A LEGAL STUDY ON THE RIGHTS OF THE PRISONERS IN MALAYSIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE RIGHT OF PRISONERS TO COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCES, LIVING IN ADEQUATE PRISON CONDITION, MEDICAL TREATMENT, CONJUGAL VISITS, AND VOTING.

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Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Bachelor in Legal Study (Hons)

Universiti Teknologi MARA
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October 2009

The student/ authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to work of others.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise is to Allah S.W.T for giving us the chance to complete this research project regarding the right of the prisoners. This research project is conducted by a team consists of four persons, which are Norhazwani binti Nordin, Bazlilah binti Mohd Bukhari, Noor Amalina Shazaleen binti Mohd Said and Siti Sarah binti Abd Razak. This research project is under the supervision of Associated Prof. Dr Md Amin bin Hj Abdul Rahman. Throughout the conducting and completing this research project, several parties had assisted us and they deserve our credit of appreciation.

First and foremost, we would like to express our highest gratitude to our supervisor, Associated Prof Dr Md Amin bin Hj Abdul Rahman for his patience in guiding and assisted us to complete this research project. We are very thankful for his kindness in helping us to finish this project. Without his assistance and guidance, we may not able to fully carry out this project well and not manage to complete it upon the due date.

A heartfelt thanks to all the interview respondents, Mr.Nazaruddin bin Bidin for sharing his experience while in prison and Mr.Irmohizam as the lecturer of Faculty of Law for his willingness to be interview and their cooperation in the interview conducted. Their experience and responses are of a great assistance for our findings in the research project. We would also like to give our credit to the Faculty of Law for their assistance for our group conducting the research.

Last but not least, not to forget our family and friends, we would like to express our gratitude to them for their moral support while we are completing the research project. Thanks to everyone who had either directly or indirectly contribute to the completion of our research project. Thank you so much.

ABSTRACT

This is a research project conducted to determine the rationality of the right given to the prisoners in respect of medical treatment, right to conjugal visits, right to vote and to complaint and the prison condition itself.

Basically, even the prisoners are the one who had been detained as a punishment for their wrongful conduct or an offence that they had done, the right of the prisoners are not explicitly taken away by the fact of imprisonment. Even though their freedom of movement is curtailed, they are still subjected to the protection of rights same as one who is not being detained.

In Malaysia, it has been enumerated in Part II of the Federal Constitution, which stated that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty saves in accordance with law. These provisions are applicable to the prisoners too because a prisoner remains a 'person' in the prison. There was Article 5 of the Federal Constitution that laid down the protection towards personal liberty and Article 8 that outline that all people are subjected to equality before the law and being treated equally. Besides that, there are Prisons Act 1995 and Prison Regulations 2000 to govern the right of the prisoners.

However, all this above provision does not provide absolute protection to the prisoners, as there are still subject to certain denial and restrictions being imposed by the government on the reason of ineligibility and unqualified. They are often argued that the prisoners are put in an unusual legal position where some of their right had been denied.

The prisoner's right and the extent to which they are able to contact and engaged with the outside world are defined and limited by a mass of rules and regulations. Many things are taken for granted outside are privileges which have to be fought by a prisoners. Every country is urged to take an action as rule of law is to mean anything. Therefore, it has to mean that the prison system is no less answerable to the courts than any other limb of the state, but both for how it serves and protects the prisoner's right.

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