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Fråga-svar

Dagestan. Rebeller, kvinnor, våldtäkt och myndighetsskydd.

Fråga

- Finns det rebeller i Dagestan?
- Förekommer repressalier från ickestatliga aktörer gentemot familjemedlemmar till personer som har anslutit sig till rebeller i Dagestan?
- Finns det landinformation om att myndigheter i Ryssland bestraffar familjemedlemmar och medhjälpare till rebeller i Dagestan?
- Hur ser situationen ut för kvinnor i Dagestan?
- Är våldtäkt stigmatiserat och skambelagt i Dagestan?
- Kan en kvinna som blivit våldtagen vända sig till myndigheterna i Dagestan?

Svar

Rebeller i Dagestan

Dagestan anses idag vara centrum för den nordkaukasiska rebellrörelsen. Danish Immigration Service (DIS, 2015):

A lawyer from Grozny stated that there are very few active insurgents left in Chechnya. The few who are remaining are found in the border region towards Dagestan and Ingushetia. The insurgents are mainly active in Dagestan. (s. 24)

De våldsamma konflikterna i Dagestan beror inte enbart på rebellernas närvaro. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL, 2015-10-08):

Dagestan is beset by violence linked to an Islamist insurgency rooted in two post-Soviet separatist wars in neighboring Chechnya as well as organized crimes, business disputes, and clan rivalry.

Även US Department of State (USDOS) ser flera skäl till instabiliteten i området. USDOS (2014a):

Violence continued in the North Caucasus republics, driven by separatism, interethnic conflict, jihadist movements, vendettas, criminality, excesses by security forces, and the activity of terrorists in the country. Dagestan continued to be the most violent area in the North Caucasus, with more than 60 percent of all casualties in the region. (s. 17)

Enligt Caucasian Knot dog 341 personer till följd av stridigheterna i norra Kaukasus under 2014, varav 208 dödades i Dagestan (Caucasian Knot 2015).

Repressalier från ickestatliga aktörer gentemot familjemedlemmar till personer som har anslutit sig till rebeller i Dagestan

Majoriteten av rapporteringen gällande attacker eller annan negativ uppmärksamhet riktad mot familjemedlemmar till påstådda rebeller fokuserar på myndigheternas agerande. Nedan följer exempel på andra repressalier, men notera att det enbart är exempel och inte en fullständig redogörelse.

Jamestown Foundation (2014) beskriver hur media tenderar att utmåla rebellers fruar som stridande:

The Russian media normally portray the wives of militants as female insurgents. If the women refuse to leave the besieged premises, the media assumes that they are also active fighters. However, if all wives of the militants were counted as active members of the armed resistance movement, they would comprise a force larger than the males, since the insurgents tend to have several wives. A Muslim husband may prohibit his wife from surrendering to police, fearing that she will be raped, and this is why females often do not surrender during a majority of special operations. So, it is not justified to refer to women in besieged rebel houses as active rebels by default.

Enligt International Crisis Group (ICG, 2012) har det förekommit att vigilantgrupper hämnats dödade poliser och attackerat och hotat personer sammanlänkade med rebeller:

A similar group [of anti-Wahhabis] appeared in Dagestan in 2009, presenting itself as “revengists for relatives of killed policemen” and claiming to have abducted five people, three of whom were subsequently killed. It also issued death threats to sixteen public figures – journalists and human rights defenders – for helping Wahhabis. In July 2012, an internet video from “Robin Hoods of Kizilyurt and Kizilyurt district” showed masked and uniformed armed people calling themselves “police voluntary assistants”, urging militants to surrender and repent and promising to kill them and their relatives (except women and children) if they refused. (s. 29)

Förekomsten av inofficiella grupper som motarbetar rebellerna bekräftas av Jamestown Foundation (2013c):

Government support for the militia in Khajalmakhi indicates the authorities' ongoing inability to ensure what any government is expected to provide-personal safety. Previously, various informal groups appeared in Dagestan that claimed they had started waging war against the rebels, Salafis and their families.

Finns information om att myndigheter i Ryssland bestraffar familjemedlemmar och medhjälpare till rebeller i Dagestan?

Lagstiftning

Under 2013 kom en ny lag som gjorde anhöriga medansvariga för rebellverksamhet. USDOS (2014b) har i en årsrapport sammanfattat lagen:

In November, Russia enacted the "Compensation for Terrorist Acts Law," which is composed of amendments to counterterrorism legislation with the following provisions:

- Broadens investigations of suspects' assets to include the assets of family members and an undefined circle of "close ones."
- Assets determined to be derived from terrorist activities, including the assets of family members and "close ones," can be forfeited as compensation for victims of terrorism. The legislation is intended to disrupt the ethnic clan system that continued to create problems for law enforcement, but has been criticized by human rights groups as a form of collective punishment.

Jamestown Foundation (2013a):

The new legislation envisages that terrorists and their relatives will be indemnified for the losses of victims of terrorist attacks, including moral damages (<http://www.pravda.ru/news/society/27-09-2013/1175869-0/>). Thus, the principle of collective punishment has finally been officially introduced. The new legislation alters the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and the Law on Combating Terrorism (<http://vz.ru/news/2013/10/25/656724.html>).

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The adoption of the new national legislation forcing relatives of accused terrorists to compensate victims does not explain what happens when members of militants' families are unable to pay restitution for the actions of their kin. So the law seems to be more for preventive use than actual material compensation.

Attacker mot byar

Det finns rapporter om att byar kollektivt bestraffats i jakten på rebeller. Human Rights Watch (HRW) (2015):

Very few people outside Dagestan know about the remote mountain village of Vremenny, with just over 1,000 residents. Even fewer paid attention when on Sept. 18, Russian military, security services and Dagestani police surrounded the village. The next day, a large-scale counter-insurgency operation began in Vremenny. Armed military personnel searched every house. They led away four local men without explaining where, or why they were taking them. Three were later released, but 30-year-old Sultanbek Khapizov has not been seen since, a victim of a sinister enforced disappearance.

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The village was devastated in a way only a war zone can be. A dozen houses were blown up, another 40 damaged beyond repair. Those that weren't destroyed were stripped bare inside. There was neither electricity nor water. All the infrastructure was wiped out.

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According to the authorities, a dozen rebels were supposedly killed during the two month operation in Vremenny and some weapons and ammunition were found in the village. Whether or not this is true, the operation punished the entire village.

USDOS (2014a):

Burning the homes of suspected rebels reportedly continued. Ten homes were blown up and another 26 seriously damaged during a special forces operation in the Dagestani village of Gimry. Locals claimed that special forces removed the residents from the village, then looted and destroyed the houses as a form of collective punishment after they found insurgents in a nearby forest. (s. 18)

Jamestown Foundation (2013a):

The same developments have affected Dagestan. For example, in May 2013, the houses of relatives of militants in the city of Buinaksk were blown up. While officials claimed the houses were blown up because bombs found in them could not be defused, victims and eyewitnesses said the police simply forced people out of their homes and then demolished the structures without a court decision or prosecutors' orders (<http://goloslama.ru/news.php?id=16963>). These were not isolated cases. The new leader of Dagestan, Ramazan Abdulatipov, is an active proponent of such measures against all those tied to the rebels (<http://kavpolit.com/net-repressij-net-dzhixada/?print>). This past spring, he warned that the heads of the republic's districts will be held responsible for militant activities in their districts and will be replaced if militancy continues there (<http://chernovik.net/content/lenta-novostey/abdulatipov-prigrozil-glavam-mo-uvolneniyami-za-aktivnost-boevikov>).

Familjer

Flera källor omnämner att familjemedlemmar till misstänkta rebeller kan bestraffas av myndigheterna.

ICG (2014):

On 28 January, President Putin replaced Magomedov with Ramazan Abdulatipov, who in February closed the rehabilitation commission, marking the end of transparent public rehabilitation mechanisms and the start of repression against Dagestan's Salafi communities. Police operations conducted throughout the republic were accompanied by widespread allegations from human rights groups and victims of abductions, arrests, and often torture of suspected militants, their accomplices, relatives, and acquaintances. The security services allegedly blew up the houses of jihadis' close family members in Buynaksk, Novosaitli and Gimry, ten in the latter alone. The mother of an eighteen-year-old insurgent told Crisis Group that after her house was blown up, a photograph of him in camouflage was put on the gate, sending a clear message the action was punitive. (s. 7)

Jamestown Foundation (2013b)

The insurgency's response to the government's expanded counter-insurgency activities came on November 16, when a Dagestani insurgent calling himself Abu Muhammad Agachaulsky (Agachaul is a village in Dagestan's Karabudakhkent district) issued an appeal to the republic's Muslims urging them to help the insurgency. More importantly, the militant stated that because the government had started to target the families and children of the militants, they would do the same to servicemen and their families.

Jamestown Foundation (2013c):

Government pressure on certain categories of citizens took yet another form when the authorities appeared to pit civilians against each other. On August 27, a group of prominent Russian rights activists sent an open letter to government officials, charging that militias in the village of Khajalmakhi in Dagestan's Levashi district had resorted to violent actions against families of suspected rebels and, more generally, against adherents of Salafi Islam. At the beginning of August, the militias burned several houses belonging to relatives of suspected insurgents. Earlier, in March, a village meeting decreed that all people who were Salafis had to leave the village. An anonymous hit list of 33 villagers subsequently circulated in Khajalmakhi. According to media reports, seven people on the hit list have been killed in the village, while the police had designated none of those killed as suspects. The rights activists assert that the conflict started over financial fraud, but the initiators of the fraud managed to turn the financial conflict into a religious one, garnering support from the government and engaging in overtly illegal activities (<http://www.kavkaz-uzel.ru/articles/229124/>).

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL, 2013):

Rights groups say the revolt is driven by a mix of religion, corruption, and grievances about the strong-arm tactics some local leaders have employed against suspected militants and their families.

Situationen för kvinnor i Dagestan

När situationen för kvinnor i Dagestan omnämns i olika rapporter läggs fokus generellt på deras eventuella utsatthet för brudkidnappningar, våld och diskriminering.

United Kingdom: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (2015):

In the North Caucasus, women continued to face threats, including marriage by abduction and so-called honour killings. Draft legislation on domestic violence has been under consideration for over two years and we hope to see this finally introduced in 2015.

Anti-Discrimination Centre “Memorial” (2015):

Women and girls in traditional Muslim communities are at a particular risk for gender-based discrimination. In this respect the situation in North Caucasus has worsened over the past several years; the practice of violent bride kidnappings is on the rise, a very strict dress code has been imposed on women and clothing checks have been organized at Grozny University, the number of honour crimes in the region has increased, etc. The most critical situations involve suspicions of sexual offences. In 2012 and 2013, ADC “Memorial” documented two cases where women were forced to flee the region.

Example 1: Z., a female schoolgirl living in Dagestan, was blackmailed for several years by a local boy who had made a fake video showing Z. in a porn movie: he asked her for money and threatened to broadcast the video on the internet if she refused to pay. The girl was afraid that she would be killed by her parents if he uploaded the video. At some point the whole story was revealed and the two fathers started in a fight that ended in the death of both. Z. was the one considered guilty for everything that happened and was forced to leave her village and hide with her mother. Mother and daughter subsequently fled the region (in 2013). (s. 2-3)

European Union: European Asylum Support Office (EASO, 2014):

According to a representative of an international organisation in the North Caucasus region, a survey on gender-based violence in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Dagestan, in which both women and men were interviewed, showed that violence carried out by a spouse/cohabitant is the most common form of violence, followed by bride kidnapping /.../ (s. 18)
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The general perception is that less people get divorced in Chechnya than in Russia as a whole. This is due to the importance of the traditional family pattern in Chechen society. Corresponding family values are found in Ingushetia and Dagestan. If a relationship ends or a divorce happens, women are fortunate if they have someone to protect them. It is often the woman's father or brother who must ask for a divorce on her behalf. In such situations, animosity can easily arise between families. As noted in Chapters 3 and 8 many women are reluctant to get a divorce because they are afraid that they will lose contact with their children. (s. 27)

ICG (2012) rapporterar om situationen för salafistiska kvinnor:

Magomedov has significantly liberalised matters for Salafis. Security services no longer harass women in hijabs, but they are still discriminated against on the job and in the housing market. In state institutions, most supervisors accept hijab, but some are aggressively against, particularly in schools, where acute conflicts between parents and administrators occurred in the last two years. Two principals were killed due to their hijab ban. Some parents reportedly stop sending girls to school after puberty if they cannot wear hijab. (s. 9)

Är våldtäkt stigmatiserat och skambelagt i Dagestan?

De flesta källor fokuserar på situationen i Tjetjenien, men en del information framgår även vara giltig för övriga regionen.

EASO (2014):

According to the Russian Criminal Code article 131 rape is a criminal offence (120). The extent of rape in Chechnya and other parts of the region is not known since the abuse is generally not reported. However, according to Gannushkina, rape is widespread in Chechnya and the rest of the North Caucasus region, and for many girls their initial sexual experience is a rape. According to a Chechen lawyer, rape also occurs in police interrogation situations. The lawyer stated that he himself had heard police officers talking about this. Information about rape is kept secret, however.

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In Russia as a whole, 3 642 cases of rape were brought before the courts in 2011, according to the United States Department of State. In 2010, there were 4 221 cases. No data are available for 2012. In a Department of State report, fear of social stigma and the lack of support from the authorities are given as reasons for the low number of reported cases. The report does not provide any overall analysis of the outcome of the cases. The report does not give the number of rape cases brought before the courts in the Russian Federation in all of 2013, but indicates that the total number of rape cases reported in the first six months of 2013 dropped by 6% compared with 2012. The source of the figures is the Russian Federal State Statistics Service. No separate figures are provided for Chechnya or the North Caucasus region. (s. 21)

USDOS (2014a):

According to human rights groups, honor killings of women in Chechnya and elsewhere in North Caucasus region were increasing.

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In some parts of the North Caucasus, women continued to face bride kidnapping, polygyny, forced marriage (including child marriage), legal discrimination, and enforced adherence to Islamic dress codes.

/.../ There were cases in some parts of the North Caucasus where men, claiming that kidnapping brides is an ancient local tradition, reportedly abducted and raped young women, in some cases forcing them into marriage. In other cases the young women were permanently “sullied” as they were no longer virgins and could not enter a legitimate marriage according to local custom.

Civil Rights Defenders (2012):

Normally, cases of sexual- and gender based violence go unreported in Dagestan. Sexual violence is a taboo subject in a region where honour killings, bride kidnapping, and child marriage occur. There is an absence of debate on the political level on these issues.

Women’s rights are not high on the political agenda and gender based violence and other kind of abuses against women occur on a regular basis.

Kan en kvinne som blitt våldtagen vända sig till myndigheterna i Dagestan?

Enligt norska Landinfo är anmälningsfrekvensen för våldtäkt låg i norra Kaukasus, både på grund av svag tilltro till polisen och av traditionella skäl. Norge. Landinfo (2014):

Ifølge en russisk NGO (møte, februar 2010) som jobber med å forbygge vold mot kvinner (og som har jobbet med vold mot kvinner i Nord-Kaukasus) vil tsjetsjenske kvinner sannsynligvis ikke oppsøke russisk politi for å få beskyttelse i æresrelaterte voldssaker eller familievoldssaker. Det er ulike grunner til dette. For det første er det en høy terskel for kvinner i Nord-Kaukasus å fortelle om privatlivet til andre. Det er ingen tradisjon for tsjetsjenske kvinner å kontakte politiet for denne typen overgrep. For det andre har nordkaukasiere generelt lav tillit til politiet. Dette gjelder også for etniske russere, men det er grunn til å tro at nordkaukasiere har enda lavere tillit til politiet, som følge av at korrupsjon og myndighetsmisbruk er mer utbredt der enn i andre deler av Russland. Den lave tilliten til politiet i befolkningen generelt, og personer fra Nord-Kaukasus spesielt, blir bekreftet fra en diplomatkilde (møte i Moskva, oktober 2013). (s. 3)

Allmänt om ansvarsutkrävande för polisövergrepp i norra Kaukasus skriver USDOS (2014a):

There continued to be reports that security forces used indiscriminate force resulting in numerous deaths and that authorities did not prosecute the perpetrators.

ICG (2013) rapporterar om brister i polisutredningarna och korruption i systemet:

Widespread unlawful practices, corruption, and insufficient competence permeate the police in the North Caucasus, substantially undermining effectiveness and trust. (s. 34)

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The statistics do not inspire confidence in the official investigative authorities. While the North Caucasus has the most terrorist and insurgency-related incidents, it reports the fewest (after Stavropol Krai) of all other crimes. /.../ This is partially because, as the Dagestan president said, “people do not turn to the law enforcement agencies, because the experience of those who have had the contact is, unfortunately, negative”. Many serious crimes, especially high-profile and political killings and those possibly involving security forces are not investigated. (s. 37)

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Sexual abuse against women and girls is seldom reported; if it is reported, it is poorly investigated and prosecuted. Saida, a sixteen-year-old victim of repeated sexual violence from Dagestan, said:

The investigator told me that I should better marry one of these guys. I told him, “what are you talking about – they raped me!” He said that in the previous case he worked on the victim also refused to get married to the rapist, but later she did.

A senior police officer responsible for adolescent crime commented: “I think they [rapists] deserve murder. The fathers should solve these problems on their own”. Lack of security and effective investigations of sexual abuse causes many parents to become more conservative and stricter with their daughters and instruct them to wear modest dress, even hijab.

The investigation system is also seriously corrupt. Often suspects are initially charged with many crimes, as a way for investigators to collect bribes for reducing the charges. Human rights groups claim prosecutors not only ignore crimes but also actively cover them up. The Russian deputy prosecutor general announced that his office had not identified a single violation by law enforcement officers during security operations. The head of the prosecutor’s office in a republic is appointed by Moscow and usually is an ethnic Russian, except in Chechnya.

Impunity is such that FSB officers in Dagestan reportedly do not appear for questioning by the federal Investigative Committee, which in Chechnya cannot even ensure police presence at

investigations and reportedly requires military protection due to threats from local security forces. (s. 40)

Caucasian Knot (2014) rapporterar om hur en kvinna som försökt anmäla sin man för misshandel och sexuella övergrepp inte kunnat lämna in anmälan till polisen:

According to Sapiyat Magomedova, one of the heads of the Investigating Division of the Khasavyurt OVD has clearly said that the complaint will not be accepted and gave the appropriate instruction to the Khasavyurt OVD secretariat.

Polisen anger att de överväger att acceptera anmälan.

Caucasian Knot (2012) har även rapporterat om andra fall när personer upplevt svårigheter att anmäla våldtäkter till polisen:

According to him, after that his daughter was interrogated in inter-district Investigative Department of Kaspiysk without the presence of her legal representatives. "Their investigative actions were limited to that. First they did not inspect the scenes of the incident, carried out no forensic examination, did not interrogate possible witnesses. During this period some of the defendants not only left the republic but one of them went abroad. A video record of rape also disappeared. They were concealing all traces of a crime while the investigative bodies were thinking whether to start criminal proceedings or not", the man said.

On September, 5, Nazhmutdinov received a copy of a resolution of refusal to initiate a criminal case dated August, 12, from Kaspiysk inter-district Investigative Department.

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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(alla källor hämtade 2015-05-11)

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