Summary of case AJB-662/2019

The National Preventive Mechanism paid a visit on 11 December 2018 to the Visegrád Assisted Living Centre for the Elderly operated by the Visegrád Aranykor Foundation.

The residents lived on their own or shared a room with another person. There were only two rooms, where 3 residents were placed together. Some of the rooms had a separate bathroom. Most of the bathrooms were in good condition, but some of them required renovation. The residents of the rooms without a separate bathroom used the showers and toilets located on the corridors.

The residents received three meals a day. The meals provided throughout the care and the calorie values indicated on the menus did not comply with the provisions of the relevant Decree of the Ministry of Human Capacities. Due to the lack of relevant documents, the nutrient content of the food could not be verified.

During visiting hours, a physician examined only those residents in the case of whom the nurses indicated some problems. The residents who did not seem to have any specific problems were not regularly examined. Some of the residents could not even remember when they had been seen by the doctor for the last time.

Article 21 of OPCAT was seriously violated when shortly after the visit of the National Preventive Mechanism, the owner of the home, the Visegrád Aranykor Foundation terminated the care contract of one resident. The injury was remedied thanks to the prompt and effective measures of the National Preventive Mechanism and the other authorities, the public prosecutor and the Government Office.

Due to infectious skin problems discovered within the Institution, I asked the Pest County Government Office to carry out an investigation within the Institution.

According to the information provided by the direction, the Institution may be left only by those 4 or 5 persons who are able to move on their own. They can leave the home any time if they announce their intention to do so. Those residents who need help with going outside are never allowed to leave the Institution. It turned out that many of the residents had not left the home for years. It seriously violated the right of human dignity ensured in Section II and the right to physical and psychological integrity ensured in Section XX of the Fundamental Law.