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Fråga-svar

Ryssland. Tvångsrekrytering och FSB

Fråga

- Förekommer tvångsrekrytering av ryska medborgare till militärtjänstgöring i Ukraina?
- Ägnar sig federala säkerhetstjänsten (FSB) åt tvångsrekrytering av personer till militärtjänsten? Vilka metoder använder de sig av?

Svar

Förekommer det tvångsrekrytering av ryska medborgare till militärtjänstgöring i Ukraina?

Ryssland har en ettårig värnplikt för alla män mellan 18 och 27 år (CIA, 2015). I juni 2014 introducerade möjligheten att välja mellan ett år som värnpliktig eller två år som kontrakterad soldat (Russia Today 2014-10-29). Lagen förbjuder värnpliktiga att strida utomlands, men ett flertal människorättsorganisationer rapporterar att värnpliktiga pressas till eller luras att skriva under kontrakt som gör dem till yrkesmilitärer. Reuters (2015-05-10):

In Russia, all men aged between 18 and 27 have to serve 12 months in the military. By law, these conscripts cannot be sent abroad. But according to human rights activists, military officials have been promising conscripts financial incentives to sign contracts that make them professional soldiers. The officials then push the soldiers into going to Ukraine.

Sergei Krivenko, head of a rights group called "Citizen. Army. Rights" and a member of a human rights council created by the Kremlin, has dealt with soldiers' rights since the early 2000s. He said military commanders are trying to find more people who will go to Ukraine voluntarily, "but this is still 'volunteers' in quotation marks, because there is harsh pressure."

Krivenko said commanders take a carrot-and-stick approach: They offer large financial rewards to contract soldiers willing to go to Ukraine. If soldiers refuse, they are told to resign, he said. "You can't criminally prosecute someone for not following the order, because the order itself doesn't exist on paper. It's only oral."

Reuters could not independently verify Krivenko's account.

Fenomenet bekräftas av flertalet olika källor, som utgår från uttalanden av ryska MR-organisationer som Committee of Soldiers' Mothers och Memorial. The Daily Beast (2014-08-28):

Russian conscripts are forced to sign contracts saying they're volunteering to fight with the separatists, said [Valentina Melnikova, the head of Russia's Soldiers' Mothers Committee], and "if the guys refuse to sign, their commanders sign the paperwork for them."

CBC News (2015-02-21):

Human rights groups have received dozens of complaints in the past month alone from Russian conscripts like Alexander who say they have been strong-armed or duped into signing contracts with the military to become professional soldiers, after which they were sent to participate in drills in the southern Rostov region.

"We receive messages from all over in which (soldiers) say that they're being sent again to Rostov for military exercises," said Valentina Melnikova, head of the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers, a group with a three-decade history of working to protect soldiers' rights.

"Those who have been there (to the Rostov region) before know that in actual fact it means Ukraine."

Utöver press på rekryter att skriva under kontrakt finns även rapporter om att yrkessoldater tvingas strida i Ukraina som volontärer. Den brittiska tankesmedjan Royal United Services Institute (RUSI, mars 2015):

There are reports of Russian military personnel being intimidated into 'volunteering' for covert combat in eastern Ukraine. On several occasions, conscripts have been fraudulently 'converted' into professional status to do so, sometimes being recorded as apparently having expressed a desire to become professionals; on at least one occasion it was reported that the unit's commander forged contracts, signing them himself for unaware conscripts. (s. 8)

Det rapporteras även om påtryckningar för att förhindra organisationer och individer från att berätta om tvångsrekryteringar. The Moscow Times (2015-01-29):

Boris Vishnevsky, a deputy for the liberal Yabloko party in the St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly, wrote a formal letter on Jan. 23 to the Western Military District's military prosecutor Artur Yegiyev.

"I received similar reports from the north [of Russia]. We are talking about people being forced to sign contracts, about soldiers being dispatched to Ukraine, and moreover we are talking about how they [senior military personnel] then get sent coffins from there and write some totally crazy causes of death on the death certificates, such as a training grenade exploding in their hands."

Vishnevsky added, however, that he had yet to obtain any documented proof to back up the claims made in the phone calls and conversations.

"It's obvious that people won't give their names because they are scared, but I am waiting for at least some concrete facts, names and numbers of military units, so that I can file a formal appeal," he said.

Lyudmila Ivakhnina of the human rights advocacy organization Memorial in Moscow said that pressuring conscripts to sign professional contracts appears to be a "massive" practice in Russia. Speaking to The Moscow Times by phone Thursday, Ivakhnina said that few human rights groups are prepared to publish information about the issue out of fear of reprisals being taken against the soldiers whose relatives turn to them.

In addition, human rights groups themselves do not feel safe, Ivakhnina said, citing pressure on activists who reported the deaths of Russian soldiers allegedly killed in Ukraine.

As a result, of five organizations that have reported — via human rights advocacy channels — cases of conscripts being forced to sign contracts, three asked not to be named in the media, Ivakhnina said.

However, when soldiers are persistent and not afraid, they have a chance of winning, even if only one case of legal action being taken over forced contract signing is known in Russia so far, she said.

A soldier from Perm — referred to in a report by the regional ombudsman as Private K. for his own safety — was pressured to sign a contract after completing his compulsory military service in August. Instead, he left his military unit based in Tula and reported the situation to Perm ombudsman Tatyana Margolina and received legal assistance in filing a lawsuit against his unit. In October, he won his case when the Tula Garrison Military Court ruled that the actions of his commanders had been illegal.

Den oberoende libanesesiska nättidningen Naharnet citerar en människorättsorganisation som anser att värnpliktiga har något större möjligheter än yrkesmilitärer att vågra åka till Ukraina. Naharnet (2015-02-02):

However draftees are better able to refuse to perform an illegal order than career soldiers, [Sergei Krivenko, head of Citizen and the Army] said.

Även ryska sajter har publicerat intervjuer med soldater och familjemedlemmar som vittnar om tvångsrekrytering. Efter uppgifter från Committee of Soldiers' Mothers berättas exempelvis om hur 250 värnpliktiga från staden Ryazan tvingats ingå avtal i syfte att skicka dem till Ukraina. Bland annat berättar en namngiven soldat i ett brev hur han och 50 andra skickats till Rostovregionen och där av sin befälhavare tvingats skriva under kontrakt. De som vägrade blev meddelade att befälhavaren skulle skriva under åt dem (РБК, 2014-08-28). Ryska TV Dozhd har rapporterat om liknande fall från Tula och Rostov, och stationen har bekräftat informationen genom kontakt med drabbade värnpliktigas föräldrar (Телеканал Дождь, 2014-09-01). Radiostationen Echo Moscow har publicerat brev från tre föräldrar som vittnar om att deras söner tvingats skriva under kontrakt för att strida i Ukraina (Эхо Москвы, 2014-09-15).

I RUSI:s rapport över ryska trupper i Ukraina finns en karta över vilka militärförläggningar de ryska soldaterna i Ukraina kommer från (RUSI, mars 2015, s. 5).

Ägnar sig federala säkerhetstjänsten (FSB) åt tvångsrekrytering av personer till militärtjänsten? Vilka metoder använder de sig av?

Inblandning av FSB har inte nämnts i rapporter om tvångsrekryteringar för strider i Ukraina.

En uppmärksammas tvångsvärkning av den regimkritiske aktivisten Oleg Kozlovsky 2008 pekar ut FSB som involverade i själva bortförandet. Människorättsorganisationen Citizen and the Army kopplar det till ett vidare problem där myndigheterna tvångsvärvat regimkritiker och människorättsaktiviter för att tysta ned dem. The Washington Post (2008):

The group Citizen and the Army, which opposes the draft and wants a volunteer army in Russia, said that in the past year it has documented dozens of cases of young political activists being taken to conscription offices. ... "Illegally drafting people is not new, and it's happening all over the place. But the political motivation is a new tactic," said Maxim Burmitsky, head of legal defense at Citizen and the Army.

Kozlovsky said in an interview with a Russian publication that his problem began Dec. 20 as he was leaving an apartment in Moscow. He was approached by a police officer, who told Kozlovsky he had to go to a military enlistment office to "solve a few problems." Two plainclothes officers were waiting nearby in a police car, he said.

"None of them would show me their identity documents," Kozlovsky told Generation P, a Russian newspaper, which reached him by telephone. "I was later informed that the two in plainclothes were FSB agents."

Denna sammanställning av information/länkar är baserad på informationssökningar gjorda under en begränsad tid. Den är sammanställd utifrån noggrant utvalda och allmänt tillgängliga informationskällor. Alla använda källor refereras. All information som presenteras, med undantag av obestridda/uppenbara fakta, har dubbelkontrollerats om inget annat anges. Sammanställningen gör inte anspråk på att vara uttömmande och bör inte tillmätas exklusivt bevisvärde i samband med avgörandet av ett enskilt ärende. Informationen i sammanställningen återspeglar inte nödvändigtvis Migrationsverkets officiella ståndpunkt i en viss fråga och det finns ingen avsikt att genom sammanställningen göra politiska ställningstaganden. Refererade dokument bör läsas i sitt sammanhang.

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