organization has been created in the Specialized Homes of the Migration Directorate for daily access of attorneys and of lawyers from non-governmental organizations, who can meet the accommodated foreigners.

The Homes have medical services meeting the qualification requirements in accordance with the medical standards. Persons with chronic diseases, pregnant women and children are given precedence for medical examinations and admission in hospitals. In the event of shortage of specialists in the medical

institute of MoI, access to specialized medical assistance in other hospitals is provided in good time.

Statistical data – the Homes for Temporary Placement of Foreigners accommodate illegally staying persons as follows: in 2010 – 973 persons, 2011 – 1074 persons, 2012 – 2016 and 2013 – 2700 persons until the beginning of September.

3. Registration of unaccompanied minors/underaged in orders imposing compulsory administrative measures under the Law for the Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria in the absence of family

In compliance with the principle of ensuring the best interests of the child, our proposal with respect to unaccompanied minor and underage children is to apply measures for protection in accordance with the Child Protection Act, instead of accommodating them in Special Homes for Temporary Accommodation of Foreigners. This has been achieved with the adopted amendments and supplements to the Law for the Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria from 2013. Separate rooms shall be established for the accommodation of minor and underage foreigners with conditions suitable for their age and needs. Compulsory accommodation shall not be applied with respect to unaccompanied minor and underage persons. The authority issuing the order of imposing the compulsory administrative measure shall inform the respective Social Assistance Directorate, which shall undertake measures in accordance with the Child Protection Act.