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Deprivation of liberty – these three little words denote places, hidden from public view, where people are detained, often, alas, in unacceptable conditions.

The CGLPL's role is to monitor them, to ensure that fundamental rights are respected and nobody therein is subjected to any inhumane or degrading treatment.

We will continue to tirelessly visit people deprived of liberty and put forward recommendations to protect their rights, as a matter of urgency where necessary.

Finally, to prevent any risk of such a great institution becoming a mere front, I, together with the CGLPL team, will do all we can to ensure that our beliefs are acted upon.

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Dominique SIMONNOT

Contrôleure générale
des lieux de privation de liberté
(Inspector general of custodial establishments)

Acts and legislation

- ▶ Law no. 2008-739 of 28 July 2008 approving the ratification of the optional protocol to the Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 2002.
- ▶ Decree no. 2008-1322 of 15 December 2008 publicizing the optional protocol.
- ▶ Law no. 2007-1545 of 30 October 2007 appointing a *Contrôleur général des lieux de privation de liberté*.
- ▶ Decree no. 2008-246 of 12 March 2008 relating to the *Contrôleur général des lieux de privation de liberté*.
- ▶ Decree of 14 October 2020 regarding appointment of the *Contrôleure générale des lieux de privation de liberté* – Dominique SIMONNOT.

Contrôleur général
des lieux de privation de liberté,
16/18, quai de la Loire
CS 70048
75921 Paris Cedex 19

Tel. : 01 53 38 47 80

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dignity
freedom privacy
of expression secure
respect educational
centres
maintaining family ties
waiting zone
prisons
police custody
psychiatric access
hospitals to care
immigration detention

Who is the General Controller of custodial establishments?

An independent authority

The *Contrôleur général des lieux de privation de liberté* is an authority, created by the law of 30 October 2007, who carries out his task **completely independently**.

Dominique Simonnot was appointed on 14 October 2020 *Contrôleure générale* for a six-year term.

Who ensures that human rights are respected

The *Contrôleur général* ensures that the conditions of management and transfer of persons deprived of liberty respect their human rights: the right to dignity, freedom of thought and conscience, the right to maintain family ties, the right to care, work and training, etc

In more than 5 000 custodial establishments

The *Contrôleur général* may visit the following establishments at any time:

- ▶ prisons;
- ▶ psychiatric hospitals;
- ▶ police custody cells;
- ▶ customs detention cells;
- ▶ court cells;
- ▶ immigration detention centres and facilities;
- ▶ waiting zones;
- ▶ secure educational centres...

Why submit a case to the *Contrôleur général des lieux de privation de liberté*?

You wish to inform him of a situation:

- ▶ which, in your opinion, infringes your human rights or the human rights of a person deprived of liberty;
- ▶ relating to how an establishment or service is run, to the attitude of the staff or the persons detained or held there.

However, the *Contrôleur général* cannot intervene in legal proceedings underway or assess the merits of a judicial decision.

Who can submit a case to him?

- ▶ All individuals: persons deprived of liberty themselves, their relatives, their family, their lawyer, a witness, staff and anyone working in these establishments.
- ▶ Associations or any other legal entity whose purpose is to ensure that human rights are respected.

A case can be submitted to the *Contrôleur général* by the Government, members of Parliament and by other independent administrative authorities.

The *Contrôleur général* can also take up a case on his own initiative.

How can a case be submitted to him?

- ▶ By post to the following address:

Madame la Contrôleure générale
des lieux de privation de liberté,
CS 70048
75921 Paris Cedex 19

- ▶ Via the online form on the CGLPL website: <https://www.cglpl.fr/saisir-le-cglpl/comment/>
- ▶ Directly during the visits that are conducted in the establishments: you can request a **confidential meeting** with the *Contrôleur général* or one of his inspectors.

What are his means of action?

- ▶ He carries out **investigations** of the authorities involved.
- ▶ He makes scheduled or unexpected **visits** to custodial establishments.
- ▶ He issues ministers with **reports and recommendations** that he can make public.
- ▶ He can bring to the attention of the Public Prosecutor or disciplinary authorities facts that could constitute a breach or an error made by a member of staff in exercising his duties.
- ▶ Each year he issues an **activity report** to the President of the Republic and Parliament. This report is made public.