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## The convict's family as a participant in his penal resocialisation readaptation and social reintegration

**Abstract:** One of the elements of penal social rehabilitation procedure is maintaining social ties with criminal's families. The family bonds of criminal, maintained at an appropriate level, provide the basis for social re-processing, and for safeguarding criminals, freed conditionally or at the end of their sentences, from reoffending. Maintaining proper social ties between inmates and their families is essential for the proper process of penal reintegration and its end effect. The social bonds of prisoners can be classified according to the length of the sentence and depend on the type of sentence. If there is no family relationship (e.g. when someone is serving a sentence for an offense against their family) it is not possible to use it in the social rehabilitation process. Weak familial bonds can be reconstructed and treated as one of the process's important objectives. A strong familial bond can and should be used to support and strengthen that process. The family bond is felt somewhat differently by women (the issue is concern for children, fear of abandonment by life partners, etc.) than by men. However, with regard to both categories of convicts, it plays an important role in the process of their rehabilitation and social re-adjustment, and helps prevent stigma. The recommended way of using good family relationships and rebuilding poor ties in penal work was applied with a positive effect for 20 months in a measured social rehabilitation experiment devised by the author, organised and implemented in a prison in Gdańsk-Przeróbka until the introduction of martial law in Poland in 1981. It was very positively evaluated by J. Rejman in his book entitled *Change in the Polish penitentiary system – constraints and opportunities*, published in 2013.<sup>1</sup> The system operated throughout the entire prison facility and, as noted,

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<sup>1</sup> J. Rejman, *Zmiana w polskim systemie penitencjarnym. Ograniczenia i możliwości*, Wydawnictwo "Difin", Warsaw 2013, pp. 84–85.

was effective both in resocialisation and rehabilitation.<sup>2</sup> **Keywords:** penitentiary social rehabilitation, social bond, relations of the convicted with their families.

## Introduction

This text is concerned with the relationships between convicts and their families during their imprisonment. These relationships are dynamic, which means that their form is not stable, and, taking into account their content, do not always foster penal social rehabilitation. Consequently, they usually contribute to a return to crime, that is, to criminal recidivism. One should recall that in penal theory and practice, penal social rehabilitation is defined as all the planned and programmed actions implemented by pedagogical-psychological staff and addressed to criminals in prison. Their aim is to achieve such changes in the convict's personality as will protect them from re-offending once their sentence has been served and they have left prison, and to make correct functioning in society possible. The non return to crime and the reformed functioning of these persons are generally accepted indicators of the success of correctional facilities. In dealing with this subject, the terms "the prisoner", "prison", "penitentiary", and "convict" or "inmate" will be used interchangeably.

The subject raised is extremely important, because the process of penal social rehabilitation mainly seeks to achieve a prisoner's positive social re-adjustment with their family after the prisoner's release. Positive re-adjustment with the family allows for further proper social functioning in society. A well implemented social re-adjustment of the convict should lead to social reintegration with family on a donor and recipient basis. This means that the renewed connection between a former inmate and his family, a return to it, consists not only of physical and emotional taking but also giving to it of oneself. The more successfully this rule is applied, the stronger, and therefore the more permanent, the reintegration. The reintegration of a former inmate with their family is a significant predictor of the former convict returning to normal life.<sup>3</sup> Observation of penal practices indicates, that these can be relationships between juvenile offenders (17 to 21 years) and their families or parents, between convicted adults, their wives and families, as well as between elderly convicts (60 years of age or older) and their remaining family members of a similar age. As it is clear from the above, relationships between convicts and their families depend on social situation of the offenders and their families, their age, and, in the long term, on their

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<sup>2</sup> H. Machel, *Propozycja modelu ośrodka pracy skazanych dla młodocianych i dorosłych nie recydywistów (konsepcja, organizacja, wdrożenie i ocena)*, "Przegląd Penitencjarny i Kryminologiczny" 1983, No. 3(43), pp. 100–112.

<sup>3</sup> H. Machel, *Sens i bezsens resocjalizacji penitencjarnej – casus polski. Studium penitencjarno-pedagogiczne*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk, 2006, p. 249 and n.

social position and life situation. Most authors of penal literature address the different indicators and proposals concerning social rehabilitation methodology aimed primarily at people undergoing a custodial sentence. They emphasise the direct impact of the prison system and of penitentiary staff on psycho-corrective effects, although this way of achieving them is often difficult. From my years of experience and that of my penal colleagues it transpires that the social rehabilitation in prison conditions often takes place under the influence of other factors, factors outside the prison which are important to the person and which the prison staff can control. An indirect correction factor influencing the offender may be their family, especially a wife or a husband. It would appear, however, that this factor is not always used sensibly. Proof of this is the wording of Article 67 § 3 of the 1997 K.K.W. (Kodeks Karny Wykonawczy – Executive Penal Code- the current law: Polish penal system), which reads: "In the process of the rehabilitation of criminals, while respecting their rights and the duties required of them, the following shall be taken into account: work above all, particularly work conducive to attaining relevant professional qualifications, education, cultural and educational activities and sports, **maintaining contact with family** and the outside world as well as therapeutic measures". The phrase "maintaining contact with family" does not define anything as such, does not clarify any rules, and does not do anything to mobilise rehabilitation personnel. It only indicates the need for prison as a care institution to remind the criminal that he/she has a family, to which they should return once their sentence is completed. The executive penal code of 1997 does not, by means of this sentence, create an obligation to use these contacts for correctional purposes. However, it seems that contact with family intends the convict to maintain ties with their family, in order that it may help in their social rehabilitation upon release. The current Polish penal system, despite the reserved manner in which it notes the necessity of prisoners to maintain contact with family, does in fact foresee many situations where contact with family can be very close and can be fruitful in social rehabilitation. This issue has been described thoroughly by K. Linowski and D. Sarzała.<sup>4</sup> It is interesting to note that in penal practice, many situations, such as Children's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, are used for the purpose of family reunion. However, this does not solve the shocking, often very traumatic situation where, under the law (i.e. by court order) a father, mother or older brother is removed from home usually under sudden circumstances, leaving it in a difficult material, and in some cases moral, situation causing disarray to their everyday life. It is clear that at such a time, the convict's family must completely reorganize and undergoes financial and moral hardship. Eventually, those remaining family members must mark their calendars

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<sup>4</sup> K. Linowski, *Kontakty skazanych na karę pozbawienia wolności ze światem zewnętrznym*, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski 2005; D. Sarzała, *Patologiczne zachowania więźniów w kontekście izolacji i resocjalizacji penitenckiej*, Wydawnictwo ASPRA-IR, Warsaw 2013, p. 23 and n.

with prison visiting time, which is often especially humiliating where children are involved.

## The appearance of family stress

Sudden and unexpected internment of a family member (husband, son, mother) in prison usually causes unexpected, often acute, stress, sometimes called the Acute Stress Disorder.<sup>5</sup> This is both intensified by external and internal stimuli. It is strongly experienced both by the convicted person as well as by those remaining at home. There is an issue of guilt: someone is an offender and someone is a victim. Usually, the role of victim is the family home: those remaining members of the family – wife, children. There follows an effective family breakdown. As T. Kuleta and J. Trzópek<sup>6</sup> write: “regardless of whether the circumstances causing the crisis are sudden, traumatic events, or whether as a result of the culmination of long-term difficult situations or transformational developments. As such they are perceived by the victims as beyond their control, either because of their unpredictability, or uncontrollability<sup>7</sup>. As a result, they cause a sense of helplessness affecting the sense of security and are a heavy burden, causing reduced psychological resistance due to mental exhaustion, paralysis or the ineffectiveness of existing strategies to cope”. For other family members, it means organizational, physical, material, and social hardship as well as, most importantly, psychological burdens. These may include: fear, failures, uncertainty of work security, lack of recognition and support, lack of rest and respite, lack of independence and a sense of helplessness, lack of information, competitive pressures, and other pressures and temptations, pressures of responsibility, etc<sup>8</sup>. The emergent family stress, understood as an acute emotional breakdown, and conditional on developmental and socio-cultural circumstances, depends on the temporary inability to handle matters which until then were the means of coping with day to day problems. Penitentiary staff seeks, at any price, to consolidate the problems affecting the lives of a prisoner’s family. The aim of the psycho-correctional process is, at all costs, for the family bond, and particularly the bond of the convict and their spouse, to serve one single family purpose. Starting from this supposition, the influence of correctional facilities on prisoners and their spouses should go in parallel. This kind of effort means that the psycho-correctional

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<sup>5</sup> R.A. Bryant, A.G. Harvey *Zespół ostrego stresu*, PWN, Warsaw 2003, s. 8–16.

<sup>6</sup> M. Kulesza, J. Zmiana stylu życia jako efekt przezwyciężenia kryzysu – szansa czy konieczność?, [in:] *Kryzys, interwencja i pomoc psychologiczna. Nowe ujęcia i możliwości*, ed. D. Kubacka-Jasiecka, K. Mudyń, Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, Toruń 2003, p. 121–145.

<sup>7</sup> By: H. Sek (ed.), *Procesy twórczego zmagania się z krytycznymi wydarzeniami życiowymi a zdrowie psychiczne*, [in:] *Twórczość i kompetencje życiowe a zdrowie psychiczne*, Wydawnictwo UAM, Poznań 1991.

<sup>8</sup> S.M. Litzke, H. Such, *Stres, mobbing i wypalanie zawodowe*, GWP, Gdańsk 2007, p. 12 and n.

effects should, if necessary, equally impact the spouse of the convicted as the convict themselves, who, it should be noted, often submit to prison culture and thereby become immunized to the positive influence of their partners. This matter is very important, because the remaining spouse must shape the social attitudes of their children, for whom they are solely responsible during their offending partner's absence. It should be noted, however, that a crisis is a condition of disorientation in which a person (both husband and wife) experiences frustration concerning important life goals or profound disorder to their lives and means of coping with stress. In this sense, the term "crisis" refers not so much to the objective characteristics of the disorders, as to the subjective feelings/state of the person experiencing them. Most characteristic of a crisis experience are the high levels of emotional tension and physiological stimuli, so-called "emotional chaos", expressed through the simultaneous experience of intense fear, dread, anger, pain and sadness, feelings of guilt and victimhood, of helplessness and powerlessness, of uncertainty and loss, and a tendency to impulsive actions aimed at restoring lost psychological stability. Feelings of mental discomfort can be the motivation to seek solutions to a crisis situation and to make significant lifestyle changes<sup>9</sup>. An increased susceptibility to change in situations of increased emotional stress – of crisis – has been noted by many authors. What form the crisis will take depends on the nature the events, the circumstances and on personal predispositions but above all on how a person interprets their changing circumstances. Because a person responds to changes according to how they perceive them and the importance they give them, it is only when we grasp the sense a person attributes to certain life events and experiences that we can begin to understand their motivation and changes in their personal beliefs, attitudes, preferences, and behavior. This would indicate that exit from a crisis, its resolution, requires "transformation" in behavior, in the experience and interpretation of one's own self, one's life, world, goals, objectives and social responsibilities. These changes not only become a condition of re-adjustment, the restoration of balance, they may also be an opportunity for the fuller development of the person. My experience indicates that in discussions carried out with the other prisoners, married men, whether during their free time or in cramped cells, whether in the corridor or, as more usual, before going to bed at night, very often try to talk about their family life, or even marital life, in ways that reveal their dominance, which indicates they do not possess either a good model of married life or one of good parenting. It would seem that prison staff should be noticing these cases and trying to determine what role they played in their families' lives. It should be remembered that these two models demonstrated in the family home, usually every day, influence the behavioral characteristics of all members of the convict's family. In the process of penal social rehabilitation, it has been realised that the negative models listed here should be

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<sup>9</sup> B.M. Nowak, *Rodzina w kryzysie. Studium resocjalizacyjne*, PWN, Warsaw 2012, pp. 40–43.

corrected in that part of the triad of social rehabilitation processes which is understood as correctional<sup>10</sup>. What matters there, among other things, is a change in attitude to the offense committed, to one's own marriage, to one's own family and to parenting, avoidance of domestic arguments, taking responsibility for one's behavior, providing financially for the family, etc.

## Possible classifications of families of convicts

Offenders serving custodial sentences come from very different families. Their relationships with their families, as mentioned above, also differ. They present different attitudes towards their lives and their families as well as to their loved ones. They have differing expectations with regard to their families and different relationships with them while in prison. Consequently, they treat them differently during prison visits, day release, phone calls and plan differently for their future after their sentences have been served. Prisoners and their families can be classified by length of sentence. In practice, prisoners' families are usually distinguished as follows:

- Short-term – sentences up to one year.
- Medium-term – sentences up to three years.
- Long-term – sentences over three years and up to life imprisonment.

This division of prisoners' families requires competent prison staff to use differing approaches in their correctional work with those sentenced, in both the correctional and rehabilitative context. The longer the date of a criminal's release, the more intense the correctional services of prison teachers and psychologists with regard to those criminals and their families. The efforts of prison administration to maintain proper family relationships is usually greater, the longer a prisoner's stay in prison. Maintaining a proper relationship between the inmates and their families makes successful social rehabilitation and reintegration easier, as acknowledged by probation officers and supported by statistical evidence, especially of multiple offenders. Special considerations are required when working towards the social rehabilitation of prisoners serving 25 year and life sentences. Observation of penal practices reveals that the longer the stay in prison, the easier it is to notice when the family distances itself from the offender, and vice versa. As is well known, the Polish penal system (Act of 1997), despite making access pass provision for these convicts (therein the highest type of reward), keeps them a significantly distant prospect with respect to the actual prison sentence. For people serving a 25 year prison sentence – passes can be applied for after serving 15 years, and for "lifers" – after 25 years (Article 139 § 5, K.K.W.). It is worth

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<sup>10</sup> See W. Stępiński, *Pomiędzy resocjalizacją a pracą socjalną. Dylematy współczesnej penitencjarystyki*, [in:] *Więzienictwo: nowe wyzwania. II Polski Kongres Penitencjarny*, ed. W. Ambrozik, B. Hołyst, W. Stępiński, COSSW, Warsaw-Kalisz 2001, pp. 71–84.

noting that pass allocation to these prisoners is decidedly discretionary and depends on many conditions (*vide* the case of M. Trynkiewicz, January, February 2014). It should be added that, in accordance with Article 77 § 2 of the penal code, a court can issue a judgment providing for the minimum length of imprisonment, in excess of 25 years, that someone should serve before being able to apply for conditional release, e.g. 30 years instead of 25. This will vary depending on the conditions and circumstances of the offense, most often murder. In ending this condensed information, I will add Article 54 § 2 , which reads: "In respect to an offender, who at the time of the commission of the offense has not completed 18 years of age, a sentence of life imprisonment cannot be adjudicated." However, a sentence of 25 years imprisonment can be adjudicated. The Executive Criminal Code of 1997 (article 89 § 1 and 4) provides that a sentence of life imprisonment is to be served in a closed prison facility. Naturally, in the later term of the sentence and in so far as it is deserved, an inmate has the opportunity to advance to a semi or fully open facility. The transfer of a prisoner to an open or semi-open prison may not be made at any time. Someone sentenced to "life" can be moved to a semi-open facility only after they have served at least 15 years (Article 89 § 3 K.K.W.), and to an open facility after having served at least 20 years of their sentence. A clear progression is shown here; however it is conditional on the rehabilitation staff assessment of the prisoner's attitude. Already this short description of rehabilitation procedures indicates the specificity of working with prisoners and their families within the various sentencing categories. This applies equally to diagnostic procedures, rehabilitation and therapeutic programs and to auto-resocialisation when offenders refuse to submit to a programmed influence. The family of a convicted person should be assisted in dealing with sentence duration. Families should be advised of what is expected of them, what opportunities are available for the inmates to provide material assistance to their families and also informed of contact possibilities, of day passes and of the fact that every advance in privileges depends on demonstrated attitudes, with respect to the criminal offenses committed, to the family, and to prison duties. This work is therefore very varied, from a diagnostic, prognostic, and measured point of view. In each of the stages of the rehabilitation procedure, the rehabilitation staff, if it wants to have any effect, must have the authority and accept responsibility for the accuracy of their rehabilitative product, i.e. their assessment. It decides the fate of prisoners and can often decide on conditional early release from their sentences.

## Inmates by type of family relationship

When examining the state of family ties between an offender and their family, particularly between an offender and a husband or wife, you can distinguish the following types:

- No family relationship (with spouse or with children),
- Average, poor family ties,
- Strong, very good family ties.

The listed types of family relationships, or lack thereof, are important both for the functioning of criminals in their facilities, as well as for their prospective penal rehabilitation on release from prison. The existence of a family relationship, and particularly its clear demonstration by inmates, motivates them to some form of positive action. We know from experience that a good family bond makes it easier to maintain good relations with your loved ones, to plan positive life strategy, to rebuild your life in the “free world”.. Generally, criminals wait to be released and to return to their loved ones while at the same time renouncing any return to crime. They find reinforcement of this attitude in their families. The families of prisoners usually live with the hope that this is the last time and are often disappointed. No ties with loved ones create a sense of isolation, there are no meaningful plans upon release, and there is the awareness that no one will be waiting for them after they leave the prison system, thus the whole rehabilitation process will be of very individual in character. Research by a group of lawyers, under the direction of the recently deceased criminal specialist professor L. Bogunia<sup>11</sup>, confirms this situation. The lack of a relationship with a wife or husband because they are in conflict, because they are divorced and does not count on returning to them, because it is a custodial sentence for domestic violence, incest or pedophilia, causes the offender to become isolated, a need to create a new life after release and to individually program their process of social re-adjustment. It is clear that the matter of the re-integration process seems to be extremely difficult if not impossible. A sense of isolation denoting no ties with loved ones, specifically with wife and family, impedes the penal reintegration process. Kmiecik-Baran<sup>12</sup> defines isolation as a deplorable state of mind, caused by qualitative and quantitative detachment from the important elements of social reality, such as: other people (wife or husband, as the object of love and desire), norms, personal values, behaviours and personal views. The author in reviewing the various definitions of the concept of “isolation” emphasizes clearly that they all state that a sense of isolation causes undesirable emotional states that lead to a variety of behavioural disorders. She adds that a sense of isolation is perceived when “a person cannot find support in themselves or in others”. For example, a prisoner with a damaged spousal relationship, with no support from a loved one, begins to notice the need for such a person. K. Kmiecik-Baran stresses, however, that internal support denotes inner strength, an independence

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<sup>11</sup> L. Bogunia, R. Godyła, *Oczekiwania skazanych w zakresie pomocy od społeczeństwa*, [in:] *Więzienictwo: nowe wyzwania. II Polski Kongres Penitencjarny*, ed. W. Ambrozik, B. Hołyst, W. Stępnia, COSSW, Warsaw–Kalisz 2001, p. 520 and n.

<sup>12</sup> K. Kmiecik-Baran, *Poczucie osamotnienia – charakterystyka zjawiska*, “Przegląd Psychologiczny” 1988, t. XXXI, No. 4.

from the surroundings. This only occurs when a man has deep, strong beliefs and ideas and these provide him with an inner strength – however, he does feel a lack of support from those who are important to him. As we know, most male criminals, including married men, are poorly educated, coming from the lower layers of society. Observation shows that they do not have any deep, strong, or particularly positive social beliefs and ideas. They do not therefore hold any specific value as citizens. According to Waiss, already discussing this issue in 1973, "social isolation appears when the subject, (man), possesses varying friendships, loves and knowledge that are inadequate to their needs. Solitude is often accompanied by boredom, alienation and a sense of being left outside the mainstream (social exclusion). Emotional isolation occurs when the unit is missing a partner or a close friendship. The result of emotional isolation is a strong feeling of anxiety, fear, impatience, insomnia, and a feeling of emptiness".<sup>13</sup> This researcher has confirmed that this is also the case with prisoners. In penal practice the question concerning prisoners and their families, as I have tried to show, is important both for assistance programs and for the purpose of rehabilitation. Where there are no links between prisoners and their families, there is no one to whom they can refer to nor are there any life goals which could mobilise them to correct their antisocial behavior. Where possible, rehabilitation staff can and should help rebuild social bonds with family. Where a prisoner has very good social ties with their family, it should be referred to in the process of strengthening social rehabilitation efforts. It can be seen, therefore, that the matter of the quality of social family bonds requires care from the penitentiary staff. At present about 30% of prisoners do not work, and hence do not earn money. In such a situation, spending on cigarettes, tea, coffee and the cost of passes must be borne by the family. Many of them are unable to repay debts owed to other prisoners. A category of prisoners requiring protection is thereby created, since the non return of debts is unpardonable as well as being contrary to the objectives of social rehabilitation. Offenders, who do not work, cannot financially support their families. They also owe alimony, which additionally works to destroy their familial bonds and reduces their capacity for rehabilitation.

There are three conclusions concerning penal practice as a result of these considerations:

- The family relationship of a prisoner should be very carefully described in the social rehabilitation diagnosis,
  - A criminal's family bond should be continuously assessed and strengthened throughout the social rehabilitation process as an important factor conducive to proper rehabilitation and social reintegration,
  - Penitentiary staff, concerned with maintaining good family relationships, should design appropriate psychological support for their proper maintenance.<sup>14</sup>
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<sup>13</sup> R.S. Weiss, *Loneliness: The Experience of Emotional and Social Isolation*, Boston 1973, p. 102.

<sup>14</sup> B. Okun, *Skuteczna pomoc psychologiczna*, psychology Health Institute, Warsaw 2002, pp. 253–276.

The state of family relationships between offenders and their families should be constantly monitored and, if at all possible, maintained at the required level. As a fundamental of social rehabilitation it is therefore necessary that they be “prepared” for the moment of release. The maintenance of this status should be dealt with by qualified teachers – excellent therapists who know<sup>15</sup> how to prepare prisoners for release from prison so they may be returned to family.

Women prisoners deal with prison confinement a little differently (worse, more problematically). They are worried about leaving their children and fear that they will be abandoned by husbands or life partners. Sometimes they carry a sense of guilt (if their offense, usually murder or causing injury, was the result of self-defense from their life partner’s abuse). Here typically, relationships in the form of family or marriage ties cease to exist, and the woman suddenly finds herself in a very singular, traumatic situation. Penal practice indicates the unusual difficulty and even inability to rebuild such ties, which must adversely affect the later process of social rehabilitation. J. Cegielska has stated that a certain number of women imprisoned for murder, are people who, as a result of being victims of domestic violence have themselves (in self-defense, in desperation, in affection) become criminals. Listed here categories of offenses require special psycho-corrective handling, because many of these female offenders blame themselves for not having been able to deal with their abusive situations. Cegielska writes: “they remained with their abusers because of fear, because of the good of the child, and because of love and belief that their tormentor (husband, common-law-husband, life partner) will change under their influence. They continue to languish in a sense of injustice and helplessness, because they consider the consequences of their actions as too severe and the many-year prison sentence as a continuance of violence against them. They also suffer because of separation from their children. Consequently, their penitentiary social rehabilitation is quite specific. It is based on teaching them how to deal with violence and addiction, but also teaching them a healthy style of life, active and creative exercises, and basic life skills”.<sup>16</sup> In the case of women the preparation is different than for men for their social rehabilitation and social reintegration.<sup>17</sup>

Based on personal observations made during practice, I can risk the claim that it is not difficult to come up with three different categories concerning offenders serving custodial sentences:<sup>18</sup>

Incidental criminals and other short-term inmates, who due to unpleasant experiences in the course of the police and prosecutor investigations and judicial

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<sup>15</sup> J. Kottler, *Skuteczny terapeut*, GWP, Gdańsk 2003, pp. 99–128.

<sup>16</sup> M. Marczak (ed.), *Resocjalizacyjne programy penitencjarne realizowane przez Służbę Więzienią w Polsce. „Programy z zakresu profilaktyki przemocy w rodzinie”*, Oficyna Wydawnicza “Pulse”, Kraków 2009, pp. 160–169.

<sup>17</sup> J. Cegielska, *Kobieta w więzieniu*, penitentiary “Forum” 2005, No. 7.

<sup>18</sup> H. Machel, *Więzienie jako instytucja karna i resocjalizacyjna*, Wydawnictwo “Arche”, Gdańsk 2003, p. 44.

process, have decided to break with crime. Most have committed crimes that are not socially threatening. The vast majority will not return to crime, because they have the appropriate resolve and are generally not sufficiently demoralised. Rehabilitative action is not necessary in their case. If they were arrested and were not released pending trial, then their sentence is reduced by time already served, which makes their sentence very short. During this short period, up to a year, it is very difficult to carry out a robust diagnosis. It is all the more difficult to construct a meaningful correction program, because it would entail a short-cut rehabilitation, which doesn't exist. According to my very subjective estimate, such offenders number around 5–7% of the prison population. For this category of criminal, probation would be more effective<sup>19</sup> rather than correctional facilities.

Corrupt and even dangerous criminals, susceptible to social rehabilitation, capable of self-criticism and reflecting a sense of guilt, willing to change their thinking as a result of the staff's and their own activities, whose ties with their families are good or suitable for improvement or reconstruction, who can and should be rescued for their own sake, for their families and for society. Approximately 55 to 60% of criminals fall into this group.

Highly corrupt, including professional criminals, premeditative killers and particularly cruel, whose degeneration has resulted in mental problems, or in other endogenous defects of different origin, governing their behavior. An example would be predators, intense psychopaths, necrophiliacs, etc. These people cannot even be helped by means of non-isolation facilities. According to my estimates these types of criminals make up 30 to 35% of the Polish prison population.

Based on my many years experience of the prison system, I take the position that the first category (short-term) of offender should in general not be placed in a prison and that intensive rehabilitation efforts should be directed at the second category, whose members submit to correctional psychology under prison conditions and who show promise in terms of social rehabilitation. For the third category of offender, elements of "preservation" should dominate and at present this is the practice. However, the problem lies in the diagnosis as this is the basis on which this sort of prison system model is agreed.

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<sup>19</sup> A. Bałandynowicz, *Probacja. System sprawiedliwego karania*, "C. F. Muller Lex Utilis", Warsaw 2002.

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