

2015-09-03

Fråga-svar

Vitryssland. HBT-aktivister

Fråga

Har situationen för HBT-aktivister i Vitryssland hårdnat det senaste året?

Svar

Nedan följer en sammanställning från olika rapporter från 2015 och hösten 2014 som beskriver situationen för HBT-aktivister och -personer i Vitryssland.

Storbritannien. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (2015):

LGB&T people suffered increased harassment from the regime during 2014. The authorities refused permission to hold a parade in Minsk in March, and put pressure on landlords so as to make it impossible to find venues to host any LGB&T events.

ILGA-Europe (2015):

Authorities and public figures maintained an extremely negative attitude towards LGBTI people, with scarce hope for any forthcoming change. The government put forward a draft 'anti-propaganda' law which could further restrict discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity. The police and Ministry of Interior continued to pressurise activists into ceasing their activities with intimidating interrogation and threats of false criminal charges. On a more positive note, several NGOs joined forces to demand fairer treatment for LGBTI people, religious minorities, and disabled individuals. A survey of online media coverage of LGBTI issues also pointed to some positive reporting of LGBTI issues. (s. 45)

Freedom of association

- Continuing a trend that started in 2013, the Ministry of Interior's Department on Drugs and Trafficking 'invited' several activists to attend interviews. Once again, these interviews were an exercise in intimidation, designed to encourage activists to cease their activities. In one particular interview in January, the police threatened two activists from GayBelarus with criminal liability for running an unregistered NGO.
- The author of an online article about a serious homophobic assault (see Bias-motivated violence) was also 'invited', as police told her they "could arrange problems" if she kept "promoting homosexuality". Finally, local police summoned one of the founders of the unregistered NGO Republican LGBT and pressured him into testifying that he had raped an unknown girl. The police sampled the activist's saliva despite his protests; his DNA was added to a police database, kept away from public scrutiny or regulations. (s. 46)

United States Department of State (2015):

Consensual same-sex sexual conduct between adults is not illegal, but discrimination against LGBT persons was widespread, and harassment occurred.

Due to egregious official harassment of the LGBT community, groups opted for holding private activities and events. LGBT groups did not seek permission from authorities to hold any public events, including a pride parade.

On May 25 [2014], several anti-LGBT individuals harassed and severely beat Mikhail Pishcheuski, an LGBT man, as he left a club frequented by LGBT persons. The victim was taken to the hospital in a coma and remained in a coma at year's end. Police arrested several individuals in connection with the beating. On October 16, a court in Minsk sentenced the alleged perpetrator to two years and eight months in jail on charges of hooliganism and inflicting severe body damage. The court did not press charges in connection with intolerance or hatred based on sexual orientation and gender identity despite the testimony of a number of witnesses. Independent journalists and human rights advocates who observed the trial reported that the defendant openly insulted the victim and his friends in the courtroom.

Societal discrimination against LGBT activists persisted, with the tacit support of the regime.

Civil Rights Defenders (2015):

Homophobia is widespread and harassment, discrimination and hate crimes against LGBT-people are frequent. LGBT-groups are denied permission to hold public events and LGBT-organisations are also denied registration. The latest attempt by GayBelarus to register in

January 2013 led to the persecution of the organisation's activists and police raids at LGBT-clubs.

UN Human Rights Council (2015):

The Special Rapporteur remains concerned about the particular challenges facing LGBTI defenders, who suffer double discrimination and are frequent targets of violence and abuse, including by law enforcement authorities (A/69/307, para. 84). (s. 21)

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2014):

[The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, Miklós Haraszti:]

“Also, rights activists, including LGBT defenders, have to endure constant intimidation and political pressure from the authorities. They are subjected to excessive and arbitrary administrative inspections, charged with minor administrative transgressions such as ‘public swearing’ or ‘hooliganism’, and publicly discredited by the State-run media,”

YorkPEN (2014):

On 31st October [2014], human rights defender Katsiaryna Borsuk, executive director of LGBT Human Rights Project “GayBelarus,” gave an insightful and provoking lecture on LGBT rights in Belarus, and the freedom, or lack thereof, Belarusians have to peacefully protest in the country.

... the increasing persecution of LGBT individuals in the country. 70 out of the 100 signatories advocating GayBelarus' registration have been interrogated by the KGB, and they had to change offices 3 times in 2013. Furthermore, in the wider LGBT community, 12 gay nightclubs were raided, and 300 people were arrested during the year. According to Borsuk, persecution of LGBT individuals and movements has recently become a key focus of the government, and that conditions are only going to get worse.

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 2015-09-01)

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