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**OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP
ON THE STANDARD MINIMUM RULES FOR THE
TREATMENT OF PRISONERS
VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 25 – 28 March 2014**

**RESPONSE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ALGERIA¹
TO NOTE VERBALE CU 2013/129/DO/JS**

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THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR PRISON
ADMINISTRATION AND REHABILITATION

Proposals for the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in the nine areas identified in paragraph 5 of draft resolution VI of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be proposed for adoption at the United Nations General Assembly

1. Respect for prisoners' inherent dignity and value as human beings:

This area should be strengthened through other measures that protect human dignity. Algeria makes the following proposals in that regard:

- Expand freedom of movement within prison establishments and especially allow prisoners free access at all times to sanitary facilities to ensure personal hygiene and to different cultural, religious, sport and leisure activities;
- Allow prisoners to freely use the prisoners' shop in a prison establishment;
- Take appropriate steps in order to maintain human dignity during bodily searches;
- Provide for flexible mechanisms for the release of ill prisoners, particularly when medical opinion finds that the prisoner's poor health is such that he or she should not remain in prison.

2. Medical and health services:

Since the majority of prisoners are poor and sometimes destitute, Algeria proposes that prisoners receive free consultations, tests and medication within prison establishments and during their hospitalization outside those establishments:

- Allow all prisoners to consult their own physician when they so request;
- Require prison establishments to offer a permanent medical service and to guarantee medical services at night-time and on holidays, in order to respond to any emergency situation;
- Require all medical staff to make direct contact with prisoners when carrying out visits to detention centres and to identify cases that require care;
- Guarantee sufficient health-care provision for prisoners, particularly in respect of psychiatric and psychological consultations;
- Establish regional health clinics specialized in communicable diseases;
- Ensure medical, psychological and social care for vulnerable prisoners, particularly elderly persons (geriatric care);

- Provide hospital wards within specialized hospital centres for prisoners with psychiatric conditions;
- Identify referring prison establishments for the care of prisoners with psychiatric conditions;
- Provide for education on medical ethics in prison for all persons involved in detention services;
- Provide for the training of newly recruited health practitioners in medical practice in prisons.

3. Disciplinary action and punishment, including the role of medical staff, solitary confinement and reduction of diet:

It is imperative that texts governing disciplinary action take into consideration all factors involved in safeguarding the rights of prisoners to hygiene, food, bedding, medical care and recourse to supervisory authorities and to legal defence assistance.

4. Investigations of all deaths in custody, as well as of any signs or allegations of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners:

Systematically carry out judicial investigations into cases of death within prison establishments and into other cases of death that are linked to possible maltreatment, by requiring an autopsy and by allowing the family of the prisoner or his or her lawyer to gain access to the findings of the investigation.

5. Protection and special needs of vulnerable groups deprived of their liberty, taking into consideration countries in difficult circumstances:

In all cases where there are exceptional circumstances, particularly internal conflict, Algeria suggests that international humanitarian NGOs, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, carry out visits and request international aid in order to guarantee care so as to avoid the degradation of living conditions of such vulnerable groups.

6. The right of access to legal representation:

Algeria recommends that prisoners be allowed and guaranteed access to legal aid so that they can protect their rights during their period of detention and protect their interests in their lives outside prison.

7. Complaints and independent inspection:

- Guarantee prisoners the opportunity, whenever they deem it necessary, to complain to judicial authorities or to request any visit or inspection by senior judicial officials;
- For greater transparency in the management of prison establishments and to guarantee the rights of prisoners, national and international humanitarian bodies and agencies engaged in work to protect the rights of persons deprived of their liberty should carry out sporadic visits of detention centres

and the reports and recommendations made following those visits should be made available.

8. The replacement of outdated terminology:

Algeria has no proposals to make on this point.

9. Training of relevant staff to implement the Standard Minimum Rules:

- Ensure that prison staff receive training in multiple areas covering all the aspects of the modern management of a prison establishment (human rights, communications, management, first aid etc.);
- Cooperate and share best practice with other developed countries that have made progress in this area, under the aegis of the United Nations.

We wish to communicate other proposals for the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, beyond the nine areas elaborated upon above, in relation to the rules concerning work, education and recreation and, lastly, social relations and after-care.

Work

71.(7) Prison labour must have an educational or rehabilitative purpose, taking into account the needs of prisoners and employment opportunities after their release.

71.(2) Professional training provided to prisoners must take into account employment opportunities during prisoners' detention and after their release.

Education and recreation

77.(3) As far as is possible, teaching should be expanded to reach all prisoners, including prisoners on remand.

77.(4) Sentencing reform measures should, as far as is possible, enable a prisoner to receive or continue education or training outside prison establishments.

78.(2) To preserve links with society and to guarantee improved rehabilitation of prisoners, recreational and sports activities should be organized within prison establishments in collaboration with associations engaged in work relating to prisons.

Social relations and after-care

80.(1) Prison services in cooperation with other State bodies and associations should, as far as possible, provide both practical and psychological support to prisoners upon their release in order to best guarantee their social and vocational reintegration.

80.(2) State services and bodies should ensure that the criminal records of prisoners do not constitute an obstacle to their reintegration.
