

PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS IN THE FIRST HOURS OF POLICE DETENTION IN REPUBLIC OF CROATIA IN CONTEXT OF THE ARTICLE 3 OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

<i>Abstract</i>	1	III. <i>Monitoring the implementation of the rights</i>	
I. <i>Introduction</i>	1	<i>during the first hours of police custody</i>	6
II. <i>Legal Framework in the Republic of Croatia</i> ..	2	IV. <i>Conclusion</i>	8

Abstract

Access to procedural safeguards in the first hours of police detention is the most effective way of preventing torture and other forms of violence in line with Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The procedural safeguards include the right to a lawyer, the right to a doctor and the right to notify a family member or a third party. For foreign nationals, it is important to respect the right to an interpreter and to notify the consular body of the domestic country. The Republic of Croatia, through the incorporation of the EU Directives, has strengthened the right of access to a lawyer and established free legal aid for detained persons while detained in a police station. The Law on Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Croatia provides for the right to emergency medical care and to inform the family member. For all these rights to be effective, they should be implemented in the first hours of deprivation of liberty in line with the CPT's recommendations. In order to evaluate the actual implementation of the legal provisions and the international standards related to the procedural safeguards in the first hours of police detention, of significant importance are the international and domestic bodies that are conducting visits and are monitoring the places of detention. The analyses presented are based on the analysis of the Law on Criminal Procedure and Police Laws in the Republic of Croatia. In addition, the analysis reflects upon the recommendations of the Committee on the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). Particular attention was given to the documents and reports produced by the National Preventive Mechanism within the Ombudsman/Ombudswoman's office.

Keywords: prevention of torture, human rights, police detention

I. INTRODUCTION

Access to procedural safeguards in the first hours of police detention is important because it provides fair trial under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights, but at the same time, it is also the most effective way of preventing torture and other forms of violence. The Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) stressed that, in its experience, the period immediately following deprivation of liberty is

* Anica Tomšić-Stojkovska, LL.M., Legal Affairs Advisor to the Ombudswoman in the Republic of Croatia, National Preventive Mechanism within the Ombudsman/Ombudswoman's office in Republic of Croatia, PhD candidate, e-mail: atomsicstojkovska@gmail.com

when the risk of intimidation and physical ill-treatment is the greatest¹. Since its first visit in 1990, the CPT has carried out about 469 country visits, in the course of which the members of its delegations have spoken in private with tens of thousands of persons who were or had recently been detained by the police².

The Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) emphasizes that access to these rights should be without prejudice to the legal status of the person and should be provided in cases where there is no formal suspicion of a criminal offence. Procedural safeguards should be provided in a procedure where a person is required to come to a police station and should also concern administrative detention³.

The procedural safeguards include the right to a lawyer, the right to a doctor and the right to notify a family member or a third party. They are, in the CPT's opinion, three fundamental safeguards against the ill-treatment of detained persons which should apply from the very outset of deprivation of liberty regardless of how it may be described under the legal system concerned (apprehension, arrest, etc.)⁴. For foreign nationals, it is important to respect the right to an interpreter and to notify the consular body of the domestic country.

Persons taken into police custody should be expressly informed without delay of all their rights, including the three fundamental safeguards.⁵ Further, any possibilities offered to the authorities to delay the exercise of one or other of the latter rights in order to protect the interests of justice should be clearly defined and their application strictly limited in time.

The right of access to a lawyer is essential to enable a fair trial, recognized in all relevant human rights instruments as a procedural safeguard. At the same time, it is an assumption of the equality of arms, but there is also a broader concept laid down in the Convention against Torture in the prevention of ill-treatment and other ways of violations⁶. According to the practice of monitoring bodies, access to a lawyer is one of the most effective measures of combating torture and other forms of inhuman treatment. The EU Directive states that access to a lawyer needs to be ensured without undue delay, not only when the person is taken into custody or while being questioned, but also during other investigative procedures (e.g., identification or reconstruction). In other words, suspects should have access to a lawyer from one of the points in time that is the earliest: a) Before they are questioned by the police or by another law enforcement or judicial authority; b) Upon the carrying out by investigating or other competent authorities of an investigative or other evidence-gathering act (e.g. identity parades, confrontations, reconstruction of the scene of a crime); c) Without undue delay after deprivation of liberty; d) Where they have been summoned to appear before a court having jurisdiction in criminal matters, in due time before they appear before that court⁷. The non-binding UN Basic Principles on the role of the lawyers states that governments shall further ensure that all persons arrested or detained, with or without criminal charge, shall have prompt access to a lawyer and in any case not later than forty-eight hours from

¹ Developments concerning CPT standards in respect of police custody- Extract from the 2nd General Report of the CPT, published in 1992

² <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cpt/home>, 469 visits carried out (273 periodic + 196 ad hoc), 425 visit reports published

³ CPT standards, Police custody, www.cpt.coe.int

⁴ Extract from the 2nd General Report of the CPT, published in 1992

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Strengthening the rights of suspects and accused in criminal proceedings –the role of National Human Rights Institutions, Guidebook, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Vienna 2019

⁷ Directive on access to a lawyer, Art 3(2)

the time of arrest or detention⁸. The right should be granted without undue delay. This means from the very outset of the deprivation of liberty, i.e. by anyone who is under a legal obligation to attend and remain at (i.e. not free to leave at will) a police establishment, e.g. as a “witness” or for “informative talks”.⁹

According to the Guide to the Association for the Prevention of Torture, the right to notify the third party is also important in terms of protection and prevention¹⁰. This right, together with the right to a lawyer, is contained in Directive 2013/48 / EU and has two main objectives: protection against torture by notifying a family member or a third person of deprivation of liberty and respect for the right to family and private life by establishing communication with a third person.

The Guide states that forms of ill-treatment appear in the first stages of deprivation of liberty when a person is arrested or held in police custody, and the risk is greater in the first hours of police detention when all are under increasing pressure to provide the necessary information¹¹. The authorities should register: The exercise of the right, with the mention of the exact time and the person who was notified. Any delay in notification of custody to be recorded in writing with the reasons, therefore, and to require the approval of a senior police officer unconnected with the case or a prosecutor¹². Under EU law, the authorities should register if the right to communicate with a third person was temporarily derogated with a duly reasoned decision.¹³

As regards the medical examination of persons in police custody, all such examinations should be conducted out of the hearing, and preferably out of the sight, of police officers. Further, the results of every examination, as well as relevant statements by the detainee and the doctor's conclusions, should be formally recorded by the doctor and made available to the detainee and his lawyer.¹⁴ A doctor should always be called without delay if a person requests a medical examination; police officers should not seek to filter such requests.¹⁵ Medical visits should be confidential, which means all medical visits include the right to be visited out of hearing and – unless the healthcare professional concerned expressly requests otherwise in a given case – out of sight of police officers, and the results (e.g. medical diagnoses or injury reports) should not be brought to the attention of the police, and it is recommended that they are only made available to the detained persons and his/her lawyer.¹⁶

⁸ UNODC, The UN Basic Principles on the role of the lawyers, Special safeguards in criminal justice matters.

⁹ [CPT \(2002\) 12th General Report, CPT/Inf\(2002\) 15, para 44](#); [CPT \(2011\) 21st General Report, CPT/Inf\(2011\) 28-part1](#); [CPT \(2018\) Country Report: Bulgaria, CPT/Inf \(2018\) 15, para 32](#); [CPT\(2020\) Country Report: Greece, CPT/Inf \(2020\) 15, para 94-96](#); [CPT\(2019\) Hungary, CPT/Inf \(2020\) 8, para 31](#)

[Directive 2013/48/EU](#) on access to a lawyer, Arts 1, 3(2); [Directive \(EU\) 2016/1919](#) on legal aid, Art 2(3); Directive 2016/800 on children, Art 2(2) and (1)

¹⁰ Monitoring Police custody, A practical guide, Published in January 2013 by the Association for the Prevention of Torture

¹¹ Ibid

¹² CPT (2002) 12th General Report, CPT/Inf (2002)15-part, para 43; CPT (2018) Country Report: Bulgaria, CPT/Inf (2018) 15, para 31.

¹³ Directive 2016/1919 on access to a lawyer: Art 8(2)

¹⁴ CPT standards, Police custody

¹⁵ CPT (2002) 12th General Report, CPT/Inf(2002)15-part, para 42; CPT (2019) Country Report: Montenegro, CPT/Inf (2019) 2, para 26; CPT (2016) Country Report: North Macedonia, CPT/Inf (2016) 8, para 20

¹⁶ CPT (2002) 12th General Report, CPT/Inf(2002)15-part, 42; CPT (2020) Country Report: Hungary, CPT/Inf (2020) 8 , paras 36-37

In the Republic of Croatia, the rights in the first hours of police detention are regulated in several laws, the most important of which is the Law on Criminal Procedure (LCP)¹⁷. Important in this area are the Misdemeanour Law (ML)¹⁸, as well as the Law on Police Affairs and Powers (LPAP)¹⁹ which will be analysed in this text.

The Republic of Croatia is an EU member state and has an obligation to incorporate the EU Directives, so in the last period, there has been a change in the aforementioned laws regarding greater protection of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty.

In the application of the national law the obligations of international instruments are incorporated, both on a universal and regional level, and with the acceptance of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture, the Republic of Croatia must cooperate with the CPT.

At the same time, Croatia signed the Convention against Torture, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, based on which the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) was established, conducting visits to all places where people are deprived of their liberty, and even at police stations. In this way, through a dual system of supervision and recommendations, the implementation of rights during the first hours of detention is monitored and indicated.

Further on, the analysis will provide an overview of the CPT's reports as well as of the NPMs' in relation to the above issue.

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Having in mind that persons may be deprived of their liberty in criminal or misdemeanour matters, their rights are stipulated by the basic laws. The treatment of persons deprived of their liberty is regulated in the Rulebook on the Treatment of Arrested and Detained Persons²⁰, which sets out the procedural safeguards in more detail.

Numerous changes have been made to the Law on Criminal Procedure in the past period, primarily due to its alignment with the EU Directives.

In 2017, the Law on Criminal Procedure was amended to incorporate Directive 2013/48 / EU on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings, introducing the possibility of using a lawyer from the list of on-duty lawyers from the Croatian Bar Association. The amendments also stipulated that the cancellation of the right to a lawyer should be clearly and unambiguously given in the written form.

The Law on Criminal Procedure was again amended at the end of 2019 to bring it in line with the Directive 2016/1919 / EU. These amendments provided for temporary free legal aid for arrested persons who, because of their financial status, cannot cover the costs of lawyer themselves. However, the expert public has responded that these changes do not fully comply with the Directive and restrict the exercise of the right to free legal aid, as they provide, except for arrested persons, to apply to suspects in criminal proceedings sentenced to more than five years in prison²¹. Namely, the Directive does not restrict the right to legal assistance to convicted and accused

¹⁷ Law on Criminal Procedure (OG 152/08, 76/09, 80/11, 121/11, 91/12, 143/12, 56/13, 145/13, 152/14, 70/17, 126/19, 126/19)

¹⁸ Misdemeanor Law (OG 107/07, 39/13, 157/13, 110/15, 70/17, 118/18)

¹⁹ Law on Police Affairs and Powers (OG 76/09, 92/14, 70/19)

²⁰ Rulebook on the Treatment of Arrested and Detained Persons (OG 88/09, 78/14, 132/16 and 50/19)

²¹ Conclusions XXXII. Counselling from the Croatian Association for Criminal Science and Practice entitled "Strengthening the efficiency of criminal proceedings by applying the standards of the European Court of Human Rights" 2019

persons only for serious crimes, here it prescribes the provision of free legal aid for all equally, with the carrying out of additional checks as necessary. In addition, the Directive establishes only minimum rules, the EU Member States can allow the granting of legal aid in situations not covered by the same, in this case, there is not the only restriction, but it gives space for widespread application.

In the last period, the Directive 2010/64/EU on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings, Directive 2012/13/EU on the right to information in criminal proceedings, Directive 2012/29 / EU establishing minimum standards for the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and Directive 2016/343 / EU on the strengthening of certain types of crime assumptions of innocent and the right to participate in criminal proceedings were also incorporated.

According to Article 108 of the LCP during the deprivation of liberty, the arrested person must be immediately informed of his rights, and if the written instruction cannot be given to him, the police shall be obliged to inform the arrested person of his rights in a comprehensible manner unless he is unable to understand the notification or there is a danger to life and body. The rights' notification contains information on the reasons for the arrest, the right not to give statements, the right to a counsellor of his own choice or from a list of on-duty lawyers, the right to translation, the right to notify a family member or a third party on his choice, the right of a foreign national to be notified by a consular body and access to the diplomatic mission of the country, the right to look into the file, the right for emergency medical care. According to Article 108a of the LCP, the arrested person has the right to keep the notification about his/her rights.

The LCP also states that immediately upon arrest, the police shall notify the competent public prosecutor, the persons permitted to contact the arrested person, the competent social welfare authority if necessary to take care of children and other family members under the care of the arrested person, the guardian if the person is with a limited capability, the parent or the guardian if it is about an arrested child.

The arrested person has the right to a confidential conversation with his or her defence counsellor, and his or her denial of defence counsellor should be clear and unequivocally in writing. The arrested person may communicate with at least one person of his choice, and this right may be restricted if necessary to safeguard the interests of the proceedings. If an arrested child is involved then he has the right to communicate with his parents or guardians, unless this is contrary to the best interests of the child or if this is necessary to safeguard the interests of the child.

The Law on Criminal Procedure provides only the right to emergency medical care, not the right to a doctor, so it can be concluded that further harmonization of national legislation with international standards and CPT recommendations is necessary.

At the same time, the rights in the first hours of police detention are stipulated in the Misdemeanour Law. The Misdemeanour Law has undergone several changes to comply with Directive 2010/64 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings and Directive 2012/13 / EU on the right to information in criminal proceedings.

The police have the authority to deprive a person found guilty of a misdemeanour if there are grounds for detention. After the arrest, the police is obliged to inform the person of the reasons for his detention, upon request of the person within 12 hours to notify the family member, or in case of a child, a parent or a guardian regardless of the wish of the arrested minor.

Article 134 of the Misdemeanour Law states that the competent centre for social work shall be informed about deprivation of liberty of the person if it is necessary to take care of the child or other family members of the arrested person. It is also mandatory to notify competent authorities in cases of domestic violence when it is needed to take care of the victims of violence.

The Law on Police Affairs and Powers state that the police officer is obliged to inform the apprehended person on the reasons for apprehension, and on the right to inform a family member or other person designated, as well as the right to a counsellor when prescribed by law. The police officer shall notify the parents, guardians, and the competent centre for social work on the apprehension of a child or a person with a lack of legal capacity²².

III. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIGHTS DURING THE FIRST HOURS OF POLICE CUSTODY

In order to evaluate the actual implementation of the legal provisions and international standards relating to procedural safeguards in the first hours of police detention of significant importance are the international and domestic bodies conducting visits to places of detention in accordance with the European Convention for the Protection of Torture and Inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment²³ and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT)²⁴.

In accordance with the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture, an international body - the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) was established, which has visited the Republic of Croatia five times so far. In this analysis, we will analyse the reports of their last two visits in 2012 and 2017.

Also, according to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Subcommittee on Torture Prevention (SPT) - UN mechanism for monitoring places of detention was established, but so far this body has not paid a visit to the Republic of Croatia.

The Republic of Croatia ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in 2005 and committed to establishing a national monitoring body that will conduct visits to places where persons are deprived of liberty. In 2011 the Croatian Parliament adopted a Law on the National Preventive Mechanism where it is stipulated that this function will be performed by the Ombudsman. Having in mind that, in accordance with its legal powers, the Ombudsman has carried out regular visits to places of detention.

In recent years visits to police stations and detention units within police departments have been conducted and the level of implementation of the rights during the first hours of police detention was assessed. For example, in 2016 there were 15 police stations visits and 2 detention units within the police headquarters, in 2017, 17 police stations visits and 2 detention units, in 2018, 20 police stations visits and 5 detention units, while in 2019, 23 police stations visits and 4 detention units²⁵. In 2020 there were 17 police stations visits and 3 detention units.

In addition to the visits to police stations, the NPM conducts cross-cutting activities that include gathering information from inmates that are cross-checked on a later stage with the police records. In addition, the NPM carries out interviews with medical staff in prisons about the recorded injuries upon admission of the prisoners who reported that the injuries had occurred during the police procedure, in addition, the NPM also looks into the medical files.

²² Article 47 Law on Police Affairs and Powers (OG, 76/09, 92/14,70/19, on force from 01.08.2019)

²³ The European Convention, adopted by the Council of Europe, entered into force on 1 February 1989, establishing a secretariat and election of members, and the European Commission officially began its mandate in November 1989. The entry into force was conditional on ratification by 7 member states, and today it has been ratified by 47 countries.

²⁴ Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/OPCAT/Pages/OPCATIndex.aspx>

²⁵ www.ombudsman.hr, Reports of the National preventive mechanism.

For the purpose of checking the police conduct during the night hours, the NPM started with night visits in 2018, comparing the information obtained from the apprehended persons to the one of the police documentation²⁶.

During the visits by NPM and CPT, the following was concluded:

- Informing on the reasons for detention and notification on the rights

The NPM annual report for 2016 stated that persons deprived of their liberty were made aware of the reasons for deprivation and their fundamental rights, and the police departments had lists of authorized interpreters and lawyers.

But, the CPT in 2017 determined that the forms on the information on rights had been signed by the detained person only several hours after their apprehension and in this direction, it was recommended that the Croatian authorities ensure that the form on information is explained, to read and signed immediately after their deprivation of liberty²⁷.

However, a positive example on the part of the CPT report is that police stations have forms of instruction available in several languages and the same is noted by NPM.

- Right to a lawyer

The CPT's Report on a Visit to Croatia in 2017 states that several persons were informed that they could access a lawyer only if they could afford one and the CPT recommended that the Croatian authorities take all the necessary steps to ensure that the rights to free legal aid for persons who are not in a position to pay, is applicable as from the very outset of their deprivation of liberty, irrespective of whether the person concerned has formally been declared as a suspect.²⁸

Until the LCP changes by the end of 2019, detained persons could have used the right to a lawyer of their own choice or from the list of on-duty lawyers, but there was no free legal aid available, so this right was poorly used.

- Right to a doctor

The right to a doctor is regulated by the LCP as a right to emergency medical care. It is further regulated in the Rulebook on the Treatment of Arrested and Detained Persons stating that the detainee is provided with health care in accordance with general health care regulations and is normally administered by an emergency medical team which after examination determines a possible need for further treatment in an appropriate institution.

In 2012, the CPT stated that medical assistance was arranged in practice by police officers before the transfer of the arrested person to the relevant detention unit, but there are still no provisions in the Rulebook on the Treatment of Arrested and Detained Persons about access to a doctor during the period of up to 24 hours before placement in the detention unit. For these reasons CPT recommended that this lacuna be remedied²⁹.

Following a visit to the Republic of Croatia in 2017, the CPT noted that police officers continued to be present during the medical examination, and therefore recommended that medical examinations be conducted outside the visual and hearing reach of police officers to ensure medical confidentiality. It was also recommended that any examination be recorded by a physician and that the medical report be made available to the person deprived of liberty and that the medical examination is recorded in the police registers.

²⁶ During a nightly visit to a police station, detained persons complained of police violence during their detention and interrogation. No visible injuries were reported on the persons, and their files had no objection to police action - source NPM Annual Report for 2018

²⁷ CPT Report 2017, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cpt/Croatia>

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Ibid

- *The right to inform the third party*

The CPT's 2017 report states that the majority of persons interviewed had the opportunity to inform a family member or a third party of their deprivation of liberty. However, several complaints were received during the visit, mostly from foreign nationals, that they were not allowed to inform the consular authorities of their deprivation of liberty. In this regard, the CPT recommended that foreign nationals be able to contact consular bodies in their own countries. It is also recommended that a separate register be kept which will record all notifications of a family member or a third party at the discretion of the person deprived of liberty³⁰.

- *Right to an interpreter*

In the area of rights, of course, the right to translation for foreign nationals is also important, so the Croatian NPM in 2017 recommended that foreign nationals be provided with translation during their deprivation of liberty and that the consulate be informed thereof. The visits of the Croatian NPM revealed that the official forms lacked the signature of an interpreter, so it is unclear whether a translation was provided during the deprivation of liberty and whether the consulate was informed of the detention of a foreign citizen.³¹

IV. CONCLUSION

Although the legal framework provides for the right to information, there have been cases where this right was exercised several hours after the apprehension in a police station, instead of being enforced immediately after the deprivation of liberty.

The Republic of Croatia, through the incorporation of EU Directives, has strengthened the right of access to a lawyer and established free legal aid for detained persons while detained in a police station. However, the expert public responded that limiting free legal aid to suspects sentenced to imprisonment of more than five years introduced unequal access and did not fully implement Directive 2016/1919 /EU.

The Law on Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Croatia provides for the right to emergency medical care. However, the right to a doctor represents not only a medical examination but also a protective mechanism against any form of abuse, thus it should be more than emergency medical care and should allow for access to a doctor at the request of the person deprived of liberty without the possibility of restraint, eventual refusal or discretion on the behalf of the police to assess whether it is necessary at all.³²

At the same time, the UN Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment state “A proper medical examination shall be offered to a detained or imprisoned person as promptly as possible after his admission to the place of detention or imprisonment, and thereafter medical care and treatment shall be provided whenever necessary. This care and treatment shall be provided free of charge.”³³

Although the legal framework regulates the right to inform a consular body, it has been established that foreign nationals have a problem with this part, as well as with the provision of interpreters,

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Croatian NPM Annual Report 2017, <https://www.ombudsman.hr/hr/izvjesca-puckog-pravobranitelja/>

³² Combating Torture During Police Custody and Pre-Trial Detention, Discussion Paper prepared by Julia Kozma and Asbjørn Rachlew, Copenhagen 2018

³³ Principle 24, UN Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, Adopted by General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988

so full respect for their rights is required, especially as translation is one of the guarantees for a fair trial under the European Convention on Human Rights.

For all these rights to be effective, they should be implemented in the first hours of deprivation of liberty, in line with the CPT's recommendations.

Bibliography:

International instruments and standards:

1. European Convention for the Protection against Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1989;
2. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1987;
3. Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 2006;
4. The UN Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, Resolution 43/173 in 1988;
5. Directive (EU) 2016/1919 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and for requested persons in European arrest warrant proceedings;
6. Directive 2013/48/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings, and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty.

Laws:

1. Law on Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Croatia (OG 152/08, 76/09, 80/11, 121/11, 91/12, 143/12, 56/13, 145/13, 152/14, 70/17, 126/19, 126/19);
2. Misdemeanour Law (OG 107/07, 39/13, 157/13, 110/15, 70/17, 118/18);
3. Law on Police Affairs and Powers of the Republic of Croatia, (OG 76/09, 92 / 14, 70 / 19);
4. Rulebook on the Treatment of Arrested and Detained Persons and the Records of a Detained Person in a Detention Police Unit, Republic of Croatia (OG 88/09, 78/14, 132/16 and 50/19).

Reports:

1. NPM Croatia Annual Report for 2017, <https://www.ombudsman.hr/hr/izvjesca-puckog-pravobraniteljja/>
2. NPM Croatia Annual Report for 2018, <https://www.ombudsman.hr/hr/izvjesca-puckog-pravobraniteljja/>
3. NPM Croatia Annual Report for 2019, <https://www.ombudsman.hr/hr/izvjesca-puckog-pravobraniteljja/>
4. Annual Report of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Croatia for 2020, <https://www.ombudsman.hr/hr/izvjesca-puckog-pravobraniteljja/>
5. CPT Report on a Periodic Visit to the Republic of Macedonia Croatia since 2012, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cpt/Croatia>
6. CPT Report on a Periodic Visit to the Republic of Macedonia Croatia from 2017, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cpt/Croatia>

Publications, analysis and conclusions:

1. Conclusions XXXII. Counselling from the Croatian Association for Criminal Science and Practice entitled "Strengthening the efficiency of criminal proceedings by applying the standard of the European Court of Human Rights" held in Opatija from 5 to 7 December 2019;

2. Strengthening the rights of suspects and accused in criminal proceedings –the role of National Human Rights Institutions, Guidebook, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Vienna 2019;
3. Monitoring Police custody, a practical guide, Association for the Prevention of Torture, Geneva 2013;
4. Combating Torture during Police Custody and Pre-Trial Detention, Discussion Paper prepared by Julia Kozma and Asbjørn Rachlew, Copenhagen 2018.