



Cayman Islands Human Rights Commission

promoting, protecting and preserving human rights

Ref: HRC-RES-MIGRANTS

Mr Bruce Smith
Acting Chief Immigration Officer
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CAYMAN ISLANDS

Via email: bruce.smith@gov.ky

Mr Steven Barrett
Director of Prisons
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Grand Cayman, KY1-1109
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Via email: steven.barrett@gov.ky

11 July 2018

Dear Mr Smith and Mr Barrett,

As you may be aware, representatives of the Commission visited the Immigration Detention Centre (the "IDC") yesterday primarily to meet with the detainees who were reported to be on a hunger strike and who claimed to have no access to a doctor. During our visit we met with the four (not nine as reported by the media) to understand their concerns. During our conversations the detainees admitted that they had had access to the doctor who regularly visits the IDC but that they had refused to be seen.

Following our conversation each of the four detainees agreed they would begin eating again whilst the Commission made enquiries regarding their concerns. Commission representatives agreed they would return at the end of the week to provide an update on its actions.

During that Commission's visit, the following additional concerns were identified:

- The lack of an obvious sprinkler system;
- A broken female shower broken (could only be operated by pulling down on a wire);
- Female toilets that were not in use were not being hygienically maintained;
- Mould in male showers and on shower curtains;
- Extremely dirty and unkempt male toilets and bathrooms;

- The absence of shower heads in male showers;
- Missing toilet seats in male and female toilets; and
- Completely unhygienic fridges/freezers and cooking areas (including rotten food) with infestation of flies.

Whilst the Commission understands that the detainees are provided with cleaning materials to clean these areas after their use, this has clearly not been done. The Commission spoke with the detainees during our visit encouraging them to do their part. However, due to the extensive nature of the unsanitary conditions the Government must take steps to rectify this situation before the facility becomes uninhabitable and a further health risk.

Due to the urgent nature of the matters detailed above the Commission requests at least a response detailing the action plan of the Government to remedy these concerns by mid-day on Friday.

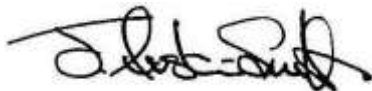
Detainees also raised several additional matters with the Commission which we would be grateful if you would provide a response to within the next 12 business days:

1. There is no access to cellular telephones and whilst at the facility the Commission observed one being confiscated from a detainee. Can you please provide the Commission with reason for detainees being unable to possess cellular telephones?
2. Whilst there is access to television, there is no access to news or media whether in print form or via the internet. The Commission has begun to explore creating a library at the IDC, however is it possible to provide detainees with access to Spanish language media in some form?

Finally, the Commission has previously expressed concerns regarding the Government's decision to detain every illegal migrant at the Centre without consideration of their individual circumstances and the risk that they pose. Can you please provide the Commission with an explanation for this blanket policy and clarify why consideration has not been given to assessing each detainee to determine the necessity for detention in accordance with the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

In accordance with the Commission's Constitutional obligations (and additionally in light of the current media interest in these issues) the Commission will be publishing this letter and your responses at close of business on Friday 13 July 2018.

Yours sincerely,



James Austin-Smith
Chairman