



# ***The Role and Challenges of the Police in Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking in Iceland***

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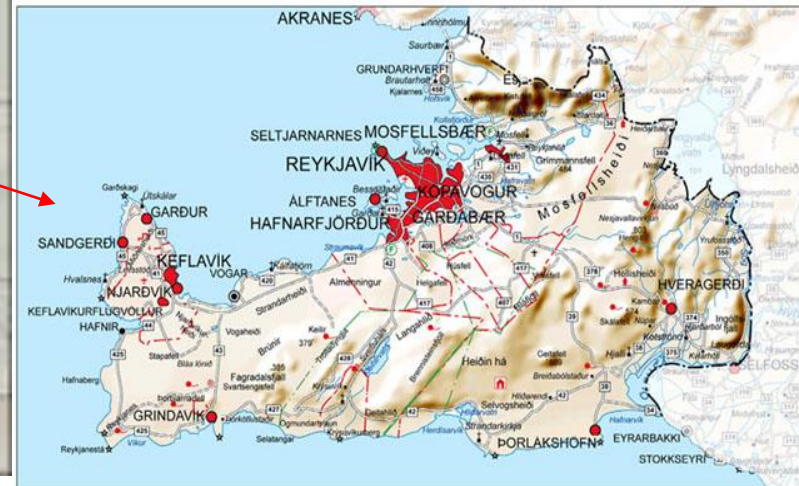
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# Police Districts



# Human trafficking Case in Iceland from 2009

- Human trafficking.
- Lithuanian organized crime.
- Violence.
- Rape.
- Theft.
- Protection fee (extortion).
- Violation of the Air transport security act



# The Beginning

- 9<sup>th</sup> of october 2009.
- Behaving very badly on the plane.
- Ieva Grisiúte, born 18.02.1987.
- Hospital - Police station - Keflavik.
- Phonecall to the Police from one of the suspected Icelanders on 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2009
- Interview with NGO's.
- Apartment in Keflavík – social system.
- At midnight she disappeared.
- Probably picked up, two drivers driving YARIS and GOLF.



# Investigation – human trafficking

- 13<sup>th</sup> of October.
- Three Lithuanians were arrested and remanded in custody.
- One Icelander was arrested, interrogated and then released - he was later arrested again and remanded in custody.
- Police were looking for the girl / victim.
- 15<sup>th</sup> of October, the girl was found.
- She was put in a women shelter at the NGO's and under constant police watch for more than two months.
- Witness protection abroad





# The Victim

- From Vilnius
- Kidnapped and kept in apartment in Penevysis in Lithuania.
- Sommer house in the forrest.
- Prostitution, violence, drugs and alchcohol.



# Victim's story

- Rescued in february 2009.
- Parents and sister.
- Kidnapped again in august 2009.
- Thought she was going to Germany.
- Haircut and coloured hair.
- Vilnius - Warsaw - Iceland.
- No money.
- Forged ID-card.

# Case Conclusions

- Large number of people were arrested and remanded custody
- Six persons prosecuted
- Five Lithuanians convicted for five and four years





# Police main role and responsibilities

- Security of the victim
- Security of other witnesses
- Investigation
- Court orders
- Crossborder Cooperation
- A lot of employees
- Costs - expensive
- Time consuming investigation



# Challenges concerning the case

- Very large quantities of data to the court
- 12 phone lines tapped
- 8 in custody
- 18 arrests
- 124 police reports
- Travel abroad and all around Iceland
- Many charges filed against the police actions

# Legal Challenges

- Four week limit for isolation
- Legal framework - convictions
- Limits concerning custody
  - Twelve weeks – maximum
  - “Foreigners” and “threat to the society”.
  - Icelandic citizens
- Time limits of delivering the investigation data

# Challenges in organized Crime

- Professionalism
- Organized
- Unlimited resources
- Unfettered by borders



# Other Challenges

- The attitude -
  - „No human trafficking in Iceland“
- Lack of knowledge
  - Police
  - Prosecution
  - Judges
- Identify the victim
- Gain victims trust
- Lack of support for the victim



# Key questions

- What do you do for a living?
- What is your salary?
- Can you leave your job if you prefer so?
- Can you go when and where ever you wish?
- Have you or your family been threatened?
- How are your circumstances in work and where you live?
- Where do you eat and sleep?
- Who ordered and paid your flight ticket?
- Do you need permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?
- Is the front door or windows locked that prevent you to go out?
- Who is keeping your personal documents, passport and ID's?



# In the end

- 1) Especially complicated investigation
- 2) Cooperation with foreign countries
- 3) The organizing
- 4) Fear of victims and witnesses
- 5) Language difficulties
- 6) Determined criminal
- 7) Precautionary effects
- 8) Journalists



Thank you!

„Together we can stop this horrible crime from happening to anyone“

-Karik

