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Fråga-svar

Vitryssland. Polisen

Fråga

Finns det färsk information om enskildas möjligheter att i Vitryssland polisanmäla, få sina anmälan utredd samt få skydd av polisen från kriminella strukturer?

Svar

Information från de senaste åren som direkt besvarar frågorna har inte gått att hitta. Informationen nedan rör polisväsendets kapacitet och integritet på ett mer generellt plan.

Två amerikanska källor, som båda organisatoriskt hör till US Department of State (US DOS), bedömer att vitrysk polis har begränsad kapacitet att utreda brott. Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) är ett samarbetsorgan vars syfte är att främja säkerhet för amerikanska affärsintressen utomlands. OSAC (2015-12-23):

Criminal activity remains a concern due to the lack of adequate Belarusian police enforcement and response. In general, law enforcement agencies do not meet U.S./EU standards, and their ability to deter street-level criminal activity is low, as is their ability to investigate criminal incidents adequately. Law enforcement has been used for political reasons. Corruption is a problem. Law enforcement agencies can be part of the problem rather than a part of the solution. Inadequate training, poor working conditions, and shortages of basic equipment contribute greatly to general ineffectiveness.

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Passports & International Travel (2015-03-30):

Belarus police organizations are well trained and professional, but severely restricted by an un-reformed Soviet-era legal system, corruption, and politicization of the police force and other government authorities. Due to low salaries, it is not uncommon for officers to collect bribes during traffic stops. Sophisticated criminal investigations are often inconclusive because of a lack of resources and/or political will.

Även det australiensiska handels- och utrikesdepartementet rapporterar om polisövergrepp. Citatet kommer ur en sammanställning av råd till utländska besökare i Vitryssland. Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2016-01-12):

There have been reports of harassment, mistreatment and extortion by police or other local officials.

Enligt en artikel publicerad i Belarus Digest är polisstyrkans storlek i förhållande till brottsstatistiken problematisk. Belarus Digest (2012-11-07):

It is a widely known fact that Belarus has the largest per capita number of police among the ex-USSR countries. While the world average for this proportion is around 3 officers per 1000 citizens, in Belarus it reaches 14 officers. It is twice as much as in Russia or Ukraine and three times as much as in Moldova or Azerbaijan.

If compared to statistics of registered crimes per capita in the region, the excess of police presents a real problem for society. Although the number of crimes per 100 000 citizens in recent 5 years clearly decreased, Belarus stays among the leaders of crime in post-communist area. It firmly holds the second place after Russia throughout the period.

I en nyare artikel, även den publicerad i Belarus Digest men författad av en annan skribent, anges att polisstyrkans storlek är jämförbar med andra östeuropeiska länders. Artikeln påvisar genom hänvisningar till olika undersökningar att allmänhetens tilltro till polisväsendet är låg. Belarus Digest (2016-02-04):

Belarusian police often threaten rather than protect the public, a fact that has become especially evident of late. While police misconduct occurs in democratic and non-democratic states alike, the lack of respect for human and civil rights in Belarus is also to blame for the excessive use of force. In spite of efforts to reform policing, the country's police force is inordinately large, frequently acts with impunity, and is little trusted by the population at large.

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In a March 2012 survey by the Institute for Social-Economic and Political Studies (IISEPS), 19.5 per cent of respondents cited the use of excessive force and violence as the worst problem facing Belarusian police. Fifteen per cent of respondents reported that they or their friends and family had been subjected to police violence.

These responses are especially revealing because police violations are rarely covered in the official media.

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Belarus's law enforcement agencies do not publish statistics on the number of violations by its personnel, nor for that matter, on the actual size of the force.

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Estimates published in a 2010 report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) suggest that Belarus is indeed not far from Europe's average. According to the report, Belarus in 2004 had 326 police personnel per 100,000 people. This estimate is close to Eastern Europe's average /.../

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Corruption, weak professionalism, and excessive force have reduced public trust in law enforcement agencies. According to a 2015 survey administered by the Interior Ministry, only one third of respondents expressed complete confidence in the police. The results of independent polling are even more troubling: asked in a 2015 survey by the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Studies (BISS) where they turn to for support and protection when their civic or political rights are violated, just 40 per cent of respondents mentioned law enforcement agencies.

To be fair, the situation is much direr in neighbouring Russia and Ukraine, where corruption and violence are even more pervasive. Tabulating 2011 World Values Survey data indicates that the Belarusian police are not doing so poorly in comparison.

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In 2012, Lukashenka announced another round of police reforms. An explicit goal was to reducing personnel while significantly increasing salary levels. In April 2015, a police captain with 10 years' seniority could earn 7 million rubles (\$500) a month, according to Shunevich, slightly above the average national income of 6,500 million rubles (\$450).

Yet better pay and changes in organisational structure have hardly increased the professionalism. What Belarus's police force really needs is better training and greater transparency. Without transparency, the majority of police violations go undetected and unpunished.

So far, the government's response to police brutality has been to silence critics.

Enligt uppgifter från US DOS är möjligheterna att anmäla polisövergrepp begränsade. US DOS (2015-06-25):

Impunity among law enforcement personnel remained a serious problem. Individuals have the right to report police abuse to a prosecutor, although the government often did not investigate reported abuses or hold perpetrators accountable. (s. 8)

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The law provides that individuals can file lawsuits seeking damages for a human rights violation, but the civil judiciary was not independent and was rarely impartial in such matters. (s. 14)

Utsatta grupper

Många källor rapporterar att oppositionella och MR-aktivister är särskilt utsatta för trakasserier av myndighetsrepresentanter (US DOS, 2015-06-25, s. 1; Human Rights Center "Viasna", 2016-01-24). Ett uppmärksammat fall är bloggaren Aleh Zhalnou, som gjort sig känd för sina rapporter kring polisiär misshandling. Enligt Reporters without Borders (2014-03-10),

/.../ he has been picked up by the police at least 40 times in recent months. He has been the subject of legal proceedings 14 times, as well as being searched several times and having computer equipment seized. He has also been forced to undergo numerous psychiatric examinations.

Även hans son har arresterats och hans fru fått sparken från sitt jobb, något Freedom House tolkar som vedergällning för kritiken Aleh Zhalnou publicerat på sin blogg. Det rapporteras även att Zhalnou misshandlats av okända förövare och polisen inte utrett brottet. I Freedom Houses årssammanställning nämns även att lokala myndigheter och Inrikesministeriet vägrat ta emot en anmälan från en oppositionell politiker, Valery Karankevich, gällande förtal på en hemsida. Instället förhördes Karankevich gällande hemsidans innehåll (Freedom House 2015).

Human Rights House rapporterar om en annan MR-försvarare som mötts av svårigheter att lämna in en polisanmälan. Human Rights House (2015-04-21):

"We see the actions undertaken in relation to Leanid Sudalenka as linked to his defence of Olga Grunova and his recent submission of a new complaint to the Human Rights Committee. The link between the submission of this complaint and the death threats is clear. Furthermore, the police investigation began only after he submitted a complaint against the police for the refusal to investigate serious threats against his children. These actions are indeed part of a campaign aimed at intimidating Leanid Sudalenka because of his human rights work."

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.

Källförteckning

(alla källor hämtades 2016-02-17)

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