

Alert: The prisoners hide to die

Between the months of January and February of this year, the Moroccan observatory of the jails counted not less than 13 deaths in the different Moroccan jails. The ONG pulls the alarm.

13 deaths. It is the temporary balance of the number of deaths in the Moroccan jails, that have just been established by the Moroccan observatory of the jails (OMP) for the only period of January and February 2008. The ONG mentions names of some prisoners having returned the soul behind the bars in different jails through the country. Among the deaths is Ahmed Nacer. This handicapped old man suffering for psychological problems, died out in his cell of the jail of Settat at the age of 95 years. He had just been condemned for attack against the values consecrated of Kingdom.

Other prisoners die, especially in the prisons, in the prime of life. Among them, some even give themselves the death voluntarily, so much the conditions of detention are intolerable. That is the case of Abdelkrim Hamdi that committed suicide recently in the jail of Kénitra. Before him, there was the case of Abdenbi R, 22 years old, that returned the soul on January 8th in a prison nicknamed "the fridge" in the wing 4 of the civil jail of Oukasha... And they are not isolated cases like the penitentiary direction offers to make believe. "All cases of intervening deaths in the prison universe are suspected", Jawad Skalli, director of the Moroccan observatory of the jails, insists.

In its last report published November 21st, 2007, the OMP had stopped for a long time on the conditions laborious of detention in all Moroccan jails. The organization had underlined that 39% of the complaints received by the observatory on behalf of the prisoners concern cases of maltreatments and torture, 30% concern the absence of medical cares, 18% concern transfers of prisoners in establishments far from the place of residence of the prisoner, 4% concern the problem of food, 3% concern the refusal of the administration to the prisoners to pursue the studies and 3% of the complaints concern the visit and the demand of grace. Let's remind it, in the small and humid cells of the 59 jails that Morocco accounts, there are currently close to 60.000 prisoners. Either more than 1000 prisoners for jail. However, as people responsible of the OMP don't quit to repeat, the capacity of welcome of the jails at the national level doesn't pass the half of this number. What to do then?

A lot of experiences led through the world show that the excessive recourse to the confinement of those that are waiting for judgment do only to aggravate the case of the prisoners. Numbers given by authorized sources reveal that in Morocco more than the half of the prisoners come back in jail, in less than one year, for recidivism. From here the necessity to resort in emergency to the supervised liberty and to the works of public utility, as the OMP recommends for a long time. Otherwise, by the school of the crime that is the Moroccan jail, one can always expect the worst while listening to the people responsible to dream of the best.

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