

2016-11-24

Fråga-svar

Georgien. Zonderbrigaden

Fråga

Enligt uppgift var Zonderbrigaden en grupp idrottsmän som inofficiellt anlätades av Nationella rörelsen (United National Movement, UNM) fram till år 2012. De anlätades för olika uppdrag, bl.a. för att skingra demonstranter vid demonstrationer genom att köra in med bilar, misshandla och gasa demonstranterna.

1. Finns det information om vad Zonderbrigaden har gjort och deras koppling till Nationella rörelsen?
2. Finns det någon risk för personer som tidigare har tillhört Zonderbrigaden att befinna sig i Georgien idag?
3. Kan före detta medlemmar av Zonderbrigaden få myndighetsskydd?

Svar

1. Finns det information om vad Zonderbrigaden har gjort och deras koppling till Nationella rörelsen?

Om övergrepp kopplade till UNM, se ett tidigare fråga-svar från Lifos, [*United National Movement \(UNM\) i Georgien*](#) (2015-02-17).

Nedan följer en sammanställning av incidenter associerade med Zonderbrigader. Notera att det är en fragmentarisk samling som inte ger en heltäckande bild och att många av händelserna inte kan bekräftas med rapportering från två av varandra oberoende källor. Zonder är ett öknamn och är inte en formell gruppering, något som kan förklara den begränsade information som hittats.

Två tidningsartiklar handlar om en georgisk brottare och politisk aktiv för Georgian Dream, som uppger att han utsatts för repressalier efter att han inte gått med i Zonderbrigaden. Georgian Journal (2012-07-12):

According to Olympic judo champion Zurab Zviadauri, the Authorities removed his name from the official title of the sports hall in Akhmeta with his photos and likewise scrapped it from the walls there. Zviadauri says that pressure was mounted on him from the moment he entered the politics.

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They failed to use us – me, my team, Ushangi Kuzanashvili and other sportsmen - as Zonder Brigade members and are now after us...

Q: Were they forcing you to join the Zonder Brigades?

A: A number of heavy-weight athletics were forced to join the Zonders...

I en artikel av Democracy & Freedom Watch (2013-01-03) rapporteras hur Zviadauris hus beskjutits av automateld tidigt på nyårsdagsmorgonen 2013. Enligt Zviadauri var den skyldige en person som varit medlem av en okänd zondergrupp och hade bjudits in till landet av den före detta inrikesministern inför valet 2012. Enligt samma artikel,

Saakashvili opponents at the time claimed that some of his supporters had joined together in informal groups of young men and their mission was to intimidate the opposition against the National Movement government before the election. Saakashvili's opponents used to call them by the derogatory term "zonders", after the Nazi Sondercommandos during World War 2.

Enligt en annan källa användes Zonderbrigader för att förhindra oppositionspolitikers arbete under valet 2012. HumanRights.ge (2012-11-22):

An activist of the Georgian Dream Onise Euashvili speaks about some other problems. He said before and sometimes even after elections IDPs have been threatened.

"During election period, zonder-groups – made up by mentors of residential houses - intimidated people and did not allow that time opposition party representatives to meet people. Former MP from the National Movement Badri Basishvili was leader of zonder groups. Now those people are still active here and IDPs are afraid. Their influence on people has not finished yet. For example, a kindergarten shall be opened in the settlement in December. And members of this zonder-group select employees for it. Nobody plans to employ IDP people with relevant working experience there," said Onise Euashvili.

En annan artikel på samma nyhetsportal, tillhörande den georgiska NGO:n Human Rights Center, uppger ett annat sammanhang då en Zonderbrigad ska ha använts gentemot Georgian Dream-aktivister. HumanRights.ge (2012-08-20):

At the briefing on August 2, Kaladze said that government has sent ten-member zonder brigade of Lado Vardzelashvili - Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs and Gia Udesiani – president of the Shooting Federation.

“Those people try to fail our meetings with people but locals oppose them. This fact proves that criminal government uses violence and repressions against Georgian Dream’s activists. It is real face of the scared government,” Kaladze said and added that “video of Kiguradzes’ detention was already delivered to the Interagency Task Force and tomorrow the video will be sent to diplomatic corps accredited in Georgia.”

En annan nyhetsartikel, publicerad några år efter valet då United National Movement förlorade makten, beskriver hur Zonderbrigader finns inom fängelsesystemet. Det är oklart om det rör sig om personer med kopplingar till UNM. Front News.ge (2014-05-13):

There are a lot of so-called “zonder brigades” in the penitentiary system, Chairman of the Department of Corrections Dimitri Darbaiseli’s adviser Lali Moroshkina said in an interview with Frontnews on Tuesday.

- There are so-called “zonder brigades” of May 26 and November 7 in the penitentiary system. /.../ Here will be anxiety and the local government election is approaching, but when the so-called “zonder brigades” control prisoners and a 18-year –old boy was died I cannot remain silent.

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- **You mentioned the so-called “zonder brigades”, as far as I know, Dimitri Darbaiseli carried out staff changes after his appointment.**

- Dimitri Darbaiseli has brought the so-called “zonder brigades” to this system. They have not been here so far.

2. Finns det någon risk för personer som tidigare har tillhört Zonderbrigaden att befinna sig i Georgien idag?

Ett par incidenter från senare år har härletts till Zonderbrigader. Sanningshalten i beskyllningarna är svår att värdera, men det antyder att Zonderbrigaden inte är bortglömd. Georgian Young Lawyers’ Association (2016-05-22):

It was particularly disturbing to witness acts of physical violence that took place at about 1:30 PM in the area adjacent to election precinct no. 53 in the village of Kortskheli, Samegrelo region, which were preceded by a verbal argument between members of the United National Movement (UNM) and strangers. The said persons, who are presumably sportsmen, had been mobilized in the area adjacent to the election precinct from the morning.

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It should also be noted that the aforementioned assailants were presumably mobilized and taken to Samegrelo by the Georgian Dream party. The UNM released a special [statement](#) regarding the aforementioned. The content of the statement indicates possible circumstances which, if confirmed, contain elements of a criminal offense. In their turn, representatives of Georgian Dream stated that the violence had been provoked by the UNM and [accused them of mobilizing members of a so-called "zonder group"](#).

Georgia Today (2016-10-13):

Two members of the Georgia's main opposition party - former President Mikheil Saakashvili's United National Movement (UNM) were taken to hospital Tuesday night, having been allegedly beaten by ruling party Georgian Dream (GD) members.

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According to UNM majoritarian candidate Giorgi Oniani, the abused men were his team members and were "brutally beaten by around 30 GD members armed with batons" at the GD office ...

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Irakli Kobakhidze, GD Executive Secretary, said the UNM members wanted to provoke Abuseridze and his team and started throwing stones at the GD office.

"This is provocation... Oniani himself is a zonder who used to raid people when the UNM was in power," Kobakhidze stressed.

3. Kan före detta medlemmar av Zonderbrigaden få myndighetsskydd?

Generellt om situationen efter valet för personer med koppling till UNM, se Kanada. Immigration and Refugee Boards frågerespons [*Georgia: The United National Movement \(UNM; ENM\), including its mandate, leadership, membership, representation in the country and history; treatment by authorities and opposition party members, including the Georgia Dream Coalition \(GDC; GDM; Georgian Dream\); state protection available \(2001-April 2015\)*](#) (2015-05-11)

och

Schweizerische Flüchtlingshilfe, [*Georgien: Partiet "United National Movement" \(UNM\)*](#) (2016-06-23).

Även delar av Migrationsverket, Lifos, [*Georgien. Påtryckningar mot tjänstemän, korruption och polisen*](#) (2015-11-20) kan vara av intresse.

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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