Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Georgia – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 28 February 2018

Please provide Country of Origin Information relating to crime rates in Georgia.

Information on crime rates in Georgia was scarce among sources available to the Refugee Documentation Centre

A report from the Tbilisi-based Prime News Agency states:

> "According to the NUMBEO crime index research, Georgia has been named among the 7 safest countries amid 125 ones in 2017, - Georgia's Interior Ministry reports. According to the research, the security level is high in Georgia and the number of crimes is law." (Prime News Agency (21 June 2017) *Georgia named among 7 safest countries according to NUMBEO crime index*)

The English-language summary of a report from Lifos, the Swedish Migration Agency, states:

> "Currently, Georgia must be considered to be a state where rule of law prevails and where there is a functioning and purposive justice and security sector. The police force is mainly motivated by protecting the citizens and upholding the law while the prosecutorial authorities and the court system uphold their functions in the justice chain. It should be noted however that the influence, with the connected downsides, of the initial inheritance of a Soviet administrative culture is not completely eradicated. In all essence, however, Georgia is presently a country with a modern justice system with less corruption than several EU member states and has shown great success in the battle against organized crime." (Lifos (Swedish Migration Agency) (2 October 2017) *Georgia - justice and security sector* [English summary]

A report from the Georgia-based English-language news platform Agenda.ge

> "Crimes against property are the most commonly reported crime in Georgia, followed by violent crimes and drug-related offences, reveal statistics released today by official sources.
>
> The National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat) published data from Georgia's Ministry of Internal Affairs today, which shows that 37,944 crimes were recorded in 2017 in Georgia, of which 1,013 were committed against a person's life.
>
> Statistics show that the number of crimes increased by 5.4 percent in comparison to 2016.

Last year 21 cases of human trafficking were registered in Georgia of which two cases were detected." (Agenda.ge (5 February 2018) *Crime in Georgia in 2017: Property crime most prevalent*)

A report from the US Overseas Security Advisory Council, in a section headed "Crime Threats", states:

"Crime continues to be a concern despite the establishment of a professional law enforcement presence and active enforcement. According to official statistics, there was a small decrease in criminal cases in 2017, compared to 2016. However, financial crimes increased in 2017.

Crimes against U.S. citizens and other Westerners are reported. The number of crimes reported to the U.S. Embassy involving U.S. citizens in 2017 was similar to that of 2016 and included reports of aggravated assault, sexual assault, and robbery.

There continue to be reports of nuisance street children who beg from, hassle, and behave aggressively toward foreigners, with a seemingly increased level of aggression.

Organized crime has been on the wane since the adoption of harsher legislation more than 10 years ago. As a result, most organized crime involving Georgians now transpires outside of Georgia. However, street gangs and drug dealers continue to be a problem. These do not specifically target foreigners." (US Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) (15 February 2018) *Georgia 2018 Crime & Safety Report*)

A report from the Georgian news website Civil Georgia states:

"Membership to 'criminal underworld' was criminalized in 2005, with the adoption of the Law on Combating Organized Crime and Racketeering. The law defines the term 'criminal underworld' as a group of persons which acts in accordance with special criminal rules and aims at gaining profit through intimidation, threats, coercion and other crimes. The 'criminal underworld' is led by 'thieves-in-law,' who are criminal bosses." (Civil Georgia (3 February 2018) *Georgia to Criminalize Aiding 'Thieves-in-Law'*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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