



## Portugal 2016 RASI Annual Internal Security Report

### Introduction

The annual Relatório Anual de Segurança Interna (RASI), (Internal Security Report) (RASI), for 2016, approved on 31st March 2017 by the Assembly of the Republic, consolidates the figures of all police, and enforcement agencies, as well as other information concerning the state of internal security in Portugal.

The very good news is that the report reveals the lowest number of overall crime, especially violent crimes in the last 15 years.

Although virtually every category of crime has decreased, there are certain ones that it is important to pay attention to, including opportunist crime, which increased by 3.9% and especially computer fraud, which increased by 58%. These are the types of crime in which the risk can be reduced, by taking simple measures to protect property and as well as data stored on computers.

It is important to bear in mind that report only deals with reported crime. Obviously there is an element of unreported crime, which cannot be determined in the absence of crime surveys.

The second issue to bear in mind is that figures can be influenced by the number and result of police operations, for instance those aimed at road traffic offences and in particular, drink driving over the criminal limit of 1.2 g/l. This is particularly the case at municipal level.

The information in this newsletter is produced from the RASI government report and consolidation of various local media reports.

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### Overview

Overall crime was down 7.1% in general and violent crime, 11.6% compared with last year. In 2016 there were 330,872 crimes, of which 16,761 were severe and violent. Overall crime has decreased by 23.4% since 2008.

Looking at the charts concerning the main types of crime, practically all of them have been reduced. In general crime that increased included "opportunist theft" (12.1%) and "domestic violence against spouse" (1.4%).

In violent and serious crime, only three categories increased: "extortion" (53.7%), and "serious physical offence" (11.1%). The largest increases were in computer crime up 21.5% with 801 investigations opened.

The document states that in 2016 there were decreases in motor vehicle theft, theft of non-precious metals, counterfeiting, counterfeiting of currency, false currency passage, driving of vehicle with alcohol rate equal to or greater than 1.2 grams / litre.

The highest recorded crimes were:

Simple Assault	23,173
Domestic violence	22,773
Theft from motor vehicle	21,424
Drink driving 1.2g/l and over	20,849
Burglary with break-in	14,369*
Threats and coercion	14,246
Pickpocketing	13,879

If the number of thefts from properties includes both those without break-in and from annexes (gardens) then the figure increases to 22,755, a reduction of 7.8% compared to 2015.

## Crime by Geographic area

By districts, Porto registered a decrease of 4,943 cases (- 8%) , followed by Lisbon less 4,599 (-5.1%), while Setúbal registered less 2,207 (-7.0%) and Santarém less 2,078. Leiria had 1,878 registrations and Aveiro less 1,688 cases respectively than in 2015.

The main crime areas were: Lisbon 85,375 cases. Porto, 57,085, Setúbal 29,425, Faro (Algarve) 21,515 and Braga 20,205. The decrease in Faro was -1.5% compared to 2015.

Bragança, Vila Real, Guarda, Santarém, Viana do Castelo, Castelo Branco, Viseu, Beja and Portalegre are the districts with the lowest number of crimes. The greatest decreases in crime were in the Districts of Braganca and Vila Real in the north, where decreases of around 15% were recorded.

Crime in Madeira stood at 6062 cases a reduction of 6.1% whereas in the Azores crime increased by 2.6%. All districts in Portugal experienced decreases except the Azores.

## Violent crime

Violent and serious crime decreased by 11.6%, with 16,761 instances registered, following the trend of the last seven years.

Homicides stood at 76, a reduction of 26 compared to 2015, and around half that recorded 5 years ago.

Street robberies were 6492 a decrease of 7.7% and snatching cases (such as snatching of necklaces) dropped by 24.4% to 4311 instances. The downward trend in residential robberies, i.e. those involving violence or threat of violence, decreased by 12.6% to 591 cases continuing the downward trend over the last five years.

The report points to a 62.8% drop in the number of pharmacy robberies. Robberies of banks or other credit institutions (down 38.1%). In the opposite direction, there were increases in theft of high value vehicles (66.7%), extortion (53.7%), serious physical offence (11.2%) and robbery at fuel stations (11.4%). The robberies against cash in transit vans and ATMs increased more than 60% last year from 18 to 30 cases.

In terms of geographic distribution, violent and serious crime decreased in all districts and regions except: Castelo Branco, Coimbra, Acores, Faro and Beja. The two districts with the largest increases were Beja up 8.6% and Faro up 5.2%.

Violent and organised groups continued to commit criminal offences, always seeking to exploit sectors of activity that allow them to obtain high economic returns. The private security activity especially that which is developed in the context of night entertainment, has consolidated, over the last year.

In the chapter on "global threats to security", RASI also provides information on the presence in Portugal of structures of different origins and dimensions in organised and transnational crime in markets such as drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, labour and sexual exploitation, aiding illegal immigration, trafficking in firearms, smuggling and counterfeiting.

## **Criminal groups**

Crime by criminal groups decreased by almost 15%, but criminal groups are more organised. The report concludes that security forces have identified "more organised groups with purely criminal ends, resorting to violence to achieve their goals."

According to the RASI, group crime, which has an associated a subculture "empowering and even encouraging illicit acts", had a decrease of 14.9% in 2016 compared to 2015, with 5,162 occurrences registered, representing 907 fewer cases compared to 6,069 in 2015.

Nevertheless, the report points to a growth of more organised structures associated with this type of crime, whose concept is defined as crimes committed by three or more suspects, regardless of the type of crime, the specialities that may exist in the group, or the level of participation of each person ".

### Comment

Towards the end of the year and beginning of 2017, a number of Chilean and Argentinean nationals were arrested, responsible for a series of high value burglaries targeting luxury villas throughout the country. This seems to be an emerging trend, previously seen in other countries.

## **Computer crime**

Computer and computer-related crime reported a "generalised increase" in 2016 over the previous year, with an increase of 36% in cases of child pornography, according to RASI.

The crime of computer sabotage increased by 140%, damage related to data or computer programs by 121% and computer fraud by 58%, according to data from the Judicial Police compiled in the report, in relation to crime investigated in the area of computer security.

Data from the Directorate General for Justice Policy, also cited in the report, show an increase in computer crime from 299 cases in 2006 to 801 in 2016, 142 more than in the previous year (21.5%).

Of crime investigated, the crime of computer fraud and communications also shows an increase (19%)."

RASI notes that in the area of cyber-attacks, "most crimes continue to have economic motivation," such as extortion, phishing and CEO fraud, "or" hacktivism, "such as the Anonymous' and similar movements, "with some of the main criminal actors still linked to credit card fraud.

Of the elements of the investigation, the document goes on, "ransomware" crime has a "rising trend".

The report points out that "it seems to result in a significant increase in the use of banking products and services", referring to the example of virtual or prepaid cards.

Accompanied cases also reveal the growth of 'ransomware' harms, virtual phishing bleaching processes, which include international companies, mainly based in the United Kingdom, and the stabilisation of virtual currencies such as bitcoin.

"Theft of personal data could be a growing area of crime," warned RASI.

The investigations led to the arrest of 402 defendants (compared to 414 in 2015) most of whom were involved in computer fraud.

The Public Prosecutor's Office opened nearly 35,000 inquiries into economic and financial crimes, of which 626 are for corruption, according to the Annual Internal Security Report (ISAR) of 2016. In the same year, 297 investigations were filed and 36 complaints were filed.

According to the document, the highest number of investigations initiated by corruption occurred in the regions of Braga (112), Porto (66) and Lisbon (52), west Lisbon (41) and Faro (36).

In the 20 crimes that comprise economic and financial crime, the crime of fraud (except tax fraud) was responsible for the largest number of open investigations, with 24,097. This includes abuse of fiscal confidence (4,847 incidents), followed by crimes against social security (1,684).

The data for 2016 also indicate that there were 183 investigations opened for money laundering and 53 for prevarication of political office holders and 21 for influence peddling.

### Comment

There is little doubt that on-line fraud is on the increase which is reflected in the enquiries received by Safe Communities Portugal. In addition there has been a rise in extortion especially among younger people in relationships.

## **Crimes against persons**

The offences of simple assault, domestic violence against spouse or the like, and threat and coercion amounted to about 75% of crimes in this category.

In 2016, there was a reduction of, rape (10.7%) and abduction, kidnapping and hostage-taking (19.8% less).

However, domestic violence increased almost 2% in 2016 over the previous year, with 27,291 occurrences registered by security forces, involving more than 32,000 victims

## Terrorism

Authorities in Portugal detected evidence of support for terrorist structures operating abroad, but not related to the planning of terrorist attacks in the country

In recent years, evidence has been collected and evaluated that account for the worsening of some risk factors, indications already detected in our country," reads the report, referring to 2016.

However, according to the document, the case identified "was not directly related to the planning and execution of attacks in Portugal, but rather to support the terrorist structures operating abroad, particularly in Europe and the Syrian-Iraqi region.

"Although, to date, this situation has been assessed as an isolated example, and there are no indications that there are similar structures operating permanently in Portugal, it is considered that the emergence of similar situations may contribute to a change in the pattern of the terrorist threat to our country, "says RASI.

The report also draws attention to the continued presence of a group of citizens of Portuguese nationality in the region of Syrian-Iraqi conflict, with links to the terrorist organization Islamic State, which are "a factor of increased concern, especially for the risks associated with their potential return to Portugal or to another European country ".

According to the RASI, to date "there have been no reported cases of Portuguese present in other scenarios of Islamist insurgency, namely in Libya, Sahel-Maghreb, Horn of Africa, Arabian Peninsula, Southeast Asia or in the Afghanistan-Pakistani region."

In view of the centrality of terrorism, information services have been strengthening their prevention mechanisms, especially international cooperation.

"The results achieved, especially at critical times such as the post-terrorist periods in Europe, are very illustrative of the accuracy of the work carried out by the security intelligence services", emphasizes the RASI, adding that "work in this area has enabled us to identify and disruption of the activities of individuals involved in the planning and preparation of terrorist attacks in Europe."

The report also highlights the role played in the protection of critical infrastructures, sensitive points and other relevant infrastructure of Portuguese strategic sectors due to the sharing of knowledge in order to detect the terrorist threat.

In 2016, the Information System of the Republic of Portugal (SIRP) enabled the production and dissemination of information that would allow the identification of trend lines and threat agents. To this end, the threat posed by 'jihadist' terrorism, notably the Islamic State group and al-Qaeda, continued to be subject to continuous monitoring to identify trends in evolution.

## Contacts with Interpol and Europol

The number of requests for help and the sharing of information between Interpol and Europol with the Portuguese authorities on terrorism has never been so high. In 2016, the Europol National Unit opened 153 cases, while the Interpol National Office did the same with 19 cases.

These figures reflect what has been happening in Europe, which has multiplied the attacks of a Jihadist nature. By 2014, for example, Europol had opened 51 cases in Portugal and Interpol only 5 cases. Collaboration have tripled (at least) in the last two years in cases of terrorism.

In Portugal there were six terrorist crimes, according to the RASI. There were two fewer cases than those recorded in 2015. In previous years, there were not even statistical data on these crimes, since they were residual.

In total, more than 5,000 cases were opened in Lisbon between the national offices of the two police forces (Interpol and Europol). Crimes against property are the most common (about 1,600 cases), followed by drug trafficking, economic crime, crimes against persons, counterfeiting or trafficking in human beings.

The Judicial Police is by far the highest user of requests to Europol (343 requests). SEF, PSP and GNR total a total of 46 requests for collaboration.

## Drug arrests and seizures

The amount of hashish and ecstasy seized in Portugal rose almost 200% last year, while heroin and cocaine decreased 41.1% and 82.7%, respectively, according to the Annual Internal Security Report (RASI) 2016.

Compared with 2015, there was an increase of 192.7% in the amount of hashish seized, with ecstasy registering an increase of 197.4% in quantity. There was also an increase in ecstasy (+ 56.7%), hashish (+ 12%), cocaine (+ 4.5%) and heroin (+ 1.5%).

In total, 5,861 people were arrested for trafficking in narcotics, the majority being male and 483 female. Compared to 2015, there was a 5.3% increase in the total number of detainees.

In terms of nationalities, 664 of the detainees have foreign nationality, which, according to the RASI, demonstrates the "transnational character of the phenomenon."

Regarding the drug routes seized, the report says that there were no significant changes compared to previous years, with heroin continuing to reach Portugal through other European countries.

"Hashish continues to be mostly from Morocco and cocaine from South America," the report said.

On the other hand, data from the crime reported indicate that crimes related to narcotics increased by more than 614 cases, which means a variation of 9.2% more than in 2015.

### Comment

The amount of drugs seized tends to fluctuate a great deal yearly. One of the factors that influence this is the amount seized on the high seas by law enforcement agencies, destined say for Spain or northern Europe and brought ashore in Portugal. Many of the cocaine seizures and arrests are made at Lisbon airport, although transportation by sea remains the main method, in terms of quantity seized. The vast majority of cannabis seizures are made at sea followed by land.

## Schools and Juvenile delinquency

Crime outside schools increased by more than 5% in 2015-2016 compared to the previous school year, with total occurrences in schools growing by 6.2%.

During the academic year 2015-2016, under the "Safe School", the GNR and the PSP registered 7,553 occurrences in the school environment, of which 63% were of a criminal nature. Juvenile delinquency registered 1,636 cases, a decrease of 22.7%. In 2016, 7,739 educational tutelary surveys were started and 7,592 completed.

In criminal cases, during the same period, the report recorded a decrease of 1.5% in cases inside schools, with a reduction from 3,400 to 3,348 (-52) and a 5.6% increase in occurrences outside schools, which increased from 1,368 to 1,444 (+76).

## Opportunist crime

Although opportunist crime decreased by 3.9% from 14,443 in 2015 to 13,870 cases, it still represents a high level of crime. This includes thefts in public areas such as items left on tables in restaurants, and generally property that is unattended.

### Comment

This is a crime that can be prevented by better care of our property in restaurants, markets, supermarkets and other public places.

## Sexual crime

Police authorities arrested 233 people for sex crimes, including 117 men and 5 women for sexual abuse of children and 45 for rape. The number of detainees for sexual abuse has declined compared to last year. Among the crimes against freedom and sexual self-determination, the 32 detainees - 30 men and 2 women - were singled out for child pornography.

As for the investigations initiated by the Judiciary Police, 43% were suspected of sexual abuse of children, followed by 18.1% for child pornography and 14.7% for rape.

The RASI reports that the majority of the victims (81.3%) continue to be women and men the perpetrators (95.7%), while the family relations between the perpetrator and the victim prevail (42.3%).

The fact remains that most of the victims were between eight and 13 years old (61.1%) and that the defendants were between 31 and 40 years old (18.7%).

It should be noted that 6.1% of the defendants under investigation are 70 or more years old.

With regard to the crime of rape, which in 2016 registered fewer than 40 cases, representing a decrease of 10.7%, almost all of the defendants are male (97.3%) and the victims remain women (90.5%).

The highest incidence of rape is in the 21-30 age group (26%), followed by the 31-40 year old (22.7%).

## Other crime

### **Economic crimes**

The prosecution services instituted nearly 35,000 inquiries for economic and financial crimes, of which 626 were for corruption.

The crime of fraud (except tax fraud) was responsible for the largest number of open inquiries, with 24,097. Following is the abuse of fiscal trust (4,847 surveys) and the abuse of confidence against social security (1,684). The data also indicate that there were 183 investigations for money laundering.

## **Immigration**

Denials of entry into Portugal increased by almost 30% in 2016 due to "the pressure of illegal immigration justified by the reversal of economic trends" in some countries, such as Brazil and Angola.

## **Criminal investigations**

A total of 427,915 criminal investigations were commenced in 2016, down 41,784 from 2015, with cases completed lowering by 50,137. As for the number of accused, the report counts 49,635 in 2016, less 6,440 than in the previous year.

A total of 52,778 persons were made "arquidos" (official suspects) an increase of 27.5% compared with 2015.

## **Crimes against pet animals**

The number of reports for 2016 stood at 1623 cases an increase of 22% compared to 2015 when the law was first introduced.

## **On the roads**

### **Enforcement**

Road traffic enforcement increased by 6.2% in 2016, with registered autos totalling 1,248,089, up 73,161 from 2015, according to the RASI report.

Of the 1,248,089 road violations registered, 844,736 were minor, 346,669 were serious and 56,684 were very serious. Only the very serious ones showed a decrease (less 11%). In terms of type of offences, there was an increase in the number of minor administrative infractions by 93,777 (plus 14.6%) units and a decrease in serious cases in 95,542 (49.7% fewer) and very serious cases in 17,527 (less 37.4%)

### **Accidents**

In relation to road accidents (mainland and autonomous regions), there were 133,214 accidents, which represented an increase of 3.8% (over 4,853) compared to 2015.

Lisbon was the district with the highest number of accidents (26,869). Compared to 2015, there were an additional 1212 accidents (plus 5%). The Porto district had the second largest accident record (23,598), with an increase of 4% over 2015, or 875 accidents.

The district of Portalegre had the best record in relation to 2015, achieving a decrease of 6% (67 road accidents), followed by the Vila Real district in 2% (54 accidents). An increased number of accidents were recorded in the districts of Faro (plus 8%), Viseu (6%), Castelo Branco, Évora, Setúbal and Viana do Castelo (all with 5% more) and Porto, Bragança and Aveiro 4%

On the continent, the number of fatalities (at the scene of the accident) decreased by 27 (5.7%). The only increases were in the districts of Bragança (133.3 per cent), Portalegre (50 per cent), Castelo Branco (31 per cent), Lisbon (13 per cent) and Coimbra (4 per cent), with the other 13 districts registering "considerable declines".

In the case of serious injuries, there was an increase in only four districts - Bragança (20%, Viseu (12%), Leiria (2%) and Guarda (2%). In terms of minor injuries there was a decrease from 38,826 in 2015 to 38,317 in 2016, (1.3%).

In the autonomous regions (Azores and Madeira) there was an increase of 386 accidents (6.9% more). Both fatalities and serious injuries decreased compared to 2015, by 25 cases (5.2%), and 215 cases (8.8%) respectively.

## **Forest fires**

During 2016, there were a total 13,333 forest fires compared with 16,301 in 2015, a decrease of 18.2%.

However the area burned increased considerably from 63,937 to 154,944 hectares. The number of operations during the year stood at 6229.

## **Prison population**

The prison population at the end of 2016 stood at 13,779 persons down from 14,222 the same time the previous year.

Some 93.7% of those in prison were male and 82.5% of the prison population were of Portuguese nationality.

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