

# **COMPARISON OF VISITING METHODOLOGIES**

**ICRC, CPT and national mechanisms**

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# CONCEPTS OF PRESENCE

**ICRC: Comes and stays, can turn back when negotiated**

**CPT: Comes and leaves after a few days, comes back, can impose, when necessary – if time, persons and money available**

**NM: Present all the time**

# POWERS

**ICRC: Can only suggest, no mechanism foreseen for public statements, however can come back soon**

**CPT: Immediate observations - 3 months time to respond**

**Recommendations: time for government response (up to 2 years – and more)**

**Public statement**

**NM: Observations, can insist on the spot, should be able to use local press – inform CPT etc.**

# TRAINING-KNOWLEDGE

**ICRC:** All delegates have specific training, up to language skills; young age requested

**CPT:** Some members have specific professional training, others are political – no training – no interest; rather old ages ...

**NM:** Absolute need for professional training, interest, language skills, knowledge of local situations (medical, political, cultural, financial)

# TIME FRAMES FOR VISITS

- ICRC:** Local delegation, spends the time necessary to have overall picture, can come back, as it wants
- CPT:** Is in Strasbourg, visits the longest 2-3 days in one place, might come back after some months, normally after 2 or more years
- NM:** Permanence: Is all the time in the country, can visit, whenever needed / decided

# ADVANTAGES

- ICRC:** „Neutral“, can introduce urgent actions (with ICRC means), NGO, visitors not from country
- CPT:** IGO, only monitoring, has no means for urgent actions, visitors not from the country
- NM:** NGO or GO, cannot be neutral can organize local (ministerial and - even foreign - NGO) actions, if need is, are locals even if confidentiality requested, public opinion can be mobilised

# DISADVANTAGES

**ICRC: Confidentiality, no power; public statement only once in Iran/Iraq war**

**CPT: Confidentiality, however the habit of publishing the reports with government responses is nearly universal, PUBLIC STATEMENT as ultimate means**

**NM: Danger for persecution + threats to members, dependence because of being paid by government, or other reasons**

# PLACES TO VISIT

**ICRC: Persons under protection of Geneva**

**Conventions 1- 4; only prisons (exception in Israel, where they can visit Palestinians under interrogation)**

**CPT: All persons deprived of their liberty – definition of the CPT (old peoples homes, „educational + therapeutic homes for handicapped children in Eastern Europe, etc. etc.)**

**NM: Important to STICK to the CPT choice**

# REPORTS ADDRESSED TO WHOM?

- ICRC: Orally: to „Government“ (normally represented by liaison people) in final talks,  
Written: transmission in the country to liaison officers, often transfer questionable**
- CPT: Orally: Directly to ministers of interior, justice, health etc. in final talks,  
Written: To „Government“ through minister or other diplomats in Strasbourg**
- NM: Orally and written to concerned ministers**

# WHAT IS USEFUL FOR REGIONS ?

- Independent personalities, known for HR advocacy
- Standards must be redefined: „What is torture“ ?
- Public awareness raising and education is central
- Multiprofessionalism is central: Lawyers,  
MDs (clinical, psychiatric, forensic), ex-prisoners,  
social workers, former prison directors, ministers,  
educators, police persons, anthropologists, etc.  
good gender and age mix,
- Attitude: Rather cooperate for change than denounce

# PSYCHOLOGY OF THE VISITOR

- Maturity, do not get high on „torture proofs“**
- Know how to protect oneself (team work)**
- Do care really for the detained person**
- Do care for professionals in detention centres**
- Do also care for security of society**
- Do care for public awareness of marginality**
- Do care for primary prevention**
- Do have training for executing visits**
- Do stay modest, serve the cause**
- Have an educational attitude**
- Do want change for better detention conditions,  
however at an adequate pace**