CHARACTERISTICS OF CRIME IN UKRAINE

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Crime in Ukraine is relatively low as for western standards but now it is on the increase. The official statistics shows a steady increase in crime.

Crimea is considered to be the worst criminal region in Ukraine. Over the past year there were registered 19 crimes per thousand citizens. Industrial regions, such as Zaporizhzhya, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Lugansk are the next after the peninsula. The main reason for this is population density, the influx of guest workers and visitors.

Each Ukrainian region has its own specifics of crimes. Here is TOP 10 regions – leaders in crime.

In Volyn more than in other regions, human trafficking is widespread. The reasons are: problems with employment and proximity to the border. Lots of people, who want to find work abroad, are getting into the human traffickers nets.

Kiev is holding the palm of the number one for burglaries for many years. In 2011 the militsia recorded more than 4.1 thousand of such crimes in the capital of Ukraine: intervention in the operation of their websites.

Crimea leads on number of road offenders. In this region crimes occur most frequently on the roads. Traffic on the peninsula is complicated by steep turns, poor condition of roads and the influx of tourists. Often there are road accident fatalities, and their perpetrators are hiding from justice.

Kherson region ranks first in the country for rape. Such a rage of rapists is explained by high unemployment rates and a presence of four correctional facilities in the region.

Kharkiv ranks for killers. The region, which is considered to be a forge of mititsia personnel, is leading on the number of murders. Law enforcement explains this paradox by a proximity to the border and the high urbanization of the Kharkiv region. In Lugansk region the most often recorded crimes are related to illicit drugs.

Donetsk ranks for bandits and hooligans. In the Donetsk region the most common crime is a robbery. Donetsk region has become a leader on the number of armed robberies of banks.

Official Ministry of Internal Affairs Crime Statistics indicates a decrease in all categories of violent crime in 2010, but shows a significant increase in the occurrence of theft, burglaries, and fraud.

Due to heavy traffic and local driving habits, vehicle accidents are common. In Ukraine, motorists involved in vehicle accidents are not permitted to move the vehicles unless it presents a clear safety concern.

Combating narcotics trafficking is a national priority, but limited budget resources hamper Ukraine's ability to effectively counter this threat. Ukraine is not a major drug producing country; however, it is located astride several important drug trafficking routes into Europe.

Ukraine continues to undergo significant economic, political, and social transformation. These conditions continue to create conditions favorable to the criminal element, and crime remains the most significant day-to-day threat facing Ukrainian and foreign resident in or visiting Ukraine.

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