

The Role of Police – Challenges and Responsibilities



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Human trafficking Case in Iceland from 2009

- Lithuanian organized crime.
- Violence.
- Human trafficking.
- Rape.
- Theft.
- Protection fee (extortion).



The Beginning

- 9th of October 2009.
- Behaving very badly on the plane.
- A young woman, born in 1987.
- Hospital - Police station - Keflavík.
- Phonecall to the Police from one of the suspected Icelanders on 12th of october2009
- Interview with NGO's.
- Apartment in Keflavík – social system.
- At midnight she went away.



Investigation – human trafficking

- 13th 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.
- 15th of october.
- The girl was found.
- She was put in a women shelter at the NGO's and constant police watch for more than two months.
- Witness protection abroad



The Victim

- A young woman born in 1990
- From Vilnius
- Kidnapped and kept in apartment in Penevysis in Lithuania.
- Summer house in the forrest.
- Prostitution, violence, drugs and alcohol.



Story of the victim

- 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.



Conclusions of the case

- 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



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
 - Court
- Identify the victim
- Gain victims trust
- Lack of support for the victim



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

