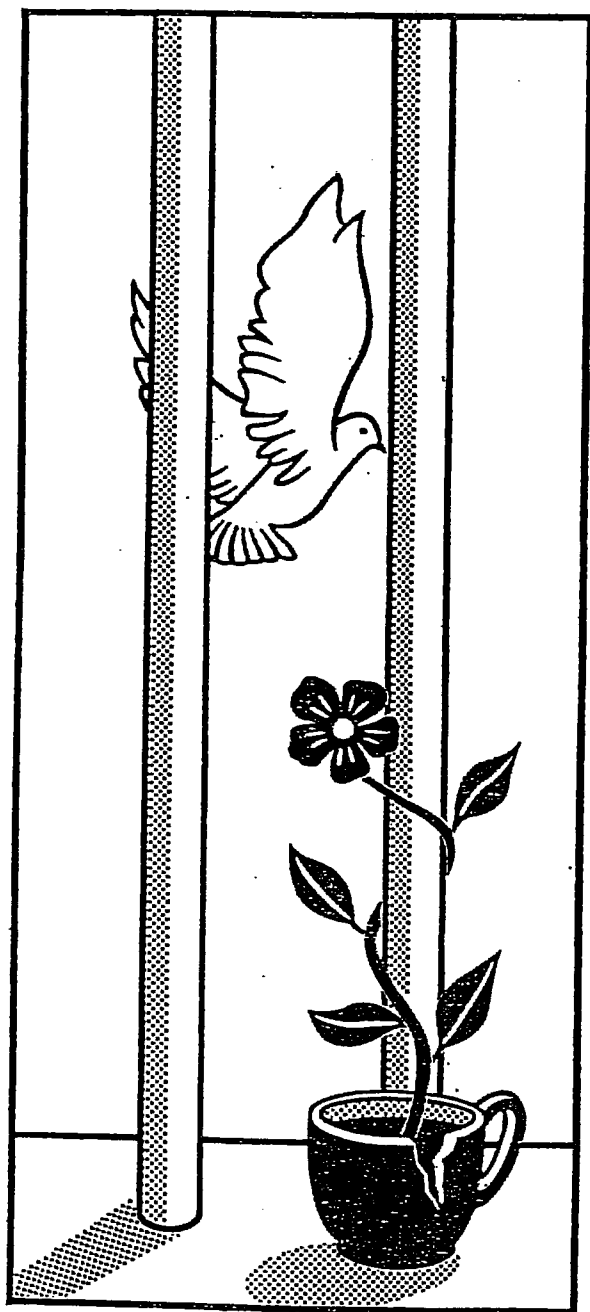




REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
AND PUBLIC ORDER



***RIGHTS  
AND OBLIGATIONS  
OF PRISON DETAINEES***

DEPARTMENT OF PRISONS

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**RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS  
OF DETAINEES**

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## **General Information**

**This publication contains information regarding the rights and obligations of detainees in accordance with the Prisons Law of 1996 and 1997 and the Prisons (General) Regulations of 1997.**

**For any clarifications or further information the detainees may apply to the competent Prisons Officer.**

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## 1. ADMISSION TO PRISONS

1. Nobody shall be taken into the Prisons as detainee except under a court warrant or other lawful authorization.
2. Every detainee who is brought into the Prisons is under the lawful detention of the Director. It is also considered that he is under the lawful detention of the Director in those cases in which the detainee is taken, or is, for any reasons, outside the Prisons either by permission of the Director or on the basis of any other kind of authorization.
3. The detainees have no other obligations nor are they subjected to any restrictions other than those which are expressly envisaged by the laws, the regulations and the directions or orders which are issued by the Director within the framework of his functions and responsibilities.
4. Any discrimination against any detainee due to his racial origin, colour, language, religion, political or other beliefs, his ethnic or social origin social status, his economic position, the place of his birth or for any other reason is prohibited.
5. Subjecting a detainee to any medical or scientific experiments is prohibited.
6. The deprivation of a detainee's freedom takes place in conditions which safeguard respect for human dignity.

7. The education, professional training and treatment of the detainees aims at encouraging and helping them to lead decent life and to become useful persons. For this purpose all appropriate and available medical, educational, spiritual and other means are used in the Prisons and their application depends on the individual needs of each detainee.
8. In case of an unlawful act against a detainee or assault on his rights in any way, the detainee has the right to apply in writing and without delay to the Director or to the Prisons Board or to the Court or to any other competent Authority, as the case may be.



## 2. CONDITIONS OF DETENTION

### A. Places of Detention

The buildings and layout of the places of detention must be such as to secure healthy living conditions for the detainees and to fulfil the necessary conditions of security and smooth functioning of the Prisons.

### B. Clothing and Bedcovers/Personal effects

1. Every detainee has the right to wear his personal clothes, which must be decent and clean. Those who do not have personal clothes and ask for suitable clothing, underwear or shoes are provided with such items free of charge by the Prison.
2. Every detainee is entitled to have in his possession a reasonable number of clothing and footwear items, bedcovers, towels and personal hygiene items. He may also have in his possession a wristwatch, a neck chain with cross or other religious emblem. Those who are married or engaged to be married are also entitled to wear their wedding or engagement ring.
3. Upon the approval of the Director they may also have in their possession various other items of personal use such as radio, books, magazines, newspapers, etc.
4. Detainees working in workshops and other jobs are entitled to ask for and receive additional suitable clothing.

5. Clothing and footwear may be also **provided** to detainees who are in need at the time they are released.
6. The detainees **have the obligation** to keep the clothing described above clean and tidy and be decently dressed.
7. Money, jewellery, clothing or other personal effects which belong to a newly-admitted detainee not entitled to have in his possession inside the Prison are handed to an officer specially authorized by the Director for safe keeping.
8. Giving the above items or any other objects free of charge or selling them to another detainee or to any other person or exchanging such objects with any detainee or with any other person is **prohibited**. This is allowed only following a written application by the detainee and a written approval by the Director.

C. **Diet of Detainees**

1. The food, which is provided by the Prisons, should be healthy, nutritious and properly prepared, with a reasonable variety, qualitatively and quantitatively satisfactory and in conformity with the principles of a healthy, contemporary diet.
2. In deciding the diet, the age, health, work and, as far as possible, the religious beliefs of the detainees are taken into consideration.
3. The Director may at his discretion draw up a **list of allowed food supplies** apart from the fixed diet, which a detainee may get at his

own expenses and on the basis of a procedure determined in advance.

4. **The following are prohibited:**

- (a) the preparation of food by the detainee himself at the places where he stays and works;
- (b) the delivery to the detainee of food supplies during visiting hours;
- (c) the possession of any food other than that which is normally provided or which a detainee is allowed to possess;
- (d) the possession or use of any alcoholic beverage.

D. **Hygiene**

1. The Prisons have an **obligation** to make sure that all the sanitary installations function well and the **detainees have an obligation** to comply with the generally accepted rules of personal hygiene, to obey the instructions and orders regarding the cleanliness of the common spaces and the other areas of the Prison, their individual cells and the common dormitories.
2. Every detainee has the obligation to shave regularly unless he is relieved of this obligation for medical or other reasons, to wash and to take a bath at the appropriate hours and to keep his clothing clean.
3. Every detainee who grows a beard has an obligation to keep it clean and in accordance with the generally accepted rules of hygiene and aesthetics.

### 3. MEDICAL TREATMENT

1. Medical services **are provided** in the Prisons, which constitute an extension of the Medical Services of the Republic.
2. The Prisons are visited on a daily basis by a general practitioner, and once or more times a week by a psychiatrist and a dentist. Doctors of other specialities visit the Prisons periodically depending on the needs from time to time.
3. In the Prisons there is also a clinic with the necessary nursing staff on duty round- the- clock.
4. The medical officer examines every detainee:
  - (a) Immediately after his admission into the Prisons, in order to ascertain his physical and mental health and the degree of his ability for work.
  - (b) During his detention at his own request at least once every twelve months or even earlier if the general state of the health of the detainee makes this necessary.
  - (c) Whenever the detainee requests to be examined.
  - (d) Immediately before his release.
5. The medical examination of the detainees includes any blood tests or other tests the medical officer considers necessary.

6. Detainees in need of special treatment which cannot be provided in the Prisons are referred to a government nursing institution or to a government specialist outside the prisons.
7. Every detainee may request to be examined by a physician of his own choice. The examination is carried out with the approval and in the presence of the medical officer during the hours he is on duty in the Prisons in accordance with medical ethics.
8. In case the necessary treatment cannot be provided to a detainee by the government medical services, the medical officer may refer him to a private clinic following the relevant approval of the Director and in accordance with the terms and conditions defined by him in each case.

**B. Hunger Strike**

1. A detainee who declares he is going on a hunger strike and refuses to receive food is **confined** to his cell or to another special cell and is not entitled to have any other food in his possession.
2. In case the striker is reduced to a condition which may immediately endanger his life or health all the necessary measures may be taken including **forcing him to receive food. Hunger strike constitutes a disciplinary offence.**

#### 4. WORK AND DILIGENCE ALLOWANCE

1. All the detainees who have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment longer than one month and desire to enjoy the benefits provided under section 12 of the Prisons Law (diminution of sentence due to good conduct and diligence and also to get the diligence allowance) are engaged in jobs to which they are assigned by the Classification Committee unless they cannot be engaged due to health reasons or for other reasons following a decision by the Director.
2. Those in custody and very old detainees aged sixty-three and above **have no obligation to work** in order to enjoy the benefits of diminution of sentence due to good conduct and diligence and to get the diligence allowance. If, however, they wish to work they may submit an application to this effect to the Director.
3. Diligence allowance is granted to the very old and also to those who are unfit to work regardless of whether they work or not.
4. Diligence allowance is also provided to persons in custody who after submitting an application are allowed to work.

#### B. Undertaking of work by the Technical Services of the Prisons

1. In cases where:
  - (a) A tender is submitted to the Prisons by individuals or public organisations for the execution of specific work,

- (b) there are detainees who prove to have the necessary professional grounding for the execution of the work and want to work for remuneration for its execution,
- (c) there are for this purpose properly equipped working places,

the Director may, after consultation with the Technical Services of the Prisons and provided that no conditions of detention, discipline or order are violated and no security reasons are involved, approve the undertaking of the execution of such work by the Technical Services of the Prisons.

2. Provided that the Classification Committee may, at its discretion, impose any additional conditions regarding the remuneration of the detainees and the organisation, execution and delivery of the whole work and also regarding any other matter which concerns the undertaking of the execution of such work by the Technical Services of the Prisons.
3. Detainees who are placed in the Guidance and Out of Prisons Employment Centre work in private enterprises of any kind outside the Prisons, under the supervision of the competent officials of the Centre.
4. The grades of the diligence allowance and the level of the allowance, which corresponds to each grade, are fixed from time to time by the Council of Ministers. At present the diligence allowance is fixed as follows:

Grade A: 75 cents per day

Grade B: 60 cents per day

Grade C: 45 cents per day

Grade D: 35 cents per day

C. Work during leisure time.

Detainees who wish to work during their leisure time in their cells or in another special place approved by the Director to make handicrafts may submit a relevant application to the Director provided their work does not cause inconvenience to the other detainees and no security risk is involved.

D. Work for which detainees are not entitled to diligence allowance

No diligence allowance is granted

- (a) On Sundays, on official holidays or non working days unless during these days they work, following an order, for at least four hours.
- (b) For those working within or outside the Prisons and receive remuneration in accordance with the remuneration in the free market.



## **5. EDUCATION OF DETAINEES**

### **A. Instruction and training**

Every detainee is entitled to be educated, retrained and kept informed through special educational programmes, books, newspapers, magazines, radio and television broadcasts, lectures, debates etc. For more information regarding the above detainees may apply to the competent officer and the Prisons teacher.

### **B. Entertainment**

1. The entertainment of the detainees takes place in appropriately arranged places of the prison and aims, inter alia, at the creative utilization of their leisure time and also at the development of a team spirit, cooperation and keen competition.
2. The detainees participate in individual and group events such as theatrical, musical and athletic events, paintings and handicraft exhibitions, film or other shows, and in any other activities that may secure creative entertainment, improvisations and artistic expression inside the Prisons.

### **C. Physical Education**

1. Physical education programmes include physical exercises, gymnastics, group games and matches in and out of the prisons and are organised by specially trained staff.

2. Every detainee has the right to participate in any of the physical training programmes in which his age, physical or mental condition allow him to participate.
3. For this purpose reasonable arrangements are made for the detainees at least twice a week unless the Classification Committee decides otherwise about a specific detainee, for special reasons.

**D. Out of prisons contacts and relations. Communication with the social environment**

**Letters**

1. Detainees **have the right** to send letters to members of their family, associates and friends twice a week after previously submitting these letters to the officer in charge of the Admission and Release Office for checking.
2. In certain cases the Director of Prisons may allow more letters to be sent.
3. There is no restriction on the number of letters a detainee may receive in the Prisons.

**E. Telephone Communication**

1. The Director of Prisons may allow detainees to communicate by telephone with their families or with other persons (lawyer,

associates etc.) provided that certain prerequisites defined by the Prisons Regulations are complied with.

2. The telephone communication of the detainees takes place from a specific telephone booth or booths located in a controlled area of the Prison at their own expense or in another way, with the approval of the Director.
3. The contents of the telephone calls or letters is checked in cases where in the opinion of the Director such check is necessary for security reasons or for the prevention of the commission of a new crime or for any other reasonable cause.
4. Furthermore any written or oral statements of detainees to the media are forbidden unless the prior permission of the Director has been obtained.
5. The privilege of correspondence or telephone communication may be suspended upon an order of the Director in case a detainee commits a disciplinary offence.
6. Letters addressed by detainees to any official authority of the Republic or to political persons or to any other official or to the media are sent through the Director.
7. In the case where the Director ascertains that their contents do not fall within the functions of the authority or of the person to whom they are addressed or that in these letters improper or insulting language is used or malicious allegations or unfounded charges against anyone

are contained or an attempt is made to distort facts or information connected with the security and the functioning in general of the prisons is revealed, the Director, may not, in the interest of public security or of public morals or for the protection of the reputation or rights of others or for the prevention of disclosure of confidential information or for the maintenance of the authority and impartiality of the judiciary, allow these letters to be sent. The Director informs the detainee about his decision.



8. **However, detainees may address letters to the Prisons Board without their contents being checked by the prison authorities.**



F. Visits

1. Every detainee is allowed to receive visits from members of his family, from relatives or friends **up to six times per month**.
2. Regarding the Open Prisons detainees the Director may allow up to **two additional visits** per month by persons who may have a beneficial influence of the detainee.
3. Furthermore persons who are in prison for debts and also those convicted for failing to pay a fine or court costs and damages may, with the permission of the Director of Prisons, receive additional visits from relatives or friends for the purpose of arranging for the payment of the amount due.
4. Detained aliens are granted special facilities in order to receive visits from the diplomatic consular representatives of the state to which


they belong or the state which is charged with looking after their interests or from any other national or international authority whose object is to defend their interests or from persons who contribute to the easing of the specific problems created by their detention and particularly from persons who speak their mother language:

Provided that the Director may allow special arrangements the visits of members of the family who come from abroad to pay them visits.

5. The process for the carrying out of these visits, the number of the visitors the detainee has the right to receive each time and the hours of visits to the detainees as well as any other matter related to the visits are determined by the Director and notified to the detainees by special notices displayed at the detainees blocks and to the visitors by special notices displayed at the visitors hall.
6. Before entering the visitors hall and after leaving it the detainees are searched to make sure that no forbidden objects or substances are taken into or out of the prison.
7. For the same reason people who visit detainees may be subjected to bodily search both on entering and on leaving the prison.

**G. Permits to Leave**

1. Any kind of permits to detainees to leave the prison do not constitute a right thereof but a privilege which is granted at the discretion of the competent organs in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Law and the relevant Regulations.

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2. Detainees who have not been sentenced to life imprisonment and have served one third of their sentence and during their detention they showed diligence and good conduct may submit an application to get a permit to leave the prison for reasonable family, personal or business grounds.

3. **It is noted that detainees who have been sentenced to life imprisonment may** submit an application for permit to leave the prison after they have served at least ten years of their imprisonment.

4. Permits to leave the prisons include permits without escort, permits with escort and educational permits and are granted when certain prerequisites defined by the Prisons Regulations are complied with.

**H. Permits to leave without escort**

1. Permits to leave the prisons without escort are granted to detainees who are not serving life imprisonment provided the following conditions are complied with:
- (a) The detainee has actually served one third of the sentence imposed on him by the court.
  - (b) During his detention he showed diligence, consistency in his conduct and reliability.
  - (c) No other criminal procedure is pending against him.
  - (d) No disciplinary procedure is pending against him

- (e) He has not been punished for a disciplinary offence in the last three months before the decision to grant him permit to leave the prison.
- (f) It has not been established that during his detention, following evaluation of his whole behaviour, he has a tendency to escape or to commit a new crime.
- (g) No question of security for himself during his leave arises.
2. **The duration of the leave without escort cannot exceed twenty four hours for Closed Prisons detainees, and one hundred and twenty hours for the Open Prisons and Centre detainees.**
  3. Various other conditions may be imposed on a detainee to whom leave without escort is granted concerning his way of living, the place of his residence and movement and the hours he may move about during his leave.
  4. Detainees under the age of 18 and detainees with a disturbed psychosomatic personality are granted leave without escort provided that on getting out of the prisons and on returning to it they are accompanied by their nearest relative or by the person who supervises them.
  5. No detainee is **allowed** to leave the prison for the purpose of attending Court as party or witness except following a Court order.

6. In case a detainee applies to the Director to obtain a permit to attend Court without a Court order requiring his presence the Director sends the application to the Court for issue of instructions.

**I. Permits to leave with escort**

Leaves with escort are granted to detainees who:

- (a) Have actually served one third of the sentence imposed to them by the Court and who however do not comply with one or more of the prerequisites necessary for leave without escort.
- (b) are serving life imprisonment, and have remained in the prison for a continuous period of at least ten years and who fulfill the remaining prerequisites necessary for leave without escort.

2. The duration of leave with escort cannot exceed 8 hours. In exceptional cases leave with escort may be extended up to twelve hours following a unanimous decision of the Classification Committee.

**J. Transfer of detainee outside the prisons**

The Director of Prisons has the power to allow the transfer of a detainee, with suitable escort, outside the prisons in certain cases defined by the Prisons Law.



**K. Educational leaves**

1. Educational leaves are granted to detainees who are placed for this purpose in the Out of Prisons Employment Centre and who:
  - (a) During their admission to the prisons were pupils or students in a secondary or tertiary education school.
  - (b) their imprisonment does not exceed three years.
  - (c) during their detention they showed consistency in their behaviour, diligence, good conduct and a desire to learn and
  - (d) the remainder of their sentence does not exceed one year.
2. Detainees who do not meet one or more of the above prerequisites (a), (b) and (d) but meet prerequisite (c) and are interested in attending lessons outside the prisons to acquire specific professional qualifications which will help them in their professional rehabilitation after their release from prison may be granted educational leave by the Minister following an application by them and the relevant suggestion of the Director provided the following additional prerequisites are complied with:
  - (a) they are under the age of 35
  - (b) the educational leave concerns professional training in a trade in which the convicts during their detention showed a particular interest by attending special classes and

- (c) possess the necessary qualifications to be accepted in a recognized secondary or tertiary education professional school.

## 6. OPEN PRISON

1. The Classification Committee places in the Open Prisons detainees who have been sentenced to imprisonment, and regarding whom, in the opinion of this Committee, there are no security or disciplinary reasons or other special reasons for which their inclusion in the Open Prison is not indicated and who:
  - (a) Have been sentenced for any offence to imprisonment which does not exceed six months
  - (b) Have been convicted for debts or non-payment of fines, court costs or damages regardless of the length of their sentence.
  - (c) Have been sentenced to imprisonment longer than six months and up to twenty four months and who have served at least three twelfths of the sentence imposed on them by the Court and during their stay in prison showed excellent conduct and proved to be reliable and diligent.
  - (d) Have been sentenced to imprisonment longer than twenty-four months and up to five years and have served at least four twelfths of the sentence imposed on them by the Court and during their stay

- in the prisons in the last year showed excellent conduct and proved reliable and diligence.
- (e) Have been sentenced to imprisonment longer than five years and up to twelve years and have served at least five twelfths of their sentence imposed on them by the Court and during their stay in the prisons in the last two years showed excellent conduct and proved to be reliable and diligence.
  - (f) Have been sentenced to imprisonment longer than twelve years and have served at least six twelfths of the sentence imposed on them by the Court and during their stay in the prisons in the last three years showed excellent conduct and proved to be reliable and diligent.
2. Detainees who are considered as recidivists and who in previous imprisonments were placed in the Open Prisons at least twice are not placed in the Open Prisons. Also detainees who at any time in the past were charged with disciplinary or criminal offences and were found guilty of the offence of escape or attempted escape are not placed in the Open Prisons.
  3. Detainees, who are placed in the Open Prison live, work and move in conditions of reduced security measures but in accordance with the same principles of conduct, discipline and order, which apply, to the other detainees.
  4. A detainee who during his stay in the Open Prisons misbehaves, or violates any Regulation governing the operation of the Open Prison or commits any disciplinary or other offence, is transferred

immediately to the Closed Prison until his offence is examined. If he is found guilty of a disciplinary offence and a sentence more severe than reprimand is imposed on him, the Director may order that he should stay in the Closed Prison for a certain period or for the remainder of his sentence depending on the gravity of the offence. Otherwise the detainee is taken back to the Open Prison.

## 7. OUT OF PRISONS EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION OF DETAINEES CENTRE

### Admission of detainees to the Centre

1. Male detainees who are placed in the Centre are chosen from among the Open Prisons detainees by the Committee of the Guidance, Out of Prisons Employment and Rehabilitation of Detainees Centre.
2. Female detainees are chosen from all the women detainees who are staying in the special women's block.
3. Provided that the women detainees who are chosen for out of prison employment continue even after their selection to stay in the women's block.
4. The Committee's decision to place detainees in the Centre is taken by a simple majority of the members present and after a relevant

suggestion of the Director is taken seriously into consideration. The Committee forms a quorum when at least five of its members are present.

5. The period during which detainees remain in the Centre cannot exceed twelve months nor it can be shorter than one month.
6. A detainee who is placed in the Centre and who after his release is again sentenced to a term of imprisonment and returns to the prison has no right to be placed in the Centre unless from the date of his last release until the date of the return to the prison at least seven years have elapsed.
7. A detainee who during his stay in the Centre misbehaves or violates any regulation of the operation of the Centre or condition of his work outside the prison or commits any disciplinary or other offence is immediately taken to the Closed Prison until his offence is examined. In case he is found guilty of a disciplinary offence and a penalty more severe than reprimand is imposed on him the Director may order that he should stay in the Closed Prison for a certain period or for the remainder of his sentence depending on the gravity of his offence. Otherwise the detainee is brought back to the Centre.

## 8. USE OF FORCE / SECURITY MEASURES

1. The use of force against a detainee is prohibited unless reasons of lawful defense, resistance to lawful order, attempt to escape or suppression of violent incidents are involved.
2. In case any detainee refuses to implement or to obey a lawful order or attempts or tries to assault or disarm or overpower any member of the staff this member of the staff or any other member of the staff who comes to the aid of his colleague may use such force as is necessary in order to defend himself or to prevent his disarming or overpowering or in order to impose implementation of the lawful order.
3. In cases of clashes among detainees or other violent incidents the Director may order the use of appropriate in his view suppression means and the use of such force as it is necessary for the restoration of order and security in the prisons.
4. The use of clubs, tear gas or other chemical substances is allowed only with the approval of the Director in the following cases:
  - (a) for the suppression of serious incidents among the detainees.
  - (b) for the suppression of uprising or mutiny by detainees.
  - (c) for the prevention of escape
  - (d) for the prevention of destruction of property of the prisons on account of violent acts by a detainee or detainees.

5. Provided that the approval of the Director is granted only in the case where it is established that the other suppression means have failed and that the continuation or spread of the incidents endangers the physical integrity or life of detainees or members of the staff or, as a result of the incidents, material damage is caused to the prisons installations.

**B. Physical confinement of detainees**

In cases of physical confinement of a detainee, such confinement is prohibited beyond the time which is considered absolutely necessary. This time cannot exceed 24 hours without the written agreement of the medical officer and the written authorization of the Director and 48 hours without the written authorization of the Minister.

**C. Isolation of detainees**

1. The Director may, whenever he deems advisable, order the confinement or isolation of a detainee for such period as he deems necessary for the purpose of:
  - (a) maintaining discipline and order
  - (b) protecting the interests of the detainee himself or of other detainees.
  - (c) confining or isolating violent or insubordinate detainees who by their conduct create unrest and intimidation among the rest of the detainees.

- (d) for disciplinary purposes.
- 
2. Provided that the isolation of a detainee in his own cell or in a special cell, or in another confinement place both for preventive or for disciplinary purposes is imposed only if the medical card of the detainee does not refer to any serious physical or mental illness cause of which the isolation of the detainee will have negative effects on his physical or mental health.
  3. Depending on the case, the isolation or confinement of a detainee may take place:
    - (a) in the block where he stays, or
    - (b) in his cell, or
    - (c) in a special cell, or in another special isolation place or
    - (d) in a special protection room
  4. Provided that the confinement or isolation of a detainee in a special cell or in another isolation place beyond 48 hours may continue only if the medical officer examines the detainee and confirms that he is in a position to suffer such punishment without serious effects on his physical and mental health.
  5. In case a detainee attempts to escape and during such attempt he manages by any way to climb on the perimeter prison wall or he tries to get out of the prison by any way, any member of the staff, after first calling on the detainee to stop and he does not comply and after firing a warning shot in the air and the detainee continues to try to escape, may fire against this detainee.



#### D. Discipline

1. A detainee who is about to be charged with an offence, may be confined to his own cell or to a special cell, depending on the case and the gravity of the offence, until the examination of the facts of the case is completed.
2. A detainee cannot be punished without previously being informed of the violation for which he is charged and without being given the possibility to defend himself.
3. No detainee is punished twice for the same offence.
4. Disciplinary offences, which are committed by detainees and are tried by the Director, as well as the penalties which may be imposed, are defined by the Prisons (General) Regulations.

#### 9. DIMINUTION OF SENTENCE DUE TO GOOD CONDUCT AND DILIGENCE

If the convicted detainees show good conduct and diligence they may have their sentence diminished in accordance with the Prisons Law. Detainees who are serving life imprisonment are not entitled to diminution of their prison sentence, as provided above.

#### 10. CONDITIONAL RELEASE

According to the provisions of the Constitution, the President of the Republic with the consent of the Attorney

General of the Republic may order the conditional release of detainees at any time.

#### 11. NORMAL RELEASE OF DETAINEE

The release of a detainee takes place not later than the noon of the last day of his imprisonment sentence.

Provided that if the day of release is Saturday, Sunday or an official holiday the release may take place the day before.

On his release the detainee is prohibited to donate or to sell or to exchange personal effects with another detainee, without the previous approval of the Director.

#### 12. PRISONS BOARD

1. In case of an illegal act against a detainee or assault in any way on his rights, the detainee has the right to apply in writing or orally and without delay to the Prisons Board.
2. The Prisons Board is an independent body, which sees that the respect of the rights and interests of the detainees and the normal functioning of the Prisons are ensured.
3. The letters of the detainees may be addressed to the Prisons Board without their contents being checked by the authorities of the Prisons. For this purpose special

boxes have been placed in all the blocks of the prisons.

**B. Functions**

1. The duties and powers of the Board may be summed up as follows:
  - (a) to investigate written or oral applications or complaints made to it by the detainees.
  - (b) to investigate the living and working conditions of the detainees.
  - (c) to examine whether the professional training, employment, education, entertainment e.t.c., is adequate and suitable for the social reintegration and rehabilitation of the detainees.
  - (d) to co-operate with the Director of the Prisons in matters concerning the welfare of detainees.
  - (e) to carry out searches or investigations in the Prisons which considers necessary, paying attention to cases of sick or punished detainees.
2. Also the Board makes sure that any abuse, in connection with the treatment of the detainees, which comes to the knowledge of the Board, is notified to the Minister and the Director of the Prisons.

3. It is noted that the Board may, following an investigation, reduce or repeal a disciplinary penalty imposed by the Director or by the Prisons Board provided the detainee will raise an objection within twenty one days of the date on which the disciplinary penalty was imposed and the Board establishes that:
  - (a) the disciplinary punishment imposed on the detainee is more severe than the penalties provided in the Regulations for the disciplinary offence for which the detainee was punished, or
  - (b) the disciplinary punishment imposed on the detainee is excessively severe in relation to the disciplinary offence, which he has committed.
4. The Board meets in the Prisons at least once every three months or at more frequent intervals if this is deemed necessary.