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21 February 2006

UKR100975.E

Ukraine: Availability of fraudulent or illegally obtained medical and police reports
(February 2006)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

According to the director of the Kharkov Human Rights Protection Group (KHPG), a non-governmental organization based in Kharkov, Ukraine, it is possible to obtain fraudulent medical and police reports throughout Ukraine (KHPG 1 Feb. 2006). In a 1 February 2006 telephone interview with the Research Directorate, this source explained that police officials and hospital staff in Ukraine earn a low salary and some are therefore willing to accept money to produce such fraudulent documents (ibid.). This source further added that people can obtain such reports by making a contact in the police force or medical establishment who will then locate another individual in those institutions to produce such documents for them (ibid.).

An associate professor of History and Political Science at the University of Western Ontario, who specializes in Ukraine and who lived and worked there for several years as a journalist, corroborated this information in 25 January 2006 correspondence to the Research Directorate. This source wrote that although it is impossible to provide accurate statistics on such illegal activity, the prevalence of fraudulent medical and police reports in Ukraine is "quite widespread" (25 Jan. 2006). Although lacking personal experience in such activity, this source stated that such documents are obtained by "discreetly" inquiring about the drawing up of such reports, finding someone who can organize their printing, and then "a price is quoted [and...] arrangements are made for payment delivery" (ibid.). If a police report is required, then "one usually looks for some contacts in the police department" (ibid.). This professor noted that "President Yushchenko has introduced an anti-corruption campaign which is meant to root out these sorts of practices ... however, it will take a while to clean up decades of corruption" (ibid.).

Further information on the availability of fraudulent medical and police reports in Ukraine could not be found among the sources consulted. However, the following information on other fraudulent documents in Ukraine may be of interest. A 2005 news article reported that "fake 5,000-grivnas banknotes" were circulating in Donetsk, which, in the opinion of "a veteran Ukrainian economic crime police officer," were likely part of a "one-time scheme" and produced with a computer and colour printer (ITAR-TASS 21 July 2005). Another 2005 news article reported that Volodymyr Satsui, former first deputy chairman of the Security Service of Ukraine, was to be charged with Article 358, section 3 - "deliberate use of a fake document"- of the Criminal Code, though the news

report did not disclose what type of document was under scrutiny (*Ukrainian News* 6 Sept. 2005). A 2003 news article reported on the circulation of "fake letters" among the Ukrainian population, "supposedly written" by current President Viktor Yushchenko (*Ukrainskaya Pravda* 6 Mar. 2003).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Associate Professor of History and Political Science, University of Western Ontario. 25 January 2006. Correspondence.

ITAR-TASS [Moscow]. 21 July 2005. Anatoly Gordeyev. "Swindlers Who Floated Timoshenko Banknotes Still at Large."
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Ukrainian News. 6 September 2005. Mykola Savchuk. "Lawyer of Former SBU First Deputy Chairman Satsiuk Appeals Against Court Decision on Legality of PGO's Criminal Case Against Satsiuk." (Factiva)

Ukrainskaya Pravda. 6 March 2003. "Our Ukraine Claims to Know Who Circulated Bogus Yushchenko Letters."
<http://main.pravda.com.ua/en/news_print/2003/3/6/2618.htm> [Accessed 31 Jan. 2006]

Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources, including: *The Economist*, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

Internet sources, including: Amnesty International, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* (2003 and 2004), European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI), Factiva, International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Transitions Online.

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