

2013-10-24

Fråga-svar

Algeriet. Landets nationella/militära säkerhetsstyrkas arbete, och eventuella brott mot mänskliga rättigheter

Fråga

1. Hur arbetar Algeriets säkerhetsstyrka och har de begått brott mot mänskliga rättigheter?

Svar:

1. Algeriets säkerhetsstyrka.

Freedom House (2013):

“The judiciary is susceptible to government pressure. International human rights activists have accused the security forces of practicing torture, and have also highlighted lengthy delays in bringing cases to trial. Prison conditions in Algeria generally do not meet international standards due to overcrowding and poor nutrition and hygiene.” (2. kap)

Amnesty International (2013):

“...security forces either prevented demonstrations by blocking access and making arrests or dispersed them through actual or threatened force.

On 24 April, security forces were reported to have beaten up and arrested judicial clerks engaged in a sit-in protest over their working conditions.” (3. kap)

“The Department of Information and Security (DRS) retained wide powers of arrest and detention, including incommunicado detention of terrorism suspects, facilitating torture and other ill-treatment.” (kap.5)

Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF) (2013):

“About 11 a.m. as he was taking pictures of the security forces assaulting and arresting demonstrators, three officers rushed at him and hit him several times on the back and chest.

They verbally abused him and threatened to arrest him if he continued taking photographs.”

”According to witness accounts gathered by Reporters Without Borders, photographers are regularly interrogated by security forces who continually ask to see their assignment orders.”

“...a news photographer, told the organization he had been assaulted and interrogated by civil and paramilitary police. Each time, they use the same method: officers surround small groups of photographers and journalists, cutting them off from others attending the demonstration in order to rough them up out of sight of video cameras.”

Congressional Research Service (2013):

“...Most analysts contend that the security forces committed serious abuses, including torture and disappearances...” (s. 5)

U.S. Department of State (2012):

“...Department of Intelligence and Security (DRS)...” (s. 2)

“General responsibility for maintaining law and order is shared by the 60,000-member Gendarmerie Nationale,

which performs police functions outside of urban areas under the auspices of the Ministry of National Defense, and the 130,000-member Sureté Nationale, or national police force, organized under the Ministry of the Interior (MOI). The DRS is also organized under the Ministry of National Defense, and its various units perform law enforcement functions related specifically to terrorism and national security.

Impunity remained a problem. The criminal code provides mechanisms to investigate abuses and corruption, but the government did not provide public information on disciplinary or legal action against police, military, or other security force personnel, citing morale and security concerns.” (s. 5)

“The law prohibits such practices, but nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and local human rights activists “reported that government officials sometimes employed torture and abusive treatment to obtain confessions. Government agents can face prison sentences of between 10 and 20 years for committing such acts, and some individuals were tried and convicted. There were no reported cases of prosecution of security service officials during the year. In September government officials indicated that internal lists of prosecutions and convictions of security officials were maintained. Local and international NGOs asserted that impunity was a problem.

Amnesty International (AI) maintained that Algerian security forces operated “unrecognized detention centers where detainees were at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.” Geneva-based NGO Alkarama reported plainclothes officers often inflicted abusive treatment upon those arrested on “security grounds.” “(s. 4-5)

Urikesdepartementet (UD) (2012):

”Internationella rödakorskommittén och Röda halvmånen besöker regelbundet vanliga fängelser men har hittills nekats tillträde till militärfängelser eller häkten som drivs av underrättelsetjänsten DRS, Département du Renseignement et de la Sécurité.” (s. 5.)

Home Office (2011):

Jane's reported in its Sentinel Country Risk Assessment, Algeria, Security and Foreign Forces, posted 8 March 2011, that:

“The DRS is Algeria's powerful security and intelligence service ... [It] is still sometimes referred to informally as ‘military security’ or ‘military intelligence’. The DRS has three major directorates specialising respectively in internal security/counter-intelligence, foreign intelligence and army security. In addition, there is a directorate specialising in the protection of the president and government figures. In addition there is an elite special forces counter-insurgency unit.

“The DRS has a prominent role in countering the activities of Islamist insurgents and of those considered a threat to state security. Under Algerian law, DRS agents are empowered to act as judicial police. In January 2010, the DRS was called in to investigate alleged corruption in Algeria's national oil company. According to Amnesty International and other human rights organisations the DRS has been alleged to be prominently involved in the ‘disappearance’ or secret detention of Algerian citizens. The DRS also has an important external role in liaising with foreign security and intelligence services and the gathering of intelligence beyond Algeria's borders.

“Major directorates under the DRS:

- Directorate of Counter-Intelligence (Direction du Contre-Espionnage: DCE)
- Directorate of Documentation and External Security (Direction de la documentation et de la Securite exterieure: DDSE)
- Central Directorate of Army Security (Direction Centrale de la Securite de l'Armee: DCSA)
- Directorate of Security and Presidential Protection (Direction de Securite et de la Protection Presidentielle: DSPP)” (kap. 8.18)

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