

## Prisons: The hell to bars

**A prisoner died lately in the jail of Oukasha, another committed suicide... they are the prisoners who reveal these information. They want to say thus how much is sinister the prison life in Morocco.**

DETAINED in the civil jail of Oukasha, Abdenbi R, 22 years old, would have breathed his last on January 8<sup>th</sup> in a prison nicknamed "the fridge" in the wing 4 of the civil jail of Oukasha. His companions of imprisonment ask the questions on the reasons of his death. Especially as he would have been taken by force from the district of the minors where he purged his pain in the wing 8 (cell number 9) toward the wing 4. This "jail in the jail" is considered like a real hell. According to some prisoners, Abdenbi would not have committed suicide.

"A fair investigation must be open to make explode the truth ", they claim. And they add: "and even though his suicide would be established, the reasons of his act should be known. Especially as it is not an isolated case ".

A collective of prisoners value that there were more about a dozen of deaths last year in the jail of Oukasha. A place of detention that was believed yet humanized and modernized. According to the same source, in this sinister balance, there would have been at least 4 suicides following brawls or illnesses. Add to it the case of KM. He would have also given himself the death a few months ago. He would have asked for several times his transfer in Ouazzane close to his family, in vain. Condemned to one year and half of jail whose he purged four months, the young prisoner seems to have preferred to put an end to his life, rather than to purge the rest of his pain in the jail of Casablanca.

"All cases of intervening deaths in the prison universe are suspected ", Jawad Skalli, director of the Moroccan observatory of the jails, insists. The prisoners of Oukasha give him reason. They describe the cells where they are incarcerated, like tombs where there is neither water nor electricity. They also point the jailers who would often have resort to the torture and the humiliation of the prisoners. Serious accusations that must be clarified. "It is that with what should start the minister of the justice, Abdelouahed Radi ", some prisoners insist.

The OMP had already asked for the creation of an independent national process of control of the penitentiary establishments. But its demand remained without continuation. The department of the Justice, which the jails depend on, seems to have other priorities.

Recently the minister of the justice, Abdelouahed Radi, asked for 1,2 billion of supplementary dirhams to construct other jails endowed with a little less small cells.

However, constructing about twenty new jails, doesn't solve the problem of about sixty existing where the suicides are several. The last occurred on January 14<sup>th</sup> in the cell 235 of the central jail of Kénitra. In the general indifference, this thriller novel risks to continue.

Mohamed Zainabi

Url: [http://www.lereporter.ma/article.php3?id\\_article=5544](http://www.lereporter.ma/article.php3?id_article=5544)

From LE REPORTER, put on line January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008