

Basic forms of custody in the criminal justice system

- Police detention centers
- Pretrial detention facilities (SIZO's)
- Correctional labor colonies (ITK's)
- Educational labor colonies for juveniles (VTK's)

04.03.2002 - US State Department: Russian criminal justice system provides five basic forms of custody

“Prison conditions remained extremely harsh and frequently life threatening. The Ministry of Justice administers the penitentiary system centrally from Moscow. The Ministries of Justice, Health, Defense, and Education all maintain penal facilities. There are five basic forms of custody in the criminal justice system: Police detention centers, pretrial detention facilities (SIZO's), correctional labor colonies (ITK's), prisons designated for those who violate ITK rules, and educational labor colonies (VTK's) for juveniles. Responsibility for operating the country's penal facilities falls under the Ministry of Justice's Main Directorate for Execution of Sentences (GUIN).”
Annual report 2001 (#5809)

04.03.2002 [US Department of State](#)

Police detention centers

04.03.2002 - US State Department: Harsh conditions in police station detention centers

“Conditions in police station detention centers vary considerably but generally were harsh. In most cases, detainees lacked bedding, places to sleep, running water, toilets, showers, and adequate nutrition.”

Annual report 2001 (#5809)

04.03.2002 [US Department of State](#)

Pretrial detention facilities (SIZO's)

19.03.2004 - AI - UA: Nizhnii Novgorod: 2 men who were charged with robbery allegedly tortured while awaiting trial

“Aleksei Shishkin and Andrei Osenchugov, who were allegedly tortured while awaiting trial, have made no further complaints, and both are said to be well.

They were arrested in March 2002 and charged with robbery. They were then held at the Nizhnii Novgorod pre-trial detention centre (IZ-52/1) until late October 2002. There the teenagers allege that they were tortured and ill-treated by two adult cellmates, on the orders of prison staff, to make them confess to a number of other crimes.

Both were convicted and sentenced to eight years in the Arzamas juvenile correction facility, in the Nizhnii Novgorod region. A law enforcement official allegedly visited them there and asked them to sign official requests to close the criminal investigation into their allegations of torture and ill-treatment. When they refused, they were allegedly told that they would be transferred back to the Nizhnii Novgorod pre-trial detention centre, where they would be forced to drop their accusations.

The investigation into the robbery of which they were convicted has reportedly been reopened, and the teenagers have been transferred back to the Nizhnii Novogorod pre-trial detention centre (IZ-52/1). Amnesty International is monitoring the situation closely, and will take further action as necessary.”

19.03.2004 [Amnesty International](#) - Urgent Actions - Original title: "Russian Federation - Further Information on UA 274/03" (#20638)

25.02.2004 - USDOS: Despite improvements, conditions in SIZOs remained extremely harsh and posed a serious threat to health and life

“Conditions in police station detention centers varied considerably but generally were harsh; however, average periods of stay in such facilities decreased, and overcrowding was greatly alleviated. Implementation in July 2002 of the new Criminal Procedures Code and the overall reduction in the use of pretrial detention for petty criminals reduced both the numbers of persons being held and the length of time they may be held in pretrial detention. Since 2000, the pretrial population has declined by approximately 46 percent, virtually eliminating the problem of overcrowding in those institutions.

Despite these improvements, conditions in SIZOs, where suspects were confined while awaiting the completion of a criminal investigation, trial, sentencing, or appeal, remained extremely harsh and posed a serious threat to health and life. Health, nutrition, and sanitation standards remained low due to a lack of funding. Head lice, scabies, and various skin diseases were prevalent. Prisoners and detainees typically relied on families to provide them with extra food. Poor ventilation was thought to contribute to cardiac problems and lowered resistance to disease.

Because of substandard pretrial detention conditions, defendants at times claimed that they had confessed simply to be moved to comparatively less harsh prison conditions. Defendants' retractions of confessions made under these conditions generally were ignored, as were those who attempted to retract confessions they claimed they were coerced to make (see Section 1.e.).”

Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2003 (#19737)

25.02.2004 [US Department of State](#) - Original title: "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2003"

07.11.2003 - IHF: Long pre-trial detentions are still utilized with the aim of “breaking the will” of the prisoners “with the intention of eliciting confessions and information”

“However, harsh prison conditions, coupled with the indiscriminate use of pre-trial detention, occasionally for long periods of time, are still utilized with the aim of “breaking the will” of the prisoners “with the intention of eliciting confessions and information.””

Report focused on torture and inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment in selected OSCE states (#17377)

07.11.2003 [IHF](#) - International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights - Original title: "Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment"

28.05.2002 - UK Home Office: UN Committee against Torture: Distressing conditions of pre-trial detention

“6. The Committee also expresses its concern about the following:

(g) Distressing conditions of pre-trial detention, including the prevalence of tuberculosis and other diseases, as well as the poor and unsupervised conditions of detention in IVS

(temporary police detention), and SIZOs (pre-trial establishment) facilities, including the practice of placing metal shutters in front of cell windows, preventing natural light and ventilation in the cells, reportedly because, by law, inmates are prohibited from communicating with one another”

Report on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of detainees committed by law enforcement personnel; torture in the armed forces and the situation in Chechnya (#8432)

28.05.2002 [UN](#) Committee against Torture - Original title: "Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee against Torture: Russian Federation, 28/05/2002 (CAT/C/CR/28/4)"

04.03.2002 - US Department of State: Persons can spend up to 3 years awaiting trial in so-called Special Isolation Facility (SIZO), a pretrial detention facility

“Suspects awaiting the completion of a criminal investigation, trial, sentencing, or appeal, are confined in a Special Isolation Facility (SIZO), which is a pretrial detention facility. Persons can spend up to 3 years awaiting trial in a SIZO; however, the new criminal procedure code places statutory limits on pretrial detention. Convicts on occasion are imprisoned in SIZO's because there is no transport to take them elsewhere. Conditions in SIZO's remained extremely harsh and posed a serious threat to life and health. Health, nutrition, and sanitation standards in SIZO's remained low due to a lack of funding. Head lice, scabies, and various skin diseases were prevalent. Prisoners and detainees typically relied on families to provide them with extra food. Under such conditions, prisoners sleep in shifts, and there is little, if any, room to move within cells. In most pretrial detention centers and prisons, there is no ventilation system. Poor ventilation is thought to contribute to cardiac problems and lowered resistance to disease. Cells are overcrowded and stiflingly hot in the summer.

Pretrial detention conditions are so substandard that defendants sometimes claim to confess simply to be moved to comparatively less harsh prison conditions. Defendants who retract confessions made under these conditions usually are ignored, as are those who attempt to retract confessions they claim they were coerced to make.”

Annual report 2001 (#5809)

04.03.2002 [US](#) Department of State

Correctional labor colonies (ITK's)

04.03.2002 - US Department of State: The 749 correctional labor colonies (ITK's) hold the bulk of Russia's convicts

“Correctional labor colonies (ITK's) hold the bulk of the nation's convicts. There are 749 ITK's, which are as crowded as SIZO's. Guards reportedly severely discipline prisoners to break down resistance; at times guards humiliated, beat, and starved prisoners. According to the PCPR, conditions in the ITK's are better than in the SIZO's to the extent that there is fresh air. In the timber correctional colonies, where hardened criminals serve their time, beatings, torture, and rape by guards reportedly were common. On September 11, procurators in Perm announced that they had brought charges of mistreating inmates against Special Forces Commander Sergey Bromberg, head of the strict regime prison colony at Chepets. Along with seven masked members of his unit, Bromberg was suspected of beating inmates at the prison colony. In October the Procurator announced

that he had completed his investigation; however, there were no reports that a trial had begun by year's end. The country's "prisons"--distinct from the labor colonies or the ITK's--are penitentiary institutions for those who repeatedly violate the rules in effect in the ITK's."

Annual report 2001 (#5809)

04.03.2002 [US Department of State](#)

Educational labor colonies for juveniles (VTK's)

25.02.2004 - USDOS: Many of the juveniles were from orphanages, had no outside support, and were unaware of their rights

"VTKs are facilities for prisoners from 14 to 20 years of age. Male and female prisoners were held separately. In August, GUIN reported that there were 62 educational colonies, 3 of which were for girls. Conditions in the VTKs were significantly better than in the ITKs, but juveniles in the VTKs and juvenile SIZO cells reportedly also suffered from beatings, torture, and rape. The PCPR reported that such facilities had a poor psychological atmosphere and lacked educational and vocational training opportunities. Many of the juveniles were from orphanages, had no outside support, and were unaware of their rights. There also were two prisons for children in Moscow. Boys were held with adults in small, crowded, and smoky cells. Schooling in the prisons for children was sporadic at best, with students of different ages studying together when a teacher could be found."

Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2003 (#19737)

25.02.2004 [US Department of State](#) - Original title: "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2003"

04.03.2002 - US Department of State: Educational labor colonies for juveniles (VTK's) are facilities for prisoners from 14 to 20 years of age

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