

UN 7th Survey (1998-2000): PRISONS data (Questions 13-21) – validation
(updated version, December 2002)
by Roy Walmsley, Honorary Consultant to the United Nations

Introduction

1. By December 2002 prisons data (ie information in response to Part IV of the UN 7th Survey) had been received from 64 member states and from Palestine. These 64 member states constitute 33.5% of the total UN membership of 191 states.
2. The geographic distribution of the 65 responses is:

AFRICA 5, AMERICAS 13, ASIA 15, EUROPE 29, OCEANIA 3.
3. As with the 6th Survey, there was evidence of misunderstandings in relation to certain questions. In my comments on that Survey I recommended certain changes that might usefully have been made in the 7th Survey, in order to avoid the receipt of inadequate responses. I understand that there was insufficient time to take account of those suggestions in the preparation for the 7th Survey, and these misunderstandings have occurred again.
4. The following is a commentary on the 65 responses, including suggestions for referring back to the responding country for clarifications and for answers to questions that had been misunderstood, and where, consequently, the information received has to be rejected. I have also noted, in brackets, where information was not provided in response to certain questions. I have not suggested referring back in these cases; the response sometimes explains that the data concerned is not available, and on other occasions it is likely that the absence of answers in respect of e.g. probation or parole is simply due to the fact that these are not part of criminal justice practice in the countries concerned.

Africa

BOTSWANA no probation there.)	(No information on probation - Q 19 - perhaps because there is no probation there.)
MAURITIUS	Answers to 19, 20 missing (page 31 of the questionnaire)
SOUTH AFRICA	(No information on Q 15.) NEED TO CORRECT the figures given for Q21.4 and 21.5 for 2000. Q21.4 should be 2,438 (a stray 2 has crept in) and 21.5 should be 93,763 (not 93,163). Thus the figures add up to the totals.
ZAMBIA	(No information on Q 17, 18, 20.)

ZIMBABWE (No information on probation - Q 19 - perhaps because there is no probation there.)

Americas

ARGENTINA Data incomplete for all questions. Only 4 of the 34 sub-questions in respect of 2000 have been answered and only Q16 and 21 in respect of 1998 and 1999.

BARBADOS No information to Q13.2 and 15.1-4 re adult prisons. Q 16 figures much higher than other sources suggest. Perhaps they refer to total during the year rather than total on a selected date.?REFER BACK

CANADA No data for 2000 except estimated number of juvenile institutions.Q 16 response includes incomplete figures for juveniles. Q 16.3 figure for 1999 should be 27,207. (No information for Q 17, 21.)

CHILE Q 13.1 and 14.1 totals seem to omit some institutions, because there were 133 in 1997 and 145 at the end of 2001. ?REFER BACK

COLOMBIA Something is wrong. Either the answer to Q 16.1 omits awaiting trial people or the answer to Q 21 includes them. REFER BACK to find out which and get the right information for the one that is wrong.

DOMINICA Q 16 and 21 information SHOULD BE REJECTED because it is internally inconsistent. REFER BACK for correct information. (There were actually 298 prisoners at 30.6.99.) No data for Q19,20.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC Q 16.2 - REFER BACK concerning surprisingly high proportion of prison population awaiting trial and concerning response to Q 21. Q21.1 and 21.2 are not answered and 21.3 is inconsistent with 16.3. (No data for Q 19, 20.)

JAMAICA Q 16.2 and 16.3 SHOULD BE REJECTED in respect of 2000. Q16.2 data for 1999 also. REFER BACK

MEXICO (No information for Q 17, 18.)

PANAMA (No information for Q14-15, 17-20.)

SURINAME Q 20.2 answer should also be in 20.1. From internal evidence it appears that answer to Q 21.2 should be 668 and the answer to 21.3 should be 641.

UNITED STATES (No information for Q 17.)

VENEZUELA (No information for Q 14, 17, 18.) The information on Q 21 for 2000 appears incomplete compared with the answer to Q 16.3. The footnote appears to explain this but the data in response to Q 21 for 1998, 1999 and 2000 seems inconsistent with the answers to Q16.3. REFER BACK FOR CLARIFICATION

Asia

CHINA (Hong Kong) Q 13.1 and 14.1 answers are number of prisoners not prisons. REFER BACK

INDIA (1998 data only is given. No information on Q 19.)

INDONESIA (No Q 15 staff data.) Q 16.1 answer SHOULD BE REJECTED. It is almost certainly the number of awaiting trial prisoners. REFER BACK. (No information on Q 17, 18.)

JAPAN (No information available on Q 17-18.)

KAZAKHSTAN Q 13.1 and 13.2 data (in what is referred to as table 14) SHOULD BE REJECTED . There are some 90 institutions in the country. Q16.1 data SHOULD BE REJECTED; there are more than 80,000 prisoners. REFER BACK. (No information, not even the questions, in respect of Q 15,17,18,21.)

KOREA (Republic of) All complete.

KYRGYZSTAN The data are for 1995 and 1997. SHOULD BE REJECTED and REFER BACK.

MALAYSIA Q 13.1 and 14.1 answers are number of prisoners not prisons. Q 16 and 21 give numbers over the whole year and not just on a selected day. All these SHOULD BE REJECTED and REFER BACK.

MALDIVE IS. All data SHOULD BE REJECTED. The answers to Q 13.1, 13.2 and 15.1 are all the same and this is impossible. Q 16 and 21 answers are unbelievable. REFER BACK for the correct data.

OMAN (No data given for Q 13.2, 14.2, 15.4-7, 17, 18, 19, 20.) Either Q 16.1 omits awaiting trial people or Q 21 includes them. REFER BACK to find out which and get the right information for the one that is wrong.

PALESTINE A translation is needed from the Arabic in order for the data to be verified.

QATAR All complete.

SAUDI ARABIA (No information on Q 15, 18, 19, 20.) Q 21 includes information on people awaiting trial as well as the convicted. REFER BACK for information on the convicted only.

SRI LANKA Q 16 and 21 must be REJECTED since they are based on annual admissions instead of the situation on a selected day. REFER BACK (to Department of Prisons). (No information on Q 19.)

THAILAND (No information on Q 14, 17, 19.) The Q 20.2 answer should also be given as the answer to 20.1. The answer to Q 21.3 should read 132,337.

Europe

ARMENIA Q 18 is the only one that has obtained a response. The response does not answer the question. ?REFER BACK

AZERBAIJAN Q 16's answer appears to include only those awaiting trial. It is not the total number incarcerated. REFER BACK. (No data given for Q 18.)

BELARUS Q 16.1 answer for 2000 should read 56,590 not 59,590. This is the total in Q 21 and the Q 21 totals for 1998 and 1999 are identical to those in 16.1. REFER BACK to discover whether 16.3 or 21.1+21.2 shows the total number convicted and sentenced.

BULGARIA (No information for Q 19 re probation.)

CYPRUS (No information for Q 17-18.)

CZECH REPUBLIC Q 13.1 and 14.1 give the number of prisoners and not prisons. REFER BACK for correct numbers.

DENMARK Q 21.3 cannot be correct and no information is given for 21.4-5 and 7-9. REFER BACK.

ESTONIA Q 13.2 and 14.2 should be REJECTED and REFER BACK. The answer to 13.2 should be under 5,000 and that to 14.2 should be about 280.

FINLAND Q 13.2 requires a REFER BACK since the figures are inconsistent with annual data given to the Council of Europe. These indicate that the figure should be around 3,500 in 1998-2000.

GEORGIA (No information on Q 19 – probation.)

GERMANY (No information on Q 17-20.)

HUNGARY	All complete.
ICELAND	All complete.
IRELAND	(No information on Q 17, 18.)
ITALY	(No information on Q 14, 18, 19.) No answer given for Q 21.1-2; REFER BACK (Total convicted should be about 39,500.)
LATVIA	Q 16.1 appears to be awaiting trial totals only. REJECT and REFER BACK.
LITHUANIA	All complete.
MACEDONIA	Q 13.2 and 14.2. Total capacity since 1996 has been 2,463 (figures given to Council of Europe annually), so REFER BACK. (No information for Q 18, 19.)
MOLDOVA	(No information for Q 17, 19.)
NETHERLANDS	Returns incomplete because of omission of juvenile prisoners and prisoners in TBS (psychiatric) clinics. For example, there were 74 institutions in all at 31.12.2000, including the 40 prisons. The return implies that the information for juveniles and TBS people will follow later. When they arrive, the three sets of data need to be aggregated.
NORWAY	No data for 1999 or 2000 (except for Q 13 and 17 re-1999). REFER to the Norwegian Prison and Probation Department for the data.
PORTUGAL	All complete.
ROMANIA	(No information on Q 19 - probation.)
SLOVAKIA	(No information for Q 18, 20.)
SLOVENIA	(No information for Q 17-20.)
SPAIN	Q 21 gives figures for all prisoners, not just the convicted. REFER BACK.
SWITZERLAND	(No information for Q 18.)
TURKEY	(Q 13.2 and 14.2 not answered, Q 16.1 total not given and no information for Q 19.) Q 21 only covers 24,855 convicted persons, while 16.3 says there are 45,503 sentenced persons. REFER BACK.

UNITED KINGDOM:
ENGLAND & WALES

In Q 13.1 the numbers given are for units rather than institutions (i.e. one institution sometimes contains separate units for different types of prisoner.) There were 137 institutions in England and Wales at the end of 2000.

Oceania

AUSTRALIA

(No information on Q 14, 15 .1-6, 19, 20.)

NEW ZEALAND

(No information for Q 15.)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Q 13.1 and 14.1 must be REJECTED and REFER BACK. These are numbers of prisoners and not prisons. (No information for Q 19-20.) Q21 must be REJECTED and REFER BACK. The figures are inconsistent with the answers to Q 16 – much larger, in fact. The Q 16 answers are consistent with figures available from other sources and should be accepted.