

CONVID-19 vs Greek Prisons

In Greece on 20/3/2020 there are 11,313 inmates in (34) prisons, at a total capacity of 10,055 places of detention. This means that there is over 120% overcrowding and overcrowding, which in some prisons is over 250%! Indicatively, Larissa Prison 130%, Tripoli Prison 252%, Ioannina Prison 200%, Avlona Prison 260%, Corfu Prison 150% etc.

The Government and the relevant Ministry of Citizen Protection have already banned all visits to inmates, permits for prisoners, the introduction of personal belongings and as of 18/3/2020 few transfers of prisoners are allowed (but not always complied with). Also, anyone who enters the Prison must have a thermometer.

Since January 2020 and before the virus came to Europe, the Federation of Correctional Officers of Greece (OSYE) had asked the Government and the competent authorities to take specific measures for the Prisons in the event of a pandemic such as: designing and implementing a realistic plan. prevention and treatment of the virus in Greek prisons. We also demanded that all staff be trained and equipped with protective equipment.

To date, 24/3/2020, no confirmed case has been reported to a prison or prison officer.

OSYE has requested from the Ministry of Citizen Protection to immediately receive a package of 9 measures - proposals both for prevention and treatment of the virus within the Greek prisons, with a view to protecting workers and prisoners and respecting human rights. and labor rights. These measures include equipping all staff with protective equipment such as masks (there is a shortage in many prisons), gloves, uniforms and recruiting medical and nursing staff to all prison prisons. We also consider the immediate detention of prisoners (eg with minor sentences of up to five years or with a prison sentence of up to one year, elderly and ill prisoners).

The Ministry of Citizen Protection has NOT responded to these proposals to date (23/3/2020).

Finally, no financial aid has been announced by the Government for correctional officers, despite the fact that OSYE has requested it.

The OSYE proposed measures here:

http://www.osye.org.gr/arxeiadb/metra_kata_koronoiou_pdf_d0efbb736b088939a0fd51aa41588158.pdf