



Summary

Advisory report on increasing security measures in a wider perspective. Advice on the security measures of detainees in high level security regimes.

Council for the Administration of Criminal Justice and Protection of Juveniles (RSJ) Council for the Administration of Criminal Justice and Protection of Juveniles (RSJ)

Background

Hardening of crime is a current problem for society. This also has consequences for the situation inside prisons, where suspects or convicts should be prevented from continuing their criminal activities while being detained.

Heavier security measures are especially required for a small group of detainees posing a major threat, for instance because of the risk of undermining the rule of law or threatening of persons. To limit this risk, the minister has recently prepared and partly implemented certain specific measures. The RSJ has formulated two advices on these measures previously.¹

A well-substantiated and coherent security policy

According to the RSJ, the need for additional security measures requires a coherent and well-founded security policy, which takes into account the important basic principles of the prison system. This is important in order to be able to guarantee security both inside and outside the penal institutions, also in the long run. It requires a system with a detailed legal foundation and where policy and practical considerations are well-substantiated.

The basic principles of such a security policy are formulated by the RSJ in this advisory report.

Key principles for security policy

The RSJ recognises the essential need for extra security measures for detainees who pose a major risk. At the same time, the basic principles of humane detention conditions and resocialisation also apply to these detainees. This means that:

- freedom is not restricted more than necessary;
- implementation of detention must be aimed at resocialisation;

¹ RSJ, *Recommendation on amended Detainee Selection, Placement and Transfer Scheme and adoption Maximum Security Institution House Rules Model Scheme*, 4 November 2022 and RSJ, *Recommendation on amended Penal Principles Act in regarding additional measures against organised crime during detention*, 6 January 2023.

recommendations can be found in Chapter 2 of this advisory report, *Conclusions and Recommendations*.

The complete advisory report in Dutch may be consulted on the RSJ [website](#)

