

2011-10-06

Landinformationsenheten

Fråga-svar

Tvångssteriliseringar i Uzbekistan

Fråga

Inkom 2011-10-04

Jag skulle behöva lite information om åtgärder av födelsekontroll som är sanktionerat av presidenten. Enligt en sökande som är läkare handlar detta egentligen om tvångssteriliseringar.

Jag skulle också vilja veta om läkare behöver särskilt tillstånd för att resa ut ur landet?

Svar

US Department of State: Country Report on Human Rights Practices skriver 2010 om födelsekontroll i Uzbekistan:

"The government generally allowed couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing, and timing of their children, and it granted access to information and the means to do so free from discrimination, coercion, and violence. There were, however, several reports of involuntary sterilizations of women and allegations that the government pressured doctors to sterilize women to control the birth rate. The government's official policy is for doctors to encourage all forms of family planning including sterilization, which may not be done without the informed consent of the patient."

EurasiaNet. Rapporterar mars 2010:

"It's still unclear whether officials have in fact pushed for such drastic medical procedures, as a regional information website and some rights activists insist. But Uzbek health authorities are clearly

eager to curb pregnancies among some categories of women -- including younger women and those beyond their mid-30s -- and they acknowledge that "social and economic factors" play a role in which women are advised to undergo hysterectomies, for instance."

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"Some observers say that whether fact or fiction, fears of forced sterilization have reached the point that women are avoiding routine medical checkups and others are opting for home birth so they don't have to face the kind of scrutiny that could lead to unwarranted hysterectomies."

EurasiaNet skriver om repressalier mot läkare:

"Doctors who do not fulfill the government's forced-sterilization order are reportedly subject to a variety of punishments."They may face problems in the form of a reprimand or a fine," the working group statement said. "With conditions of mass unemployment, it can be expected that doctors will almost completely fulfill the established plan, out of fear of losing their job."

Nazhot, a human rights organization working in the Khorezm region, alleged that fear of adverse repercussions is driving doctors to engage in unethical practices. "There are cases of deception, where doctors are deceiving women, telling them that they have encountered serious illness that makes surgical sterilization a must," said a report that Nazhot published in February."

Institute for War and Peace Reporting rapporterar i augusti 2010 om tvångssterilisering:

"The authorities in Uzbekistan are pressing ahead with a concerted campaign to force sterilisation on women as a way of curbing the population.

Human rights activists in the country say the campaign is into its second phase, which will continue until August 15.

The prosecution service, local government and "mahalla" or neighbourhood committees are playing a role by identifying women of childbearing age.

Phase one took place in spring, under a programme officially described as "intensified supervision of medical examinations for women of childbearing age", according to a healthcare worker who requested anonymity."

United Kingdom: Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Human Rights and Democracy skriver i mars 2011 om tvångssterilisering under 2010:

"However, concerns persisted about the treatment of women. Independent human rights groups have reported allegations of female suspects being raped while in detention facilities and of an unofficial policy of forced sterilisation of women in poorer rural areas, as a means of controlling birth rates."

The Sunday Times skriver i april 2010 om hur kvinnor i Uzbekistan steriliserats i smyg och om reprissalier mot läkare:

"Activists say mass sterilisation began in 2003, but was eased after two years following an outcry. It is said to have restarted in February this year, when the health ministry ordered doctors to recommend sterilisation as an "effective contraceptive". Critics claim every doctor was told to persuade "at least two women" a month to have the procedure. Doctors who failed faced reprisals and fines"

"Uzbek authorities deny that sterilisations are carried out without consent, but a report by the United Nations Committee Against Torture reported a "large number" of cases three years ago. According to the UN, Uzbekistan's fertility rate has fallen from 4.4 babies per woman to 2.5 since Karimov came to power"

International Crisis Group (ICG), Central Asia rapporterar i february 2011:

"Doctors in Uzbekistan are ordered to recruit women for sterilisation and, during the economically vital cotton-picking season, deny sick notes."

The Lancet skriver i maj 2010 om hinder gällande rörelsefrihet och yttrandefrihet för läkare:

"Health-care workers in the capital Tashkent have privately said that the new law, which forces doctors to submit presentations and speeches abroad for government approval among other things, is an instrument for ruling authorities to stop the outside world discovering the real state of the health-care sector."

"Major international organisations, including WHO and USAID, work in cooperation with the government on various health-care projects. But many foreign organisations have reportedly had their efforts hindered or even actively repressed by the authorities."

"Privately, some foreign workers in the health sector have admitted to The Lancet that speaking out in any way against the authorities or criticising the health-care sector could have "serious consequences" for their operations. They admit though that there are large problems with health-care standards. Supplies of equipment and medicines are lacking and bribery in the sector is rife. Public health awareness is also poor, partly because of the attitude of the authorities to providing information."

"The latest restrictions force doctors travelling abroad to submit copies of any speeches they may give at meetings or seminars to the health ministry beforehand. They must also file a full report on their trip to authorities within 3 days of their return. Failure to do so will result in a ban on any future travel."

Moscow Times skriver i march 2010 om läkares rörelsefrihet:

"Health workers traveling to medical conferences abroad must provide copies of their speeches to the Health Ministry in advance of departure. The group also said physicians would need to submit a report on their overseas activities to government officials within three days of their return, or risk punitive measures and a travel ban."

Human Rights News rapporterar i september 2011:

"All citizens of Uzbekistan must have an exit permit to leave the country. These restrictions also apply to foreign citizens residing permanently in Uzbekistan for business. As part of the exit visa process, and ostensibly in an effort to combat trafficking-in-persons, Uzbekistan introduced regulations that require women aged 18-35 or their male relatives to submit a statement pledging that the women would not engage in illegal behavior, including prostitution, while abroad, as we have heard. In addition, Uzbekistan passed legislation last year hampering Uzbeki national doctors' travel abroad, including by reportedly requiring these doctors to submit presentations and speeches abroad for government approval beforehand."

Konsulterade källor:

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