



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

## **Ukraine - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Monday 22 September 2014**

### **Information on police/security forces in the west including ability to provide protection/evidence of corruption**

A publication issued in August 2014 by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights notes:

“...the systemic corruption in the police force” (United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (17 August 2014) *Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine (August 2014)*).

In July 2014 a document issued by the *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights* notes that:

“...the police are generally distrusted and perceived as being corrupt and lacking professionalism” (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (15 July 2014) *Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine*, p.17).

This report also states:

“Overall, law enforcement has managed to contain violent intent, although there have been incidents of serious damage to property and some injuries. There have also been more isolated scuffles and clashes that generally have been kept to a minimum by law enforcement. Police have been criticized for sometimes not doing enough to stop violent actions (as for example, when the trade unions meeting was violently disrupted in Kyiv on 26 June) and, conversely, for cracking down unnecessarily hard on demonstrators to prevent any kind of possible public disorder from the very beginning” (ibid, p.29).

Research released in July 2014 by the *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada* notes that:

“...police are unwilling or unable to protect the public in most instances...In government-controlled areas, the police have not protected opponents of the current government from intimidation by paramilitary groups...the Ukrainian police force often acts with "political inclination, and it is engaged in political discrimination...” (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (2 July 2014) *Ukraine: Political situation, including relationship between the Svoboda Party and the Party of Regions (Partiya Rehioniv, PR), and their regions of influence; state protection for participants in the conflict (2013-June 2014)*).

An *Amnesty International* report issued in June 2014 notes the:

“...persistent problem of impunity for ill-treatment by the police” (Amnesty International (26 June 2014) *Ukraine: A new country or business as usual?*, p.4).

In May 2014 an *Amnesty International* report states:

“As civil unrest becomes more violent in Ukraine, it is vital that there should be effective policing to protect the right to life, liberty and security of the person. The shocking events of 2 May 2014 in Odesa, which left at least 46 people dead and 200 injured following violent clashes between supporters of the interim authorities in Kyiv and protesters opposing the Kyiv authorities, highlight the failure of policing in Ukraine” (Amnesty International (28 May 2014) *Ukraine: The Human Rights Council must call on Ukraine to protect the right to life, and to ensure that all human rights abuses are promptly, effectively and independently investigated*, p.1).

## References

Amnesty International (26 June 2014) *Ukraine: A new country or business as usual?*  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR50/028/2014/en>

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Amnesty International (28 May 2014) *Ukraine: The Human Rights Council must call on Ukraine to protect the right to life, and to ensure that all human rights abuses are promptly, effectively and independently investigated*

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<http://www.irb.gc.ca/Eng/ResRec/RirRdi/Pages/index.aspx?doc=455403&pls=1>

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

## Sources Consulted

Amnesty International

BBC News  
Electronic Immigration Network  
European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
Google  
Human Rights Watch  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada  
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre  
International Crisis Group  
IRIN News  
Lexis Nexis  
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Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database  
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United States Department of State  
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