

2015-05-07

Fråga-svar

Uzbekistan. Informatörer

Fråga

Har ni någon information om hur det går till när en person rekryteras/ tvingas samarbeta/ frivilligt samarbetar med uzbekiska myndigheter för att spionera på sina landsmän i Sverige eller i övriga Europa?

Svar

Nätverk av informatörer

I en rapport skriver Lifos (2015) att det finns ett antal informatörer som rapporterar till myndigheterna i Uzbekistan om uzbekier utomlands:

Den uzbekiska MR-aktivisten uppger sig ha god kännedom om individer i Europa som fungerar som informatörer för den uzbekiska säkerhetstjänsten. Enligt aktivisten finns åtminstone fem aktiva agenter i Sverige som rapporterar om den uzbekiska diasporan i landet. En trend de senaste två åren är att det inte bara handlar om professionella agenter utan även vanliga människor rekryteras och pressas. (s. 12)

Såvitt gäller uzbekiska myndigheters tillvägagångssätt i att inhämta information pekar Memorials företrädare på att SNB har agenter som är aktiva i utlandet och rör sig inom uzbekisk diaspora. Det förekommer även att agenter ansöker om asyl för att inte skilja ut sig från andra uzbekier. SNB kan även värva uzbekier i utlandet, som de därefter tvingar hem och sedan använder för informationsinhämtning.

Även HRW fäster uppmärksamhet vid aktiva uzbekiska underrättelseagenter. Det finns enligt företrädaren ett påtagligt uzbekiskt nätverk av informatörer. Detta nätverk inkluderar uzbekiska asylsökande och migranter som samarbetar med myndigheterna som informatörer. Företrädaren tror att informatörer aktivt försöker kartlägga vem som ansöker om asyl. Myndigheter som har att pröva asylansökningar från uzbekiska medborgare måste, menar HRW, beakta detta nätverk av informatörer i beslutsfattandet. (s. 43)

Den bilden stöds bland annat av information i den uzbekiska MR-organisationen Club des Coeurs Ardents rapport till FN:s människorättskommitté (2014):

Sometimes the Uzbek secret services act in the Uzbek asylum seekers or migrants' communities abroad through their own informants and undercover agents. (s. 7)

Association Human Rights for Central Asia (2012) specificerar att regimen ofta använder sig av studenter, artister och emigranter som informatörer:

In addition to participation in the abduction of opponents of the Karimov regime, diplomatic missions play a key role in organizing a system of surveillance of Uzbek political emigrants. Through its embassies, as well as through secret services of Uzbekistan, they employ intimidation and threats of criminal prosecution to recruit informants among students studying abroad, artists travelling to foreign countries, as well as among the emigrants themselves. The Association is aware of facts of similar attempts by Uzbek embassies to recruit collaborators and informants.

Rekrytering av informatörer

Majoriteten av den rapportering som finns om hur rekryteringsprocessen går till gäller personer aktiva i olika religiösa samfund. Forum 18 (2013) har publicerat en skildring av hur en man i Andijan genom påtryckningar och mutförsök uppmanats spionera på andra protestanter:

Turdiyev, an Andijan Protestant, was detained on the street on 9 October by officers he believes were from the NSS secret police. The officers took him to Andijan City Police Department, where he was interrogated in the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) by an Officer Avazbek, who did not give his last name. ... Both during the 9 October interrogation, as well as several times in September over the phone, Officer Avazbek "pressured Turdiyev to cooperate with him and report on his fellow believers, but he refused to do so", Protestants told Forum 18. The officer "even tried to entice" Turdiyev by offering him "free meals in good restaurants", the Protestants added.

Brittiska BBC har intervjuat en uzbekisk flykting som uppgett att han misshandlats och tvingats bli informatör för att bli frisläppt. BBC (2010):

Rustam says he left Uzbekistan after being forced by the state security services to become an informer. He claims he was targeted because of an Islamic education he received abroad. "Under a false pretext they took me to their headquarters, they beat me and questioned me for many hours. They said that they would let me go if I agreed to serve my country."

I en äldre artikel av Forum 18 har flera personer som har utsatts för rekryteringsförsök intervjuats. Forum 18 (2007):

The NSS not only spies on religious communities from outside, it also seeks to recruit members of these communities, often through intimidation and fear. "The NSS especially tries to recruit among the leaders, trying to find out how what's going on within each community, who is going where, how much money each gets, where the community gets its money from," one source told Forum 18.

But ordinary members of religious communities are also targeted. One Christian told Forum 18 that NSS officers tried to recruit members of a Tashkent church as they walked to the metro after the Sunday service. Another Christian in a town away from Tashkent reported that NSS officers even wait outside the church to pounce on church members popping out to the toilet during the service.

Another source highlighted the way NSS recruitment attempts zero in on people known to be vulnerable. "People are in great material need, so they ask community members about what needs they have," the source told Forum 18. "They especially go for people with a criminal past. I know several such people who were summoned, threatened and asked for information. They were asked if they were willing to spy. They were told that otherwise a reason will be found to reimprison them."

Två rättsfall från Australien ger ytterligare exempel på hur rekryteringsprocessen av informatörer kan gå till. Australia. Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) (2006a):

He said he was summonsed again and they started asking him questions about members of the group. He said they offered him to cooperate with them and provide them with necessary information, otherwise it would have been easy for them to imprison him. He said they told him that because of the tapes that he had distributed, it would be easy for them to accuse him of being involved in anti-regime activities. The applicant told the tribunal that when he was a detained on the first occasion, because of the beatings and the physical ill-treatment that he was subjected to, he was unconscious and it was later explained to him that he had been in detention for several weeks. The applicant told the Tribunal that on the second occasion, he was detained for one day. He said at that time he was offered cooperation but they also threatened him with the evidence on videotape. He said they also threatened to sexually assault his daughter. He said he was taken to another room where the officer placed Chlorine and the room smelt very badly. He said he later decided that he would work with them and signed a blank piece of paper. He said he was later told that they are planning to use him as a witness. He said he was told to become a spy and an informer. He said he was told to cooperate with them. (s. 14)

RRT (2006b):

The applicant stated that he was taken to the police station where he was ill-treated. He said subsequently he was put in prison until the morning and let go of on the condition that he would become an informer and bring a list of Jehovah's Witnesses. He said he was kept at the basement of the police station. The Tribunal asked the applicant if he was detained or taken to the police station on any other occasion(s). The applicant stated that this was only the beginning; he said after that period they came every week and searched his place. He said he received a summons to go to the police station. The applicant stated that he was beaten in some months later and that they searched his house again. (s. 9)

Efter händelserna i Andijan 2005 blev flera av de inblandade personerna utsatta för påtryckningar. Sammanfattningen av Human Rights Watch (HRW) handlar inte specifikt om värvning av informatörer, men visar hur personer som lämnat Uzbekistan kan påverkas genom att press sätts på familjemedlemmar kvar i landet. HRW (2008):

In the months after the 2005 massacre, the Uzbek government launched a campaign of harassment and coercion against individuals who had participated in or witnessed the demonstration on May 13 but had remained in Andijan after the massacre. These individuals were subjected to arrest, torture, forced confessions, and intense pressure to provide names of others who participated in the demonstration. Some of these individuals were prosecuted and sentenced to long prison terms. Others were held for interrogation and then released, but after their release they continued to be harassed, threatened with prosecution, and put under constant pressure to become informants for the government. The pressure increased during 2006 to the point that some of these individuals felt forced to flee, two or more years after the events. (s. 2)

It is not completely clear what motivated refugees' decisions to return. Some may have returned because of the children and parents they had left behind in the haste of fleeing the massacre, or were concerned about their male relatives who were imprisoned after the Andijan events. Some may have found it exceedingly difficult to adapt to life abroad. But the interviews in this report reveal that others went back because they wanted to end the pressure being exerted on their families in Andijan.

This was particularly true for those refugees who had relatives in prison; in some cases, the government promised to reduce the prison terms for their relatives. Unfortunately, their return to Andijan did not bring an end to the harassment. (s. 2-3)

Many of the people subjected to the "filtration" process (detention, torture, and other ill-treatment that usually led to the signing of coerced confessions) faced criminal charges in summer 2005. Later, they were either convicted in closed trials or turned into National

Security Service (SNB) informants meant to help the security service identify other Andijan participants and witnesses. However, even after people were released from detention, they were never left in peace—the authorities continued to summon them for questioning on a regular basis, threatening them with criminal prosecution, and forcing them to collect information implicating other witnesses or participants in the events. (s. 16)

Den senaste årsrapporten från Freedom House visar att bruket att använda familj i Uzbekistan för att påverka de som flytt fortfarande pågår. Freedom House (2014):

Human rights activists, Karimov critics, and devout Muslims continued to be the targets of brutal attacks, bogus legal charges, and other punitive measures. State agents harassed dissidents and their family members, including relatives of dissidents living abroad, as exemplified in the arrest of the Uzbekistan-based father of the leader of the US-based Birdamlik People's Movement. Surveillance and intimidation by the national security services is rampant. In 2013, several elderly dissidents were arrested on what appear to be fabricated charges, with rape accusations used to justify unlawful detention.

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 hämtade 2015-05-05)

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