



Newsletter 4/2017 July – August

This is the Portuguese Ombudsman's newsletter in which it's presented its activities in July and August.

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The Portuguese Ombudsman traditional activity

Within the Portuguese Ombudsman traditional activity, substantiated by procedures that come from citizen's complaints, stands out the following.

The Portuguese Ombudsman drew the attention of the Government to the funding approval for support equipment for people with disabilities

The Portuguese Ombudsman drew the attention of the Secretary of State for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities regarding the urgency of funding approval for 2017, and consequently publishing the joint order provided for in article no. 11, paragraph 2 of Decree-Law no. 93/2009, of April 16.

The Portuguese Ombudsman has received complaints about delays from the Institute of Social Security, *I.P.* concerning the financial granting for the purchase of support equipment for people with disabilities, under the Support Equipment Attribution System (SAPA).

Following the numerous steps taken, it was found that the financing requests are accepted, but the effective cost sharing regarding the purchase of equipment is



delayed due to an alleged lack of availability of funds. This situation causes serious harm to the interested parties, who are deprived, in a timely manner, of the support products prescribed and necessary for their rehabilitation, inclusion and quality of life.

In this regard, the Portuguese Ombudsman stressed that this excessive delay «undermines the principles enshrined in the Law no. 38/2004 of August 18, 2004 (which lays down the general basis for the legal framework for the prevention, empowerment, rehabilitation and the principles of citizenship, non-discrimination, universality, quality, the primacy of public responsibility, but also the principle of effectiveness enshrined in the Basic Law of the Social Security System (Law no. 4/2007 of January 16)», and concluding with the statement that «the life of several citizens is at stake because of their particular vulnerability, and for that reason, deserve special care and protection», the Portuguese Ombudsman drew the attention of the Government to give maximum urgency to the approval of the annual funds for the equipment support's financing.

Portuguese Ombudsman recommended the adoption of legislative measures to prevent and control the hiring of research fellows to the Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education

The Portuguese Ombudsman recommended the further development of the Research Fellowship Statute with a view to properly disciplining the consequences of having research fellows in order to meet the needs of the services, reinforcing sanctions and guarding the position of the hired fellows; to ensure effective means of control of the business plans developed under grants contracts; and to limit the powers that can be exercised by the host entities in the direction and organization of the work developed by the grantees.

The Portuguese Ombudsman as National Human Rights Institution

Commemorative dates

The Portuguese Ombudsman highlighted through messages two evocative dates: the [World Day against Trafficking in Persons](#) (July 30th) and the [International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances](#) (August 30th)

Other messages from the Portuguese Ombudsman

On July 25th the Portuguese Ombudsman, in a [message](#) published on the institutional website and Facebook page, marked the approval of the National Strategy for Homeless People Integration 2017-2013.



The Portuguese Ombudsman as the National Preventive Mechanism

Recommendations

Within this timeframe were issued three recommendations: to the Secretary of State Assistant and of Justice ([recommendation 14](#)), and two addressed to the National Director of the Public Security Police ([recommendation 15](#) and [recommendation 16](#)).

Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman (FIO)

Disclosure of the 2017 edition of the Journalism Prize on Human Rights

The Portuguese Ombudsman and President of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman (FIO) published the 2017 edition of the FIO Journalism Prize on human rights, under the theme «O Impacto das Políticas Migratórias nos Direitos Humanos das Crianças».

The Journalism Award represents the recognition of the work that journalists and researchers have developed in raising awareness of the community for the protection of the human rights of children in demographic movements, as well as an action to publicize the promotional activities carried out by human rights institutions in the Ibero-American area, where Portugal is included.

International cooperation activities

Cape Verde

On July 4th, the Portuguese Ombudsman received the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship of Cape Verde.

The purpose of this visit was to exchange experiences and share good practices in the defense and promotion of human rights.



Angola

In Luanda, from July 3rd to 7th, this body of State continued its collaboration with the Ombudsman of Angola, within the scope of the support project for the reinforcement of human rights in Angola, developing a partnership with the United Nations Development Program. We highlight, of the various initiatives carried out, the intervention in the seminar *O Provedor de Justiça e as entidades visadas – o dever de cooperação*.





Project «Demos»

Within the framework of this project, developed by the Deputy of the Commonwealth of the Canary Islands and by the Ombudsman representatives of Portugal, Cape Verde, Senegal and Mauritania, this body of State participated in two thematic conferences. The first was held on July 5th and 6th in *Santa Cruz de la Palma* entitled *La colaboración y la cooperación entre las distintas administraciones públicas en la aplicación del principio de igualdad de trato y de oportunidades*; and the second round was held on July 21st in the city of Praia, Cape Verde, under the theme *O compromisso do Estado com a boa governação e as tarefas do Provedor de Justiça*.

Mozambique



On August 9th, this body of State received the Ombudsman of Mozambique, completing another initiative of bilateral cooperation.

The purpose of this visit was to share good practices and exchange experiences on resource management issues.

Armenia

The Portuguese Ombudsman received a delegation from the Armenian Human Rights Ombudsman and a representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from August 22nd to 24th.

The aim of this visit was to learn about the Ombudsman's activities and to exchange experiences on promoting and defending the fundamental rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.





Portuguese Ombudsman participations

The Portuguese Ombudsman participated in the Electronic National Official Journal 20th anniversary commemoration

The Portuguese Ombudsman, on July 11th, took part of the ceremony of the 20th anniversary of the Electronic National Official Journal, at the *Biblioteca da Imprensa Nacional*, in Lisbon.

The Portuguese Ombudsman participated in the Commemorative Ceremony of the 150th anniversary of the Public Security Police

On July 13th, the Portuguese Ombudsman participated in the Commemorative Ceremony of the 150th anniversary of the Public Security Police, at the *Praça do Império*, in Lisbon.

The Portuguese Ombudsman participated in the Honoris Causa Doctorate ceremony

On July 20th, the Portuguese Ombudsman participated in the *Honoris Causa* Doctorate ceremony to His Royal Highness Shah al-Hussaini, Prince Aga Khan by the *Universidade Nova de Lisboa*, at the *Auditório da Reitoria*.

The Portuguese Ombudsman participated in the Calouste Gulbenkian Day

The Portuguese Ombudsman, on July 20th, took part of the awards ceremony of the Calouste Gulbenkian Award and of the Gulbenkian Awards.

The Portuguese Ombudsman participated in the commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the China's People Liberation Army

On July 27th, the Portuguese Ombudsman was present in the commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the China's People Liberation Army, at the People's Republic of China embassy, in Lisbon.



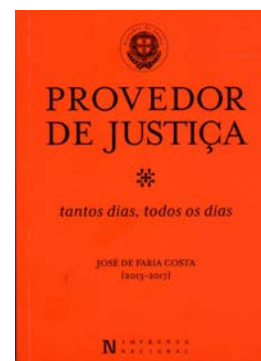
THE PORTUGUESE OMBUDSMAN
In the defense of citizen's rights.

Other activities

Publications

Article published in *Jornal de Letras*, entitled *Não basta dizer: 'morte à morte'*

Book *tantos dias, todos os dias*, by the Portuguese Ombudsman, edited by the Imprensa Nacional – Casa da Moeda.



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Children's hotline 800 206 656

Senior citizen hotline 800 203 531

People with disabilities hotline 800 208 462

Portuguese Ombudsman Facebook Page



O PROVEDOR DE JUSTIÇA

Na defesa do Cidadão: perceber para prover.