



25 JAN. 2016

Date d'arrivée

Brno, January 18, 2016
PDCJ: 109/2016

Dear Ms O'Reilly,

I am pleased to hear from you on the topic of human rights situation of asylum seekers and resettled persons in the context of the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)**. My competence in this branch is unfortunately quite limited.

According to our national legislature, namely the Public Defender of Rights Act, the Defender shall systematically visit places where persons restricted in their freedom by public authority, or as a result of their dependence on care provided, are or may be confined, with the objective of strengthening the protection of these persons against torture, or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, or punishment and other maltreatment. **I have no control over administration of EU funds.**

Nevertheless, according the abovementioned law as well as the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Public Defender of Rights in the Czech Republic performs preventive systematic visits to places where persons restricted in their freedom are or may be confined. The Defender attempts to ensure that their fundamental rights are respected and strengthens their protection against maltreatment.

As the independent national preventive mechanism I can provide information about our visits in facilities for asylum seekers, e.g. accommodation centres, detention or other facilities. Last year, I especially observed Czech Facility for Detention of Foreigners in Bělá-Jezová and visited the place several times. The conditions there were appalling initially, but to my great delight they have started to improve.

In the Czech Republic, information on EU funds in the field of asylum seekers and human rights standards (with focus to the AMIF), are publicly available at the website of the Ministry of the Interior at its special section (See online at www.mvcr.cz/migrace/fondy-eu-v-oblasti-vnitrnich-veci-amif-a-isf-.aspx). **At the present time, two calls for proposals can be found. Because none of them calls for proposals on legal assistance for asylum seekers, I have been holding informal talks with the Ministry to announce a call in this area.**

I would like to express my sincere appreciation of your work and the initiative in this particular field of human rights. I can assure you we do our best to emphasize the respect for human rights in our country, too.

Should you need any other information, do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to further cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Anna Šabatová

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