

NATIONAL CONFERENCE: LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN ARMENIA

RECOMMENDATIONS of the conference participants¹

20 May 2011

The conference participants make the following recommendations to the state bodies of the Republic of Armenia to implement the following measures at their earliest opportunity:

1. Ensure that those serving a life sentence are able to effectively access:
 - a) further education and/or appropriate training;
 - b) psychiatric treatment and have regular access to psychologists and social workers; and
 - c) sufficiently paid employment of a useful nature to keep prisoners actively employed for a normal working day.
2. Create conditions for life sentence prisoners to effectively engage in physical and sporting activities as a way of maintaining health and to keep prisoners actively engaged.
3. Increase the frequency of visitation for life sentence prisoners to receive family members.
4. Ensure that all necessary medical facilities are available to life sentenced prisoners, and ensure that there are appropriate facilities for the treatment of life sentenced prisoners at the “prisoners’ hospital”.
5. Make the parole system for life sentence prisoners more flexible and transparent, ensuring that all release procedures are clearly defined in law, are accessible, meet due process safeguards, and are subject to appeal or review.
6. Improve the quality of prison food (food of nutritional value adequate for health and strength, of wholesome quality and well prepared and served) for those serving a life sentence.
7. Uphold the rule of law, and in particular, ensure that the judicial system is impartial and transparent when dealing with life sentence applicable cases.

/End

¹ Approximately 30 participants attended the conference, including government officials, non-governmental organisations, prison officials, and representatives of inter-governmental bodies.