



Safe Living Report

Safe Living Conditions

Sustainable Governance
Indicators 2016

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Indicator Safe Living Conditions

Question How effectively does internal security policy protect citizens against security risks?

41 OECD and EU countries are sorted according to their performance on a scale from 10 (best) to 1 (lowest). This scale is tied to four qualitative evaluation levels.

- 10-9 = Internal security policy protects citizens against security risks very effectively.
- 8-6 = Internal security policy protects citizens against security risks more or less effectively.
- 5-3 = Internal security policy does not effectively protect citizens against security risks.
- 2-1 = Internal security policy exacerbates the security risks.

Croatia

Score 9 In Croatia, crime represents no significant threat to public safety and security. The police are generally effective in maintaining public order and combating crime. The police and prosecutors office collaborate effectively with international organizations and countries in the southeast European region, the European Union and internationally. Intelligence services cooperate with their counterparts within NATO and the European Union, and act within an integrated security system. Croatia does not face significant terrorist threats. Organized crime affects the country mostly through transnational and regional crime networks involved in drugs and human and arms trafficking.

Finland

Score 9 Finland is still among the safest countries in Europe, although its rate of violent crime, and homicides in particular, is relatively high. According to polls, Finnish citizens regard the police as one of the most reliable public institutions. The government established the First Program on Internal Security in 2004, and later modified and expanded it. In June 2012, the government adopted the Third Internal Security Program, which aimed to reduce citizen's daily security concerns. The program places an emphasis on measures to prevent social exclusion and social polarization. In sum, the program includes 64 measures, each associated with an agency responsible for carrying it out and a timetable for implementation. The program's overall implementation will be monitored by the Ministry of the Interior. Additionally, the government has adopted or is considering national strategies for combating organized crime, the informal economy and terrorism.

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"Turvallisempi huominen. Sisäisen turvallisuuden ohjelma." 26/2012. Ministry of Interior, Helsinki.
http://www.intermin.fi/download/34893_262012_STO_III_fi.pdf

Japan

Score 9 Japan enjoys a very low crime rate, although it is unclear just how much the effectiveness of internal security policies contributes to this. Other social and economic factors are also at work. For major crimes such as homicide or hard-drug abuse, Japan's good reputation is well deserved. Terrorism also poses no major threat today. With respect to lesser offenses, however, particularly in the case of burglaries and robberies, Japan now occupies only a middle rank among OECD countries. Another issue is the existence of organized gangs (so-called yakuza), which have never been eradicated. These groups have recently moved into fraud and white-collar crimes. In late 2015, a war among several gangs seemed imminent, although incidents in which these groups target ordinary citizens seem rather rare.

New Zealand

Score 9 New Zealand internal security is the responsibility of the police. By tradition, the prime minister takes ministerial responsibility for the national security and intelligence portfolio, although John Key broke with that tradition in 2014 by handing over day-to-day responsibility for intelligence services to the attorney general. The New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) and the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) provide advisory services. Expenditures for public order and safety are relatively high and growing, as New Zealanders feel crime to be a salient issue. Recent crime statistics show a considerable decline in criminal offences – partly as a result of an aging society in which the age groups that statistically commit more crimes are shrinking, and partly as a consequence of increased expenditures for police, criminal justice and prison services.

Internal security threats are also addressed through a Combined Threat Assessment Group (CTAG) which involves staff seconded from NZSIS, the New Zealand Police, the New Zealand Defense Force, the GCSB, the New Zealand Customs Service and Maritime New Zealand. CTAG provides assessments on terrorist or criminal threats intended to create physical harm to New Zealand citizens or affect New Zealand interests at home or overseas, based on all information sources within the New Zealand government.

Citation:

New Zealand Police Crime Statistics for the fiscal year ending 30 June 2014: <http://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/crime-statistics-fiscal-year-ending-30-june-2014> (accessed October 13, 2014).

New Zealand Security Intelligence Service: <http://www.security.govt.nz/our-work/protection-from-terrorism/> (accessed November 30, 2014).

Norway

Score 9 Norway is traditionally a safe country. The country's security is not seriously threatened by crime. For example, the number of homicides per capita is the third-lowest in the world, and incarceration rates are also small. Police presence is rarely significant, and incidents of police activism are rare. The police continue to be predominantly unarmed. Prison sentences are relatively mild, and Norway has relied instead on long-term crime-prevention policies. Theft and petty crimes are relatively infrequent, although there has been some concern over increasing levels of narcotics- and gang-related crimes. There is a perception that knife- and gun-related crimes are increasing in frequency and brutality. In recent years, various reforms have sought to enhance cooperation between various police and intelligence units, both internally and with respect to cross-border cooperation.

In the aftermath of the 22 July 2011 terrorist assaults on the government compound in Oslo and the summer camp of the Labor Party youth organization, the police service was severely criticized for not having put necessary precautions in place. This revealed shortcomings in police organization and logistics, including a low capacity for planning and implementation within the central police directorate. However, notable improvements were subsequently made.

Slovenia

Score 9 Slovenia's accession to the Schengen group in December 2007 has resulted in a substantial professionalization of the Slovenian police force and border control. While the effectiveness of the police force still suffers from occasional underfunding, actual and perceived security risks are very low; when the European refugee crisis reached Slovenia in autumn 2015, the police acted professionally and effectively. Compared to other East-Central European countries, trust in the police is relatively high.

Citation:

Politbarometer, Faculty of Social Sciences, June 2014. Available at: http://www.cjm.si/ul/2014/PB_6_14.pdf.

South Korea

Score 9 Police statistics show a small increase in both violent crime and street crimes over the last few years, but the general sense of security remains high. Petty crimes such as theft or pick-pocketing are much less common than in almost any other OECD country. The rate of violent crimes such as homicide is one of the lowest in the world: in 2012, it stood at 0.8 cases per 100,000 people (according to UNODC statistics). There is no known terrorist activity in South Korea. However, the spread

of financial scams (“phishing”) and cyber-crime, whose perpetrators take advantage of South Korea’s excellent broadband infrastructure and lax online-security measures, is a major concern that has not yet been effectively addressed. The lax enforcement of traffic laws remains another issue, as South Korea has the second highest ratio of road fatalities among OECD countries, with 14.1 deaths per 100,000. Every year 6,800 people die in road-traffic accidents. Respect for and trust in the police is generally low.

However, in terms of human security, South Korea is not necessarily a secure society. As the case of the Sewol Ferry accident and several major accidents claiming huge numbers of victims have shown, insecurity does exist, and Korea has to some extent become a high-risk society.

Citation:

OECD, OECD Factbook 2009

WHO, Global Health Observatory Data Repository, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.51310>

Spain

Score 9

In terms of homicides, Spain is the safest country among Western nations with more than 3 million inhabitants. Compared with other OECD and European countries, Spain performs quite satisfactorily in protecting citizens against security risks and public confidence in the police force is high. The official data shows that violent crimes rate is one of the lowest in the world, although the figures are somewhat higher for assaults or muggings. Nevertheless, considering the high unemployment and budgetary cuts on law and order policies, the overall situation can be considered quite successful. It is precisely this effectiveness that makes the new law on public safety (Organic Law 4/2015 “de protección de la seguridad ciudadana”) so controversial. In the eyes of its critics, the new regulation has much more to do with trying to repress political protest (see “Civil Rights” and “Political Liberties”) than with increasing the protection of citizens.

Nonetheless, it is also true that the impact of the economic crisis has contributed to an increase in subjective feelings of insecurity, and public opinion continues to press for additional preventive measures. The government of Spain and its citizens are now more concerned that they are a principal target of Islamic extremism, though the Spanish intelligence and police communities have demonstrated their effectiveness in fighting this risk in recent years. Finally, a renewed security strategy (combining internal and external risks) was approved in 2013, and since that time has led to organizational changes and new measures in specific realms such as cybersecurity.

Citation:

Spain: Reject Flawed Public Security Bill

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/03/09/spain-reject-flawed-public-security-bill>

SIDIR 2015

www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/portal/web/rielcano_es/actividad?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/elcano/elcano_es/calendario/actividades/espana-imagen-marca-como-nos-ven-como-somos-2015

Switzerland

Score 9 Switzerland has improved its internal security through its integration into the European Schengen/Dublin regime. However, the country's participation remains domestically controversial, as right-wing populist actors have accused center-left politicians of cooperating in an inefficient European security network.

Internal security policy has developed as a collaborative policy field, in which various international and national governmental actors interact with private organizations.

Given the country's comparatively low crime rates, and the public confidence shown in the police and the justice system, internal security policy can be deemed a success.

Australia

Score 8 Internal security is largely the responsibility of the states and there is correspondingly some variation in policies and outcomes across the states. While crime is widely regarded as a significant economic and social problem, in most states crime rates are in fact relatively low. Coordination between various policing, enforcement and intelligence-gathering authorities is generally satisfactory.

Terrorism emerged on Australian home soil for the first time in December 2014. The hostage drama in Sydney confirmed the expectations of experts, who had warned of a terror risk for Australia for many years. Prior to the Sydney hostage crisis, Australians were affected by terrorism abroad, but not at home. Before December 2014, there had been several failed plots involving Islamic extremists, most notably an attempt to bomb a major sporting event and an attempt to storm a military base with automatic weapons. All resulted in long prison sentences for the defendants.

Responsibility for internal security rests with the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Security Intelligence Organization; the latter has no powers of arrest and relies on the police for support. Both rely on the criminal law for prosecutions, as well as on the Anti-Terrorism Act 2005, the last piece of legislation to be passed to combat terrorism. International organized crime that is not terrorism-related is investigated by the Australian Crime Commission, which was established by the Australian Crime Commission Act 2003, which amalgamated several bodies with similar remits.

The coalition government introduced several measures during the review period aimed at countering terrorism and improving national security more generally. Most significant was the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Act 2015, allowing increased surveillance of electronic

communications and imposing requirements on Internet service providers to retain data for minimum periods. The Act was opposed by groups concerned that it unduly infringes on civil liberties, as well as by telecommunications providers, who argued it would impose substantial costs on them.

Citation:

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/martin-place-cafe-siege-overreaction-from-fear-is-a-measure-of-a-terrorists-success-20141215-127rih.html>

Austria

Score 8

Internal security is comparatively well protected in Austria. The crime rate is volatile, rising in some areas such as criminal assaults, while falling in others such as break-ins and car thefts. Internet crime is an increasingly significant problem, and the Austrian police forces are seeking to counteract it through the creation of special task forces. The incidence of economic fraud is also rising due to the growing share of transactions over the Internet.

Police-force budgets and personnel counts have risen over time, an indicator that the police are viewed as the appropriate instrument to provide internal security.

The open borders guaranteed by the European Union and the Schengen agreement have made it easier for organized crime to cross borders, leading some to criticize Austria's EU membership status. And although some parties (e.g., the FPÖ) do so for political purposes, the data shows that, despite recent increases concerning burglaries and car theft, there is no significant increase in crime as such.

Citation:

Stats from the interior ministry:
http://www.bmi.gv.at/cms/BK/publikationen/krim_statistik/2013/2732014_KrimStat_2013_Broschuere.pdf

Canada

Score 8

Canada's internal security policy has been quite effective in protecting citizens against security risks. Canada has experienced no terror attacks mounted from outside the country, which suggests that the Canadian intelligence services are doing excellent work. However, two separate attacks by native Canadians in 2014, resulting in the deaths of two soldiers, have raised concerns about police forces' ability to prevent terrorist attacks and the security measures in place at federal and provincial legislatures. Following the incidents, the government announced plans to introduce new anti-terror measures and expand the powers of Canada's spy agency.

Crime rates in Canada are low from an international perspective and continue to fall. Canadians in general have a high degree of confidence and trust in the police.

However, this is not true to the same extent within the aboriginal community. The Assembly of First Nations, the Metis National Council, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Native Women's Association of Canada have made repeated calls for a national public investigation into the unsolved cases of the murder or disappearance of about 600 aboriginal women and girls across the country. The U.N. Human Rights Council's recent Universal Periodic Review of Canada expressed concerns about violence against indigenous women and girls and Canada's perceived failure to address the problem.

In 2014 and 2015, Canada introduced a number of bills to bolster security and the power of agencies (notably Bill C-44 and Bill C-51). The new laws increase the powers of Canada's spy agency (the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, CSIS) to share information and operate internationally, criminalize the promotion of terrorism, and provide the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) with new powers of preventative arrest.

Citation:

UN Human Rights Council (2013). Universal Periodic Review: Canada. Report available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/CASession16.aspx>

Chile

Score 8

Internal security policy is quite effective. While organized crime is not apparent to the average citizen, there are some disturbing trends: selective acts of terrorism (or acts classified as terrorism) based on ethnic or political grounds, and a slightly rising incidence of drug trafficking (and related crimes). Homicide rates in Chile are among Latin America's lowest. Common crime rates have not shown any significant changes since 2012. Still, public perceptions of crime tend to overestimate the statistical reality. Private security services are widespread in the wealthier urban areas, especially in Santiago. Chile has an extremely high share of prisoners among the younger population in particular. Prevention measures are not well developed. The last two governments each launched anti-crime programs focusing more on detection and repression than on prevention. These had very mixed results. Crime-control programs such as the Plan Cuadrante and the marked increase in the numbers of police officers have significantly reduced crime rates. Penal-code reforms and their implementation over the last eight years have also significantly raised the efficiency of crime detection and criminal prosecution.

Citation:

http://www.ine.cl/canales/chile_estadistico/encuestas_seguridadciudadana/victimizacion2013/presentacion_x_encuesta_nacional_seguridad_ciudadana.pdf

UNODC report 2013:

http://www.unodc.org/documents/gsh/pdfs/2014_GLOBAL_HOMICIDE_BOOK_web.pdf

Denmark

Score 8 The security forces and police are responsible for internal security (falling under the Ministry of Justice). Cooperation between the police and defense intelligence services was increased after 9/11. International cooperation has also increased among Western allies.

Denmark is not a violent society. The homicide rate is low and Danes normally trust the police. However, burglaries are not uncommon and crimes related to drug use do occur. Terrorist events at home and abroad have increased tensions. In the June 2011 Eurobarometer, 56% of Danes said terrorism was the most important challenge to the security of Danish citizens at the moment (the EU average was 25%). Thirty percent of Danes said the biggest challenge was the financial crisis (the EU average was 33%).

Denmark has opted out of the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) cooperation within the EU (since 1993). In December 2015, there was a referendum on the Danish opt-out. The proposal called for Denmark to adopt an opt-in model, implying that the country would take part in 22 EU legislative directives and regulations concerning criminal law and police cooperation as well as civil, family, and commercial law. Denmark would still not take part in 10 other legislative directives and regulations concerning asylum and immigration. Voters turned this proposal down. There remain, however, ongoing discussions to formulate a new Danish policy for possible participation in various forms of cooperation (e.g., Europol).

Citation:

Murder plot against Danish cartoonist, http://jyllands-posten.dk/uknews/EC_E3923645/murder-plot-against-danish-cartoonist/ (accessed 18 April 2013)

DIIS, "Opinion Polls," <http://www.diis.dk/graphics/Publications/Books2012/YB2012/040.Chapter%204%20opinion%20polls.pdf> (accessed 18 April 2013).

DIIS, "Opinion Polls," http://en.diis.dk/files/publications/Books2014/DIIS2014_yearbook_forweb.pdf (accessed 18 October 2014).

"Klart flertal for at afskaffe retsforbeholdet," <http://www.altinget.dk/artikel/klart-flertal-for-at-afskaffe-retsforbeholdet> (accessed 3 November 2014).

Lisbeth Kirk, "Danes to vote on EU relations in December referendum." <https://euobserver.com/beyond-brussels/129950>

Estonia

Score 8 Despite steady improvement, Estonia still ranks at the bottom of the OECD's homicide and violence statistics. One of the major causes of high crime rates is alcohol and drug consumption that often leads to violent behavior at home or in other private settings. This makes crime prevention harder and calls for better cooperation

between social workers and the police. In contrast, there is barely any violence in the streets, and what does occur are usually alcohol-related conflicts between people who know each other.

The police forces enjoy high levels of public trust, a fact that helps to compensate for the comparative scarcity of human and material resources in the field. After sharp budget cuts in the 2011 – 2013 period, the government has taken a more holistic approach to internal-security matters. This integrated approach guiding the Internal Security Development Plan 2015 – 2020 combines a more efficient use of state resources, a slight budget increase, and broader cooperation with volunteers. In 2014, 884 volunteer police assistants and 130 citizens' rescue teams supported the state security forces.

Iceland

Score 8

Iceland has always been a secure place to live, with relatively few assaults, burglaries, or other crimes. However, some changes have occurred since the 2008 economic collapse. The 2007-2009 government was undermined by a series of protests, which – though largely peaceful – did lead to clashes between protesters and riot police in early 2009. While these events led only to minor injuries and some 20 arrests, they were the first serious riots since March 1949's protests against a parliamentary decision to bring Iceland into NATO. The main policing priority has been Iceland's internal security. The police force has long suffered from a manpower shortage, exacerbated by low pay.

The incidence of drug-smuggling has been on the rise for several years. This trend reflects a related increase in the prevalence of violent attacks by individuals under the influence of alcohol or other drugs in Reykjavik, especially on weekends.

Latvia

Score 8

The group of institutions responsible for internal security policy in Latvia (the Ministry of Interior, the State Police, the Security Police, State Fire and Rescue Service, State Border Guard, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs) do not collaborate on policy. Crime rates in 2014 were down by 1.9% over 2013. There are 2,386 reported crimes per 100,000 inhabitants, the lowest such rate among the Baltic states. Despite international developments, the threat of terrorism has remained low. In 2014, no acts of terrorism or other criminal offenses associated with terrorism were committed in Latvia.

Opinion polls from 2013 show that citizens' trust in the State Police (Valsts policija, VP) has reached 57%, an increase over previous years. A total of 63% of residents say they feel safe in their home and surrounding area.

Citation:

1. Research center SKDS (2013), Attitude Toward the State Police, Available at (in Latvian): <http://www.vp.gov.lv/?id=704>, Last assessed: 20.05.2013
2. State Border Guard (2011), Official Report, Available at (in Latvian): http://www.rs.gov.lv/doc_upl/Valsts%20robezsardzes%202011.gada%20publiskais%20parskats.pdf, Last assessed: 20.05.2013
3. Ministry of Interior (2014), Public Report, Available at (in Latvian): http://www.iem.gov.lv/files/text/Gada_parskats_2014_wwwf%281%29.pdf, Last assessed: 22.11.2015
4. Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, Information Technology and Communications Department (2013), Crime statistics in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Available at: http://www.ird.lt/doc/statistika/duomenys_bv_per_2012m_%2001-12_men.pdf, Last assessed: 20.05.2013

Netherlands

Score 8

Data from 2010 show that confidence in the police is high; satisfaction regarding policy performance is fairly high (28% of those polled express that they are “very satisfied”). In 2015, the Dutch government spent €10 billion (down €3 billion from 2010) on public order and safety (police, fire protection, disaster protection, judicial and penitentiary system) – an amount that has been approximately stable since 2008. The Integral Safety Monitor for 2010 reported that the one in four people among the population aged 15 years and over claimed to have been the victim of commonly occurring crimes (such as vandalism, fraud or violence); in 2014, this had decreased to one in five. The longer-term trend (2005 – 2014) shows a decrease in self-reported victimhood by one-third. However, less than 40% of all crimes committed are actually reported to the police; indeed, citizens likelihood of reporting crimes is decreasing. Cybercrime rates (hacking, Internet harassment, commercial and identity fraud) continue to increase. The dissemination of illegal cryptographic software and phishing have become standard in the cybercriminal business model. While no exact data exists, experts estimated that in 2013, 12% of Netherlands residents older than 15 were victims of cybercrime; among the 15- to 25-year-old age cohort, this rate was estimated at 20%. In research commissioned by McAfee, the American Center for Strategic and International Studies estimated that cybercrime creates damage to the Dutch economy totaling approximately €8.8 billion per year (or 1.5% of GDP). Since 2008, the feeling of vulnerability among the public is slightly decreasing; however, younger women in particular report feeling feelings of vulnerability and fear on a regular basis. Per case prosecution costs have declined, while victim-support expenses have gone up considerably. Officially reported crime has declined. Moreover, since 2007, an average of one in four reported crimes has led to the identification and/or arrest of perpetrators.

Since 2011, the Dutch government has been implementing an EU-coordinated National Cybersecurity Strategy that prioritizes prevention over detection. Regarding terrorism threats, the intelligence services (Nationale Coördinator Terrorismebestrijding, established 2004) appear able to prevent attacks. Fighting terrorism, extremism and anticipating political radicalization and transboundary criminality have increased in priority. The policies of the present government focus on cost reduction and the centralization of the previously strictly municipality- and

region-based police, judicial and penitentiary systems. Judges and other legal personnel have voiced public complaints about the “managerialization” of the judicial process and the resulting overburdening workload for judges, leading to “sloppy” trials and verdicts. The government intends to save €85 million in 2018 by cutting legal assistance to (poor) citizens. Government policy is attempting to relieve part of the burden on the judicial system by introducing intermediation procedures. Despite frequently occurring large fires in industrial complexes, spending on fire and disaster protection remains unaltered.

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CBS, Criminaliteit en rechtshandhaving 2013. Ontwikkelingen en samenhangen. Samenvatting (cbs.nl, consulted 26 October 2015)

Criminaliteit en rechtshandhaving in 2014. Ontwikkelingen en samenhangen, WODC en CBS, Raad voor de Rechtspraak, 2015

Cybersecuritybeeld Nederland CSBN 2015, Ministerie van Veiligheid en Justitie (rijksoverheid.nl)

Evaluatierapport van de zevende wederzijdse evaluatie “De praktische uitvoering en toepassing van het Europese beleid inzake preventie en bestrijding cybercriminaliteit”. Rapport Nederland, Raad van de Europese Unie, Brussel, 15 April 2015 (zoek.officiële bekendmakingen.nl, consulted 26 October 2015)

Poland

Score 8

The annual number of homicides and thefts further decreased during the review period, and the feeling of safety among citizens has grown. While men face a greater risk of falling victim to assaults or other violent crimes, women report lower feelings of security than men. The effectiveness of the police forces has increased.

Portugal

Score 8

Portugal is signatory to and participant in all relevant Europe-wide programs regarding public security. In addition, Portugal has created a General Secretariat for the Internal Security System, which reports to the prime minister via the minister for internal administration.

The trend identified in the previous report was maintained during this review period, with a drop of 6.7% in overall reported crime in 2014. This is all the more remarkable given the context of economic crisis. Overall, Portugal remains a relatively safe country in international terms.

This pattern is consistent with that found in surveys. In the Eurobarometer survey on the issue of internal security, published in November 2011, Portuguese respondents indicated a lower degree of concern about terrorism, petty crime, cybercrime and religious extremism than the EU average.

Citation:

Special Eurobarometer 371, “Internal Security. European Commission, Brussels. Available at http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

Sistema de Segurança Interna, “Relatório Anual de Segurança Interna 2014,” available online at: https://www.parlamento.pt/Documents/XIILEG/Abril_2015/relatorioseginterna2014.pdf

United Kingdom

Score 8

Objectively speaking, citizens of the United Kingdom have enjoyed improved security over the last 15 years as the crime rate has dropped significantly and consistently (although it continues to be relatively high in absolute terms when compared to other OECD countries). This is not reflected, however, in increased subjective perception of security, since British citizens (probably influenced by media reporting) perceive crime to be on the rise. The issue thus remains in the public spotlight, and cuts in the budgets of the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice – in line with overall budget cuts to fight the deficit – have therefore been politically contentious. The most recent figures do, nevertheless, suggest a further fall in crime, although questions have been raised about whether “new” crimes like cybercrime are being adequately recorded. Moreover, even in higher crime areas, there are few signs that citizens consider the environment to be unsafe.

The coalition government abolished some of the harsh counter-terrorism laws introduced by earlier Labour governments in an attempt to correct the balance in favor of civil rights. A new National Crime Agency started work in the autumn of 2013 as a central body for crime fighting. Certain high-profile revelations of police malpractice, including the recently exposed falsification of records in the Hillsborough football disaster of 1989, have led to disquiet about police behavior, but have not conspicuously undermined confidence.

The new Conservative government announced that it would reform the police disciplinary and complaint system to improve trust between citizens and the police. It further promised to make the Police Federation Subject to the Freedom of Information Act to improve transparency in the police force.

There is continuing concern about terrorist threats, accentuated by the renewed difficulties in the Middle East and the evidence of the involvement of UK-born jihadis. There is concern about the threat posed by returning fighters from the Middle East, which has led to an increase in resources for the security services. There are occasional briefings from these services about “plots disrupted.”

Belgium

Score 7

Belgium is generally a safe country, yet violence does occur and the country’s crime rate is higher than in neighboring countries. Self-reported victimization rates are above the OECD average, in part due to above-average bullying problems that do not receive much policy attention. Underfunded, overcrowded and unhealthy prisons are part of the problem. Efforts are being made to strengthen police presence in potentially risky areas (and even of the army, following the terrorist attacks on

Charlie Hebdo in Paris). However, the court system remains too slow (due to a huge backlog) and is often perceived as lenient. Part of this is due to chronic underfunding of the judiciary, but the issue is further exacerbated by linguistic issues in and around Brussels (the issue being the imbalance in the proportion of French- and Dutch-speaking judges and chambers, which perpetuates the backlog, particularly for penal issues). This helps maintain a feeling of impunity for small misdemeanors. On another front, in particular in connection with terrorist threats, the intelligence services still lag behind those of other European countries in terms of overall efficiency, IT proficiency, and related issues, in spite of ongoing investment.

The country's relative social stability, neocorporatist arrangements and limited levels of income inequality have largely insulated it from mass demonstrations or riots of the kind sometimes observed in France.

Citation:

OECD 2015. Better life initiative. How is life in Belgium? October 2015. <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/countries/belgium/>

Cyprus

Score 7

Cyprus is generally considered a safe environment. As an island, it has developed adequate monitoring of the coast and entry points. Its only relatively vulnerable points are the line dividing the government-controlled areas and the Turkish-occupied north, as well as the portions of the British bases that abut the north. Cyprus is not part of the Schengen area. A low incidence of serious crime, assaults and homicides place it in a very good position compared to other EU countries and the world more generally. Burglaries and robberies are by far the most common crimes, with a relatively stable occurrence. Law enforcement activities targeting minor wrongdoings such as driving offences or graffiti is very limited. Illegal drug activity is comparatively minimal overall, but an increase in the amount of illegal drugs confiscated at entry points has been evident.

The country's police force collaborates closely with Interpol and cooperates with the United States in the fight against terrorism. The number of police officers per 100,000 people is among the highest in the world. Confidence in the police force is not high. In a 2015 poll, only 69% of respondents agreed that Cyprus was a secure place to live, as compared to an EU average of 83%.

Citation:

1. Police force per 100,000, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_police_officers
2. Perception of Security in EU, Eurobarometer 2015, <http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/PublicOpinion/index.cfm/ResultDoc/download/DocumentKy/65448>

Czech Republic

Score 7

Confidence in the police is low from an international perspective, but relatively high compared with confidence in other public institutions; more than half of Czech citizens are satisfied with the performance of police and feel secure. Crime figures are unremarkable. However, there are increasing regional differences as well as tension in regions with a concentration of marginalized groups. Moreover, fears of terrorist attacks have grown recently. Protection against security risks is favored by well-functioning, cross-border cooperation. In December 2014, the Ministry of the Interior presented an updated medium-term strategy to combat organized crime. In October 2015, the Czech government assisted Hungary's attempt to limit the inflow of refugees by sending 50 police officers to Hungary.

Germany

Score 7

In general, residents of Germany are well protected against security risks such as crime or terrorism. Crime rates are on the decline. While in 2000 a total of 7,625 crimes were recorded per 100,000 inhabitants, this figure had fallen to 7,530 in 2014, with a slight increase in the detection rate from 53.2% to 54.9% (Bundesministerium des Innern 2014). A total of 6,082,064 crimes were committed in 2014, a slight increase of 2% over 2013.

However, the National Socialist Underground (NSU) scandal revealed institutional problems inside domestic intelligence and police agencies. The NSU was a neo-Nazi group that had murdered nine people from immigrant families as well as a policewoman between 2000 and 2007. Five leading officials of various intelligence agencies at the state and federal levels had been forced to resign as a consequence of mismanagement and possible misconduct related to the case.

Along with extremist activities by right-wing and left-wing groups and organizations, Islamic extremism is increasingly perceived as a threat in Germany. The Salafist movement (a Muslim group considered radical) is perceived to be a threat to domestic security and under surveillance by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution. The group is quickly growing in number and attracts support principally from younger German Muslims.

Moreover, reactions from far-right groups are also a threat to public order. While crime rates have not changed disproportionately following the increase of refugees arriving in Germany, the number of xenophobic attacks on accommodations for asylum seekers increased dramatically, according to the Minister of the Interior (Die Zeit 2015) and Federal Office of Criminal Investigation (BKA).

At the time of writing, authorities have been successful in securing public order and preventing major terrorist attacks, largely by detecting conspiracies at an early stage, but the threat of a terrorist attack has increased according to authorities.:

Crime rates 2014

[http://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Broschueren/2015/pks-](http://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Broschueren/2015/pks-2014.pdf?jsessionid=BB52FF2F07734E52EFCFEA67A076B447.2_cid364?__blob=publicationFile)

[2014.pdf?jsessionid=BB52FF2F07734E52EFCFEA67A076B447.2_cid364?__blob=publicationFile](http://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Broschueren/2015/pks-2014.pdf?jsessionid=BB52FF2F07734E52EFCFEA67A076B447.2_cid364?__blob=publicationFile)

Die Zeit (2015): <http://www.zeit.de/politik/deutschland/2015-11/bundeskriminalamt-fluechtlinge-deutsche-straftaten-vergleich>

Ireland

Score 7

Overall, Irish crime rates are relatively low by international standards. However, property crime rates have risen in the last few years and over the past decade there has been an increase in “gangland” crime, including murders involving firearms. The low detection and conviction rates for these crimes are disturbing.

The main police force remains unarmed and, despite a recent fatal shooting of an on-duty police officer, there is no widespread clamor to arm the force. It enjoys a good relationship with the majority of the population, although tensions exist in certain areas and with certain social groups. Continuing evidence of serious deficiencies in the administration of “penalty points” for driving offenses has had a significant negative impact on the public image of the police force.

Cross-border policing cooperation between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland remains good, although the existence of a long land border is an inherent obstacle to effective law enforcement. It is widely acknowledged that paramilitary crime and racketeering are unacceptably high in the Northern Ireland/Republic of Ireland border areas.

Italy

Score 7

With the exception of some regions of southern Italy where mafia-type organized crime can have a serious impact on the security of certain sectors of the population (for instance entrepreneurs and shop owners) internal security is sufficiently guaranteed. Crime levels are not particularly high but recently have significantly risen with economic crisis and rising unemployment going on now for years. The population has in general a rather high level of confidence in the security forces. The segmentation of security forces (Carabinieri, Polizia di Stato, Guardia di Finanza, Polizia Municipale) might result in some inefficiencies and accountability. The security forces are not always able to efficiently maintain law and order, and security in major urban areas.

Lithuania

Score 7

Lithuania’s internal security has improved in recent years, in part thanks to Lithuania’s accession to the European Union in 2004 and to the Schengen zone in 2007. These relationships improved police cooperation with the country’s EU peers

and allowed the public security infrastructure, information systems and staff skills to be upgraded. Crime rates fell during the 2005 – 2007 period, but this trend was reversed beginning in 2008, coinciding with the onset of the economic crisis. A total of 84,715 crimes were registered in 2013, which constitutes a 5.6% decrease in the crime rate in 2005. However, the year's crime rate per 100,000 people (2,866) was the highest in the 2005 – 2013 period due to the country's decreasing total population. The country has a high number of homicides by EU standards, and the population expresses a relatively low level confidence in the police. In the 2011 Eurobarometer survey, 58% of Lithuanians either disagreed or totally disagreed with the statement that their country was doing enough to fight organized crime, as compared to an EU-27 average of 42%. In its most recent report (2015 – 2016), the World Economic Forum ranked Lithuania at 53rd place out of 140 countries in terms of the costs to business of crime, violence and organized crime.

State funding for internal-security purposes remains limited; though it gradually increased between 2004 and 2008, government expenditure for public-safety purposes dropped from 2.4% of GDP in 2008 to 2.1% in 2011. Observers say that motivation, competence and stability within the police force (and other internal-security organizations) are among the most pressing challenges to improving public safety. According to the 2011 Eurobarometer report, 42% of Lithuanians felt corruption to be an issue very important to citizens' security, while just 5% felt the same about terrorism threats, and 2% for civil wars/wars. The annual report of the Lithuanian Security Department has recently highlighted threats linked to the activities of external intelligence services from neighboring non-NATO countries. The country has reconsidered its internal-security policies due to increasing threats associated with Russia's intervention in Ukraine. A new long-term Public Security Development Program for 2015 – 2025, which aims at increasing public safety in the country, was adopted by the parliament in May 2015. In addition, in response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine and increase in its Baltic Sea Region military exercises, Lithuania reintroduced compulsory military conscriptions in 2015. The previous year, parliamentary parties committed to increasing defense expenditures to reach 2% of the country's GDP by 2020.

The 2011 Eurobarometer reports is available at http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_371_fact_lt_en.pdf.

Luxembourg

Score 7

While Luxembourg no longer scores among the very top cities in Mercer's Quality of Living survey, the capital was ranked 19th worldwide in 2015 with regard to standards of living and personal security, holding the position attained in recent years.

As of 2000 the government merged the police and the gendarmerie to create the Police Grand-Ducale, cutting administration staff, strengthening the forces overall,

resulting in an improvement in crime clearance rates. One ongoing focus is on the continuous education and training of police officers as an important means of adapting to new criminal methods and activities. An additional goal is to strengthen international cooperation and bilateral agreements in combating cross-border crime. Sustained efforts remain necessary to prevent activities such as money laundering, other financial crimes and terrorism. The number of international crime offenses reported to Europol rose to 5,660 in 2015. Although the number of police officers has increased every year, the crime rate is also rising continuously. The national police force showed a modest increase to a total of 1,784 police officers and 240 civil officers in 2014. According to 2014 statistics, the crime rate rose 5% as compared to 2013, with 7,839 crimes per 100,000 residents. The number of all recorded crimes increased from 39,957 in 2013 to 43,078 in 2014.

While the number of burglaries decreased during the first nine months of 2015 by 20% in comparison to 2014, drug-related crime (+30% as a result of intensified controls) and reported violence (+8.5%) have climbed again faster (with respect to total number of cases) than other crimes. Vandalism rose by 1.5% in 2014, while Luxembourg's prisoner population increased only slightly, by 2.5% compared to the previous year (2012: total population of 679; 2013: 697).

Increasing criminality in Luxembourg not only results in rising costs, but also decreases subjective and objective safety. A recent survey showed that 34% of population believed they "could be burgled during the next year" and more than a third (37%) of people living in houses believed they "were at risk."

Citation:

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Slovakia

Score 7

The Slovak police forces suffer from underfunding and corruption, as well as from a lack of coordination among the different security institutions. Marginalized groups such as Roma and homosexuals run the risk of being subject to police discrimination. However, the Slovak law-enforcement system meets EU standards of border management and is quite effective in protecting the national borders in line with the Schengen agreement. As a result, Slovak citizens expressed for a long time only mild levels of concern over illegal migration. However, this situation has changed in the face of the EU refugee crisis and the terrorist attacks in Paris in November 2015. Prime Minister Fico helped generate fears through a series of negative public

statements toward illegal migrants. In the context of the refugee crisis, the government decided in November 2015 to establish a police unit of 300 individuals to target specifically the protection of the Schengen Area's external borders.

Sweden

Score 7

The crime rate in Sweden is slightly higher than it is in comparable countries. Assessing the effectiveness of the internal security police is a complex undertaking. Sweden has experienced substantial problems with organized crime for a long time. Despite increased efforts to address this problem during the period of review, organized crime has shown no sign of waning, rather the opposite. Many media accounts of homicides and assaults relate these incidents to organized crime and rivalry among competing organizations.

In terms of solving and preventing crime, there has been extensive debate about police effectiveness. Studies suggest that the police do not use their resources effectively and that only 2% of their working time is spent on actual crime prevention or resolution.

An additional problem is related to the emphasis on performance measurement and management which, critics argue, has led the police to focus on high performance scores rather than crime prevention. Pre-emptive police work which may observers argued is the best way to prevent crime does not show up in performance measures. Also, given the performance targets some aspects of police work such as checking automobile drivers' sobriety is conducted with almost more attention to getting the numbers in than actually bringing criminals to court.

The percentage of "smaller" crimes, particularly petty crimes such as theft and burglary, that are solved is still lower than many Swedish citizens think is acceptable.

Citation:

Holgerson, S. and J. Knutsson (2012), *Vad gör egentligen polisen?* (Institutionen för ekonomisk och industriell utveckling. LIU-IEI-Research Report 12/0004. Linköping: Linköpings Universitet).

France

Score 6

Although the police maintains a reputation of being efficient (sometimes too efficient, as the institution is granted significant powers and discretion vis-à-vis the citizenry), concerns over internal security are high. Attention has focused on repeated outbreaks of urban violence in the suburbs or other areas. Following a rising level of petty crime and several terrorist attacks on French territory and abroad, citizens have been more and more vocal about the need to be better protected by enforcing "law and order" measures. There is a growing feeling of insecurity related

to the rise of robbery both in cities and - this is a new phenomenon - in the countryside. Drug trafficking and violence are such in some neighborhoods of large cities that they are seen as off-limits. There is obviously a relationship between the economic and social crisis and this increase in feelings of insecurity. This situation has also had a decisive impact on protest votes in favor of the extreme-right party, the National Front.

Nonetheless, domestic security policy is able on the whole to protect citizens; some problems (related to urban violence for instance) are often linked to social problems and have to be managed by actions beyond security policy.

The 13 November terrorist attacks have boosted the topic of security to the top of the political agenda, triggering real concerns as well as political polemics driven by the populist and extreme right. The government has reacted to this with new security measures, issuing a temporary state of emergency and giving more powers to the executive and to police to prevent and fight terrorist acts. It is too early to measure the impact of these measures on internal security.

Greece

Score 6

As UN data on homicides for 2012 show, Greece, despite suffering from a severe economic crisis, is not a dangerous country to live in. However, in the wake of the crisis, many people consider some areas in central Athens as “no go zones.” It is telling that while in 2008, 12% of respondents in nationwide surveys of living conditions reported vandalism and criminality as major problems, by 2012 this figure increased to 20%. Regarding theft, after a surge in the number of reported thefts between 2011 and 2013, there was a drop in this crime against property in 2014.

Efforts to improve safety have been made since 2012. The Ministry of Public Order placed policemen on the streets at visible points and intersections. However, Greeks do not feel safe. According to data from a study conducted in 2011 by the Greek Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), Greeks report noise (25% of respondents), environmental pollution (also 25%) and vandalism and criminality (20%) as the greatest risks with regard to housing.

Citation:

Data on homicides are drawn on the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Data on risks Greeks perceive are drawn on research conducted in the context of EU-SILK program by the Greek Statistical Authority and is available at http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/A0802/PressReleases/A0802_SFA10_DT_AN_00_2011_08_F_GR.pdf

Data on the share of nationwide survey respondents reporting vandalism and criminality is drawn on the Greek Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), available at http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/A0802/PressReleases/A0802_SFA10_DT_AN_00_2012_08_F_GR.pdf

Information on thefts in 2011-2014 is taken from data provided in this data base.

Israel

Score 6

The Ministry of Public Security (MPS) manages internal security in conjunction with the armed forces and other government agencies such as “Rachel” (emergency) and “Malal” (terrorism prevention). After changing its name (previously, the Ministry of the Police), the MPS broadened its scope and is now in charge of crime prevention, the prison system, gun control, the prevention of terrorist acts, and fire prevention policies. Reforms aim to integrate the country’s dispersed agencies dealing with security issues and in 2013 the ministry reported some accomplishments. For example, the Firearm Licensing Department (2011), the Israel Fire and Rescue Services (2011) and the Israel Anti-Drug Authority have been successfully integrated into the ministry, improving coordination capabilities.

The OECD’s Better Life Index gives Israel a moderate mark on security (7.4 out of 10). Israel’s murder rate is below average among the OECD countries (2.3 persons killed annually per 100,000 inhabitants compared to the OECD average of 4, 2015) with 63% of citizens questioned stating that they felt safe walking alone at night (OECD average: 69%). The rate of sexual assault in Israel is above the OECD average by 16%. In 2014, a number of gun related murders and attacks in Israeli Arab cities were followed by public outrage and protest, voicing public frustration over escalating violence and the poor security conditions in Israel’s periphery. A new surge of violence in 2015, characterized by a series of street attacks on Jewish and Arab citizens attributed to nationalist and religious motivations, threaten the general perception of security.

Since Israel’s internal-security budget is divided between different agencies, and cannot be separated from the defense budget managed by the Ministry of Defense, it is hard to estimate the country’s overall internal-security expenditure. Although the Ministry of Public Security’s budget increased in recent years, it is at least partly the result of expanding the ministry’s responsibilities and not increased investment or policy implementation.

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OECD, "Safety: Better life index Israel," OECD.
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Malta

Score 6

Security threats to the state originating from outside have been largely absent, making it difficult to assess local readiness or ability to protect citizens if such threats were to materialize. According to the U.S. Department of State, no indigenous terrorist or extremist groups are known to be active in Malta, but – due to its geographic location and status as an EU member state – Malta could be used by terrorists to enter the EU. In addition, a recent report, allegedly originating from ISIL, identified Malta as one of its enemies. Malta's Secret Service is small and depends heavily on intelligence from foreign intelligence services.

Malta is affiliated with Interpol and is also party to several cross-border security cooperation efforts, such as the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union. Malta is also participating in Operation Triton to secure borders and rescue migrants in the central Mediterranean area.

As Malta ensures the security of an external frontier of the European Union, it has received substantial assistance through the External Borders Fund. Through this fund, the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) have been able to obtain important resources for the enhancement of the existing border control system, which is primarily directed toward policing the island's maritime borders from irregular migration and drug smuggling. These have contributed to the AFM's Integrated Communications Systems Project, the procurement of four inshore patrol boats and better facilities on the ground. In 2015, Malta was allocated an additional €12.6 million from EU funds to purchase additional fixed-wing aircraft. Between 2014 and 2020, Malta was allocated €2 million to strengthen the armed forces, the police force, civil protection department, security services and customs department. Additional hardware will be purchased and surveillance systems upgraded.

Malta's Secret Service has improved its capability, as evidenced by its support in liberating Maltese hostages in Libya. However, the current crisis in the Mediterranean remains a big challenge. The need felt to strengthen external borders and tighten visa regimes has led to the temporary suspension of Schengen in Malta until the end of the 2016.

Plans to reform the police force were announced during the third quarter of 2015. However, confidence in the police remains low.

Citation:

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 Minister to draft reform strategy for police force, Malta Today 11/08/15
 Malta Today 24/08/2015 Online poll: Absolute majority mistrust Malta's Police Force
 The Independent 13/07/15 32 police officers facing criminal charges, 12 suspended while 20 still serving in the police force
 Times of Malta 25/11/2015 Maltese Flag features in video threatening coalition of devils
 Malta Today 4/2/2015 Malta allocated a further 12 million for Frontex equipment

Romania

Score 6

Romania's homicide and violent-crime rates have remained relatively low, and the Directorate for Investigation of Organised Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT) has proven active and effective in the fight against organized and cross-border crime. The most significant incident involving the safety of civilians occurred on 30 October 2015, when a fire at a night club in Bucharest broke out and caused the death of 60 people and hospitalized more than 130. The tragedy, largely seen as a result of inadequate enforcement of safety regulations, sparked outrage which led to a protest of more than 12,000 people marching in the capital. The refugee crisis has raised concerns over smuggling, illegal immigration and the fostering of organized crime networks. The cross-border dimension of cyber-related criminal activity was recognized by a cooperation agreement between Romania and the United States.

Bulgaria

Score 5

While Bulgaria does have a serious problem with organized crime, normal citizens can live relatively safely and crime statistics have fallen in recent years. The strong feeling of personal insecurity revealed by various surveys relates more to economic insecurity than to fear of crime. In 2015, however, trust in the police reached an all time low. One explanation is the role the police played during the protests in 2013-2014. In addition, the police force, led by its professional trade union, firmly opposed a popular reform package announced by the Ministry of Interior in autumn 2015. This reform package aimed to prevent and combat corruption in the police force through a set of wide-ranging measures from compulsory property declarations to lie-detector tests and integrity testing. While governments rhetorically declare Schengen accession a priority, progress with international cooperation in security matters has remained limited, as reflected in the repeated postponements of Bulgaria's admission to the Schengen Area.

Hungary

Score 5 In Hungary, regular crime is largely kept within “normal” limits. By European standards, Budapest is a rather safe capital city, and the number of registered crimes in the country even dropped significantly in 2014 from approximately 378,000 to 330,000. However, there are strong security risks associated with violence perpetrated by extreme-right groups and confrontations between opposing political camps on the streets. The government’s attempts to prevent atrocities from being perpetrated against Roma, Jews and homosexuals, as well as to protect opposition demonstrators, have remained rather half-hearted. The government has tolerated the reorganization of the Hungarian Guard, the extreme-right wing paramilitary organization linked to the Jobbik party. The Hungarian Guard and other smaller extreme-right organizations have been active along the Hungarian-Serbian border during the refugee crisis.

Turkey

Score 5 According to the OECD, in Turkey, 5.0% of respondents report having been victims of assault in 2014, which is higher than the OECD average of 3.9%. The survey indicates that 62% of respondents say they feel safe walking alone at night, which is lower than the OECD average of 69%. More recently, acts of terrorism carried out by domestic (PKK) and international (IS group) groups have become an important issue, raising considerable doubt about state authorities’ capacity to effectively combat terrorist cells and groups. Bombings before and after the June 7 elections increased security and safety concerns, and since then, some 400 people have been killed in terrorist-related or other incidents associated with the escalation of violence in the southeast. Since the beginning of 2015, homicides and the murder of women (honor crimes) have also increased. As of the end of October 2015, a total of 249 women were killed by men (i.e., a husband, lover or another man).

The General Directorate of Security was allocated an annual budget of €5.45 billion in 2014 and 71% of this budget was spent for personnel expenditures. About €5 billion was spent for public order and security as part of the functional budget. In 2015, the directorate’s total budget reached €5.67 billion. Some €3.38 billion of this sum has been allocated in 2015 to the public order and security category. About 270,000 personnel are employed by the directorate, which means 360 police per 100,000 inhabitants. The Turkish National Police (TNP) collaborates extensively with domestic partners as well as international organizations such as INTERPOL, EUROPOL, SECI, AGIT, BM, CEPOL, and FRONTEX. Moreover, the TNP has introduced an e-government infrastructure in many divisions, and initiated several projects intended to bring operations into harmony with the EU *acquis communautaire*. EU-funded capacity development projects for judicial sciences were completed in Adana, Diyarbakır and İzmir. Several projects were also initiated by

the Directorate such as the Security Department Law Enforcement Services, the Missing Person Alarm System, or the Media Monitoring System. Except for logistical matters and work conditions, all major departments of the directorate achieved their performance objectives in the year 2014.

In 2010, the Undersecretariat of Public Order and Safety was established to develop policies and strategies to combat terrorism and to coordinate among the relevant institutions and agencies. As of the end of 2014, a total of 96 personnel were employed by the undersecretariat. Several national and international activities including surveys, publications on resolving the Kurdish issue were conducted in particular. The number of special security service companies reached 1,330 in 2014, and 233,457 people were employed in this sector by the end of 2014.

In August 2014, the government submitted to parliament for ratification the CoE Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, which was signed in 1981. Moreover, the government submitted a draft bill concerning the protection of personal data, and a separate bill for the establishment of an Anti-Discrimination and Equality Board that has to date not been passed.

As a reaction to mass demonstrations, a controversial “domestic security” bill (Law No. 6638) amending the Law No. 2559 on the Duties and Powers of Police was adopted by parliament in March 2015. As a result, police chiefs can now order that a person, their belongings and private vehicle be searched if they have obtained the written or oral permission of administrative chiefs.

Many observers argue that Turkey needs a holistic, integrated and well-coordinated and centralized domestic security policy.

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United States

Score 4

The United States invests massively in efforts to protect citizens against security risks such as crime and terrorism. In the years after 9/11, the United States built an extraordinarily large security establishment centered in the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency. In 2013 and 2014, the Snowden leaks revealed massive, largely unauthorized NSA surveillance of Americans' telephone and Internet communications. Although little evidence has been provided regarding the concrete achievements of this surveillance program, policymakers had not moved to impose major limitations on surveillance authority by November 2015.

The government has had less success dealing with two other kinds of violence. First, large cities are plagued by homicides, primarily in inner-city black and Latino neighborhoods. New Orleans, St. Louis, Baltimore, Detroit and Chicago all number among the world's 50 cities with the highest homicide rates. Second, deranged individuals (without political or religious motives) have repeatedly used semi-automatic weapons with large ammunition clips to kill large numbers of people. Under pressure from the National Rifle Association and its mass membership, Congress has failed to pass legislation imposing background checks for the purchase of a gun or limiting the size of ammunition magazines.

In addition, the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager by a police officer in a St. Louis suburb drew attention to a possibly growing phenomenon of excessive police violence, especially against blacks. The Black Lives Matter protest movement gained momentum during 2015, highlighting the insecurity of racial minorities vulnerable to harassment or violence by local police departments. In parallel, policymakers in a number of states have moved to reduce the quantity and length of prison sentences imposed for nonviolent crimes. Law-enforcement sources have suggested that the additional scrutiny of police practices has inhibited police effectiveness and led to increases in crime in certain areas.

Mexico

Score 2

Mexico is among the most dangerous countries in the world. This is mainly a result of criminal activity, as the amount of political violence is very small for a country of Mexico's size. From a regional perspective, it has a slightly better homicide rate than Honduras or Venezuela, but is as bad as Colombia. The main reason for this high homicide rate is that Mexico has become a major center for the transit of illegal drugs to the United States. In brutal competition with each other, Mexico's criminal gangs, or cartels, have carried out horrific acts and killed thousands.

In 2006, then-incoming National Action Party President Calderon made the so-called war on drugs a policy priority. However, the murder rate has increased since 2006. The reasons for this increase are complex and cannot all be blamed on the government. But Calderon's anti-drug policy clearly did not succeed. President Peña Nieto initially criticized the Calderon government for relying too much on force in dealing with the drug problem, but it is not clear that the current administration is doing any better. Mexico has improved the bureaucratic efficiency of some of its crime-fighting operations, but there are still huge problems. These problems include a lack of bureaucratic cooperation, rampant corruption within the security apparatus, the immense scale of criminal activity in Mexico and the infiltration of law enforcement agencies by organized crime,

More worrying still, the judicial system is not designed to convict powerful and wealthy criminals. It is too difficult to convict criminal suspects in Mexico who can afford wealthy lawyers. It is probably too early to evaluate President Peña Nieto's performance on internal security-related issues, but the murder rate remains high and several public scandals have damaged public confidence in the authorities. These scandals include prison escapes by high-profile criminals and unexplained massacres in rural areas. In at least part of its territory, Mexico is a failed state.

Interestingly enough, the government of Mexico City seems about to decriminalize marijuana, which may have some impact on the activity of drug gangs. However, this remains to be seen.

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