

16 October 2013

English
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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 MOROCCO¹
TO NOTE VERBALE CU 2013/129/DO/JS**

¹ This document is reproduced in the form and language in which it was received.

**Suggested amendments to some rules
of the Standard Minimum Rules
for the Treatment of Prisoners**

30 September 2013

PART I

RULES OF GENERAL APPLICATION

Basic principle

6. (1) The following rules shall be applied impartially. There shall be no discrimination.
- Prisoners shall be treated in a manner that ensures their humanity and dignity.

Medical services

22. (1) At every institution there shall be available the services of at least one qualified medical officer who should have some knowledge of psychiatry in addition to medical assistants. The medical services should be organized in close relationship to the general health administration of the community or nation. They shall include a service for psychiatric care in order to diagnose and, in proper cases, treat difficult psychiatric states.

- Results of medical examinations shall be kept in a medical file for the prisoner that is to be kept and handled subject to confidentiality requirements.
- No prisoner shall be subjected to medical or scientific experiments.
- All necessary measures shall be taken for the prevention or control of epidemics or communicable diseases.

Discipline and punishment

28. (1) No prisoner shall be employed, in the service of the institution, in any work of a painful or exploitative nature or in any disciplinary capacity.

32. (1) Punishment by close confinement or reduction of diet shall never be inflicted unless the medical officer has examined the prisoner and certified in writing that he is fit to sustain it. (text in red to be deleted).

Instruments of restraint

33. (c) By order of the director, if other methods of control fail, in order to prevent a prisoner from injuring himself or others or from damaging property; in such instances the director shall at once consult the medical officer and report to the higher administrative authority and the judicial authority in whose jurisdiction the penal institution is located.

- In case force is used, its use shall be legal and limited to what is necessary to control the unruly prisoner

36. (4) Unless it is evidently frivolous or groundless, or it contains specific threats against the safety of persons or the security of institutions, every request or complaint shall be promptly dealt with and replied to without undue delay.

- Prisoners shall be prohibited from agreeing to the submission of collective requests; those who do so shall be subject to disciplinary measures.

Contact with the outside world

38. (1) Prisoners who are foreign nationals shall automatically be allowed reasonable facilities to communicate with the diplomatic and consular representatives of the State to which they belong unless they bear an additional nationality other than the nationality of this state.

41.(2) A qualified representative appointed or approved under paragraph (1) shall be allowed, to the extent possible, to hold regular services and to pay pastoral visits in private to prisoners of his religion at proper times.

- The administration shall ensure the prisoner's right to artistic and intellectual creativity.

Notification of death, illness, transfer, etc.

44. (2) A prisoner shall be informed at once of the death or serious illness of any near relative. In case of the critical illness of a near

relative, the prisoner should be authorized, whenever circumstances allow, to go to his bedside either under escort or alone. He/she may also be authorised to attend the funeral in case of death.

Information to and complaints by prisoners

35. (2) If a prisoner is illiterate, the aforesaid information shall be conveyed to him orally.

(3) If the prisoner is foreigner and does not speak the language of the country in which he is imprisoned, the information shall be translated into a language that he understands.

***NOTE:** Text in red indicates suggested amendments or additions.