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Information on Foreigners Deported, Expelled and Voluntarily Repatriated from Belarus

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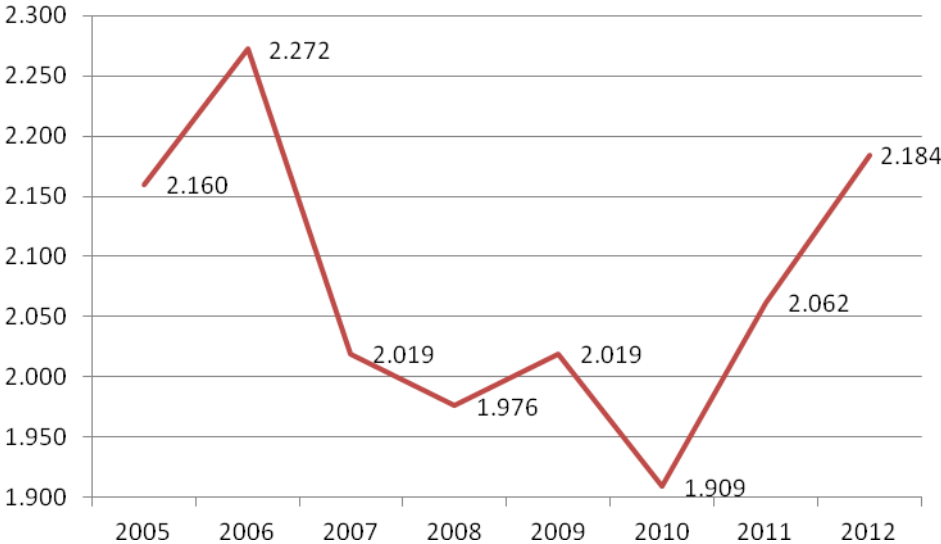


1. Deportation and Expulsion

According to the Law on the legal status of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Republic of Belarus “deportation is possible in case if the person is staying on the territory of Belarus without any legal grounds for such stay” (Law of RB, 2010). These kinds of sanctions have existed in Belarus since 1993 and apply to those who violated stay rules there. In 2010 there was a separate chapter on deportation, expulsion and release to neighboring states in the Law on the legal status of foreigners and stateless persons in the Republic of Belarus. A characteristic feature of foreigner expulsion is that it applies to those who do not violate the rules of stay, but who are in violation of another legislation (tax, administrative, criminal, etc). Expulsion can also be applied in the interest of national security, public order, protection of moral norms, population health, rights and freedoms of the citizens of the Republic of Belarus and other persons.

Overall, 16,600 persons were expelled from the Republic of Belarus in 2005-2012 according to the data of the Ministry of Interior (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Number of deportees and expulsions from Belarus, 2005-2012



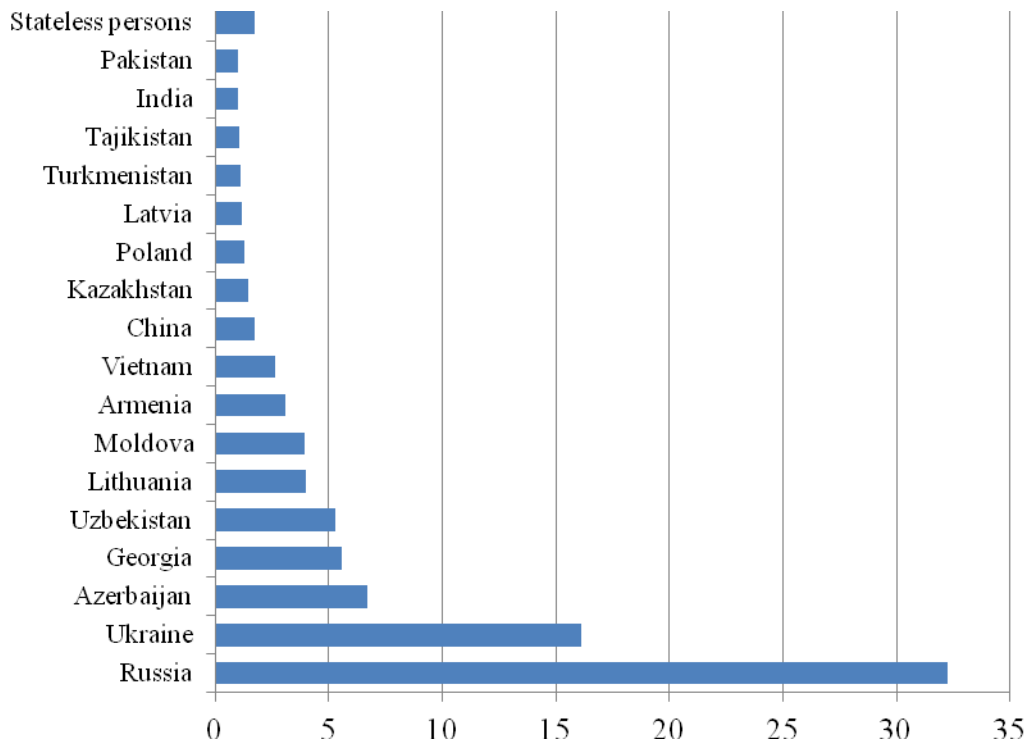
Source: data of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Belarus

The primary destination countries for migrants who intend to cross the border illegally are European Union countries. Russia also deserves special attention though for different reasons. Due to open borders, the primary direction from which foreigners arrive in Belarus in order to transit or cross the border with European countries is Russia. That being said, people arriving from Russia are citizens of different states.

Overall, in 2005-2012 the highest number of people were deported and expelled to Russia (32.2%), Ukraine (16.1%), Azerbaijan (6.7%), Georgia (5.6%) and Uzbekistan (5.3%).

Chart 2 presents the list of countries with the highest shares in the total number of deportees and expulsions for 2005-2012.

Chart 2. Shares of certain countries in the total number of deportees and expelled from Belarus in 2005-2012



Source: data of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Belarus

Share of 94 other countries is under 1%.

2. Voluntary Repatriation

Below you will find data on volumes of assistance provided for voluntary repatriation (voluntary return). In particular, such assistance may include consultations, assistance in preparing documents for departure, medical examination and the payment of reintegration grants. According to UNHCR data in 1997-2005 Belarus contributed to the voluntary repatriation of 110 persons, including 38 persons who returned home to Afghanistan, 32 to Georgia, 14 to Tajikistan, 11 to Russia, 5 to Cameroon, 2 to Liberia, 2 to Nigeria, 2 to Rwanda, 1 to Ethiopia, 1 to Somalia, 1 to Sri Lanka and 1 to Turkey.

Since 2007 assistance for voluntary repatriation was provided to illegal migrants and migrants who had applied for refugee status but who were denied, or withdrew their applications. This assistance was given in the framework of the EU-UNHCR-IOM program “Assisted voluntary return of migrants to their home country”. The program had 2 stages: 2007-2008 and 2009-2011. Assistance was provided to 420 migrants, including 297 who were sent back to their country of origin. The vast majority were male. Their share in the total number of returnees is 77.7%. As for age structure, over 80% of migrants were aged 18 to 60, 69% of them men (Table 1). Eight percent were children and adolescents. However, if we consider their share by gender, more than 30% among female population were aged 0 to 18, while the share of children and adolescents among men was under 10%.

Table 1. Number of beneficiaries of voluntary repatriation assistance for migrants in 2007-2011 in Belarus

Age group	Males			Females			Total	
	person	(in % among total)	(in % among males)	person	(in % among total)	(in % among females)	person	(in %)
0-4	11	3,7	4,8	7	2,4	3,6	18	6,06
5-17	11	3,7	4,8	13	4,4	6,7	24	8,08
18-59	205	69	88,7	44	1,8	2,7	249	83,84
60 and older	4	1,3	1,7	2	0,7	1,1	6	2,02
Total:	231	77,7	100	66	22,3	100	297	100

Source: information provided by IOM office in Belarus

The total number of voluntary repatriates in 2007-2011 originating from the countries which are in CARIM-East group, was 144 persons: almost 50% of all returnees. Of these, Georgia alone accounted for 44%. Also, in 2007-2011, 8 Russians, 2 Armenians, 1 Ukrainian and 1 Azeri were returned. More detailed information can be found in Table 2.

The share of European Union countries in this respect was not even 1%. In particular, 1 migrant was returned in 2007-2010 to Great Britain, to Estonia, and to Lithuania.

Table 2. Number of assistance beneficiaries for voluntary repatriation from Belarus to their home country in 2007-2011.

Country of origin	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	TOTAL:
<i>CARIM-East</i>						
Georgia	1	3	36	55	37	132
Russian Federation	0	5	1	1	1	8
Armenia	0	0	2	0	0	2
Ukraine	0	1	0	0	0	1
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total CARIM-East	1	9	39	57	38	144
<i>EU</i>						
Estonia	0	0	0	1	0	1
Lithuania	0	0	0	1	0	1
UK	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total EU	0	0	0	2	1	3
<i>Other</i>						
Afghanistan	5	0	1	10	43	59
Vietnam	0	13	11	8	4	36
Pakistan	0	13	3	5	0	21
Lebanon	0	0	5	1	0	6
China	0	2	3	0	0	5
Ghana	0	0	4	0	0	4
Bangladesh	3	0	0	0	0	3
Nigeria	0	0	1	1	1	3
Turkey	0	2	0	0	0	2
Serbia	0	0	1	1	0	2
Sri-Lanka	0	1	0	1	0	2
Egypt	0	1	0	0	0	1
Cuba	0	0	0	1	0	1
Iran	0	1	0	0	0	1
Iraq	0	0	1	0	0	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	1	0	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	1	0	1
Guinea	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL:	9	42	70	88	88	297

Source: information provided by the IOM office in Belarus

As can be seen in Table 2, most of the migrants expressing willingness for voluntary return come from southern countries. Foreigners from Afghanistan (20%), Vietnam (12%), and Pakistan (7%) had the highest shares.

It is noteworthy, that a program for the reinforcement of migration policy on readmission in Eastern Europe will be launched in February 2013. Key countries for this program are Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine. Key players include irregular migrants and those who were denied refugee status, in particular, the most vulnerable categories of the population. The results of the measures stipulated in the document will give an idea about the number of persons who benefited from readmission assistance in the current year.

Currently, due to the fact that readmission and reintegration agreements are still under examination and have not yet been signed, there are no data on the number of released persons.

References

Law of the Republic of Belarus 2010 No. 105-3 on legal status of foreigners and stateless persons in the Republic of Belarus: National register of legal acts of the Republic of Belarus, 2011, No.134, 2/1874.