PRISONERS' RIGHTS AND COURTS

The Portuguese case
## PRISONERS' RIGHTS AND COURTS

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The perfect prison does not exist.

Mankind was not made to live deprived of liberty,

In a perfect world prisons would not exist...

but, in this perfect world crimes would not exist either!

In any prison system there is always space for improvement
Many positive points, namely:

• Reduced dimension of prison population

• Non-existence of overcrowding, violence among prisoners, gangs or drug trafficking networks

• A clear focus on work, school and vocational training

• Transmission of social values to inmates (the best way for prisoner’s reintegration)

• Legislative amendments introduced in 2005 in the right direction
THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE PRISONER IN PORTUGAL

"PEOPLE GO TO PRISON AS PUNISHMENT NOT TO BE PUNISHED"
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND IMPRISONMENT

RIGHTS UNAFFECTED BY IMPRISONMENT

- Right to Life
- Right to Health Care
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND IMPRISONMENT

RIGHTS SUPPRESSED BY IMPRISONMENT

- Right to physical liberty
- Right to emigrate
- Right of displacement
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND IMPRISONMENT

RIGHTS LIMITED BY PRISON

- Right to private property
- Right to privacy
- Right to maintain family bonds
- Right to freedom of religion and worship
- Right to vote
CONDITIONS FOR THE EXERCISE OF RIGHTS

Information to the prisoners on their rights (and duties) in a way that they understand...
ON ADMISSION

depressed,
frightened,
anxious,
worried,
unhappy,

not in a mood to cooperate...
ON ADMISSION

Informing about rights (and duties) and daily routine

• Understanding the prisoner’s state of mind
• In a professional, intelligent, and human way,
  so that the prisoner
  “gets the message”
THE COURT OF EXECUTION OF SENTENCES

- Ensuring respect for prisoners’ rights

- Ensuring respect for the purposes of the deprivation of liberty

(defence of society and social reintegration of the prisoner)
THE COURT OF EXECUTION OF SENTENCES

- Individual Plan for the Prisoner’s Rehabilitation
- Regime
- Contact with the outside world
- Prison leaves
- Order and security measures
- Disciplinary measures
- Parole
THANK YOU

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