

HELSINKI CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

VANADZOR



Reference

**on Actions of Law Enforcement Agencies after Seizure of RA Police Patrol-
Guard Service Regiment by 'Sasna Tsrer' Group**

(03.08.2016)

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly-Vanadzor collected information on the actions of law enforcement agencies within the 14 days following the seizure of the RA Police Patrol-Guard Service Regiment by 'Sasna Tsrer' group on July 17, 2016. In particular, the Organization collected information from official sources, the mass media and civilians on the persons apprehended, arrested and later detained as well as persons who sustained bodily injuries within July 17-31, 2016.

According to official sources, within July 17-31, 2016 the police apprehended 367 people and according to the information shared by the mass media, this number exceeds 675.

Table 1

Number of people apprehended on July 17-31, 2016

Date	Number of apprehended persons, by official data	Number of apprehended persons, according to the mass media and human rights activists
July 17, 2016	-	over 200 persons ¹ (by estimates of human rights activists)
July 18, 2016	-	over 30 persons (based on the incidents shared by the mass media)
July 19, 2016	-	-
July 20, 2016	-	5
July 21, 2016	136 ²	around 300 persons were detained at the Police internal troops military unit ³ (according to a witness)
July 22, 2016	-	4 (based on the incidents shared by the mass media)
July 24, 2016	-	5 (based on the incidents shared by the mass media)
July 27, 2016	66 ⁴	over 100 persons (based on the incidents shared by the mass media)
July 29, 2016	165	165
July 30, 2016	-	1
July 31, 2016	-	over 10
Total	367	over 675

Official data on arrests and detentions

The RA National Security Service stated that under the criminal proceedings initiated on July 17, 2016 by the Investigative Department of the RA National Security Service under Article 219 (Seizing buildings, constructions, transportation or other means of communication) and Article 235 (Illegal procurement, sale, keeping, transportation or carrying of weapons, ammunition,

¹See <http://armtimes.com/hy/read/89781>

²See

<http://www.police.am/en/news/view/%D5%BA%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%A6%D5%A1%D5%A2%D5%A1%D5%B6%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B4210716.html>

³ See <http://www.aravot.am/2016/07/21/718195/>

⁴ See <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/855469/hulisi-27-in-ostikanutyvan-koxmic-berman-e-entarkvel-66.html>

explosives or explosive devices) of the RA Criminal Code on the seizure of the RA Police Patrol-Guard Service Regiment, 47 persons were arrested or detained. 24 persons were charged with various coupled crimes under Article 218 (Taking hostages), Articles 219 and 235 of the RA Criminal Code.⁵

According to the data disseminated by the RA Investigative Committee on different days, within the 14 days after the seizure of the RA Police Patrol-Guard Service Regiment by the armed group on July 17, 2016, 47 persons were arrested, 19 of whom were detained. For details, see Table 2 below.

The Table below contains the lists of arrested and detained persons, which are updated regularly.

Table 2

List of persons arrested and detained within July 17-30, 2016, by the data disseminated by the RA Investigative Committee

Date	Number of arrested persons	Number of detained persons
July 20, 2016	<p style="text-align: center;">1 person⁶ under Article 316(2) of the RA Criminal Code, i.e. violence dangerous for life or health against a representative of authorities in connection with performance of their official duties</p>	-
July 21, 2016	<p style="text-align: center;">16 under Article 225(2) of the RA Criminal Code, i.e. committing violence, pogroms or arson, destructing or damaging property, using firearms, explosives or explosive devices, or armed resistance to a representative of the authorities by mass riots participants during mass riots</p>	-
July 22, 2016		<p style="text-align: center;">1⁷ Article 316(2), RA Criminal Code</p>

⁵ See <http://www.sns.am/index.php/am/news/340-01082016>

⁶ See <http://www.investigative.am/en/news/view/xorenaci-poxoc-brnutyunner-dzerbakalum.html>

⁷ See <http://www.investigative.am/en/news/view/mexadrang-torosyan-brnutyun.html>

		charges were pressed against 3 persons⁸ under Article 225(2) of the RA Criminal Code
July 25, 2016	6⁹ (Article 225(2) of the RA Criminal Code)	charges were pressed against 6 persons¹⁰ under Article 225(2) of the RA Criminal Code
		Charges were pressed against 3 persons¹¹ under Article 316(2) of the RA Criminal Code
July 27, 2016	Levon Barseghyan under Article 235(4) of the RA Criminal Code, i.e. illegally carrying cold steel	Charges were pressed against 6 persons¹² under Article 225(2) of the RA Criminal Code
June 30, 2016	23¹³ under Article 225(1) and (2) of the RA Criminal Code, i.e. organizing mass riots; committing violence, pogroms or arson, destructing or damaging property, using firearms, explosives or explosive devices, or armed resistance to a representative of the authorities by mass riots participants during mass riots	-
Total	47 arrested persons	19 detained persons

⁸ See <http://www.investigative.am/en/news/view/xorenaci-3-abussed.html>

⁹ See <http://www.investigative.am/en/news/view/brnutyun-vostikanneri-nkatmamb.html>

¹⁰ See <http://www.investigative.am/news/view/mexadranq-ankargutyunner.html>

¹¹ See <http://www.investigative.am/en/news/view/brnutyun-vostikanneri-nkatmamb.html>

¹² See: The persons detained on July 27 were the 6 persons arrested back on July 25 under the same article.

¹³ See <http://www.investigative.am/en/news/view/ankargutyunner-khorenatsi1.html>

List of detained civilians

	Name Surname	Grounds for detention
1.	Khachatur Gichyan	Detained for 2 months on July 20, 2016 on the charges of assisting the armed group that had seized the police patrol-guard service regiment. Charged under Article 219 of the Criminal Code, i.e. seizing buildings, constructions and means of communication as well as illegal keeping and transportation of weapons and ammunition.
2.	Karo Yeghnukyan	Detained for 2 months on July 22, 2016. Charged under Articles 218 and 219 of the Criminal Code, for assisting in taking hostage and seizing buildings, constructions, transportation or other means of communication. ¹⁴
3.	H. Torosyan ¹⁵	Charged on July 22, 2016 under Article 316(2) of the Criminal Code, i.e. violence dangerous for life or health against a representative of authorities in connection with performance of their official duties.
4.	Ararat Khandoyan	Detained for 2 months on July 23, 2016. Ararat Khandoyan was charged under Article 225(2) of the Criminal Code, i.e. committing violence, pogroms or arson, destructing or damaging property, using firearms, explosives or explosive devices, or armed resistance to a representative of the authorities by mass riots participants during mass riots.
5.	Martin Vardanyan	On July 23, Aravot.am reported that the NSS detained Martin Vardanyan, son of a 'Sasna Tsrer' group member. The NSS did not provide any clarifications regarding the information.
6.	Samson Gabrielyan	Detained for 2 months on July 23, 2016 on suspicion of assisting the armed group. Charged for the following: on July 19, he visiting Sari Tagh district and to assure the local residents that he was not a police officer in disguise, he called armed group member Pavel Manukyan and told him that they were surrounded and advised to beware of the food delivered to them.
7.	Taron Loryan	Detained for 2 months on July 26, 2016 on suspicion of assisting the armed group. On July 17, in the morning Taron Loryan got a call from a strange number, answered the call but nobody talked to him. The agency responsible for preliminary investigation found that he might have a coded conversation with the armed group that had seized the police patrol-guard service regiment and brought charges against him.
8.	Ashot Muradyan ¹⁶	Detained for 2 months on July 26, 2016 on suspicion of assisting the armed group. According to the attorney, the charges against Muradyan are based on the call he got on the day the armed group seized the patrol-guard service regiment.
9.	Areg Sadoyan	Detained for 2 months on July 28, 2016.

¹⁴ See <http://armlur.am/559350/>

¹⁵ See <http://www.panarmenian.net/arm/news/217551/>

¹⁶ See: '3 more persons charged with assisting 'Sasna Tsrer' group members' ('Մասնա ծնեք» խմբին աջակցելու համար ևս երեք հոգու մեղադրանք առաջադրվեց'), available at: <http://www.azatutyun.am/a/27882854.html>

		Charged with taking part in mass riots on July 20 under Article 225(2) of the Criminal Code, i.e. committing violence, pogroms or arson, destructing or damaging property, using firearms, explosives or explosive devices, or armed resistance to a representative of the authorities by mass riots participants during mass riots.
10.	Davit Sanasaryan	Detained for 2 months on August 2, 2016. Charged under Article 225(1) of the Criminal Code, i.e. organizing mass riots.
11.	Andrias Ghukasyan	Detained for 2 months on August 2, 2016. Charged under Article 225(1) of the Criminal Code, i.e. organizing mass riots.
12.	Hovsep Khurshudyan	Detained for 2 months on August 2, 2016 Charged under Article 225(2) of the Criminal Code, i.e. committing violence, pogroms or arson, destructing or damaging property, using firearms, explosives or explosive devices, or armed resistance to a representative of the authorities by mass riots participants during mass riots.
13.	Armen Martirosyan	Detained for 2 months on August 2, 2016. Charged under Article 225(1) of the Criminal Code, i.e. organizing mass riots. ¹⁷
14.	Gagik Mikayelyan	Charged under Article 225(2) of the Criminal Code, i.e. committing violence, pogroms or arson, destructing or damaging property, using firearms, explosives or explosive devices, or armed resistance to a representative of the authorities by mass riots participants during mass riots.
	‘Sasna Tsrer’ group members	
15	Ashot Petrosyan	On July 26, 2016, detention was chosen as a preventive measure. Wounded in the shootout with the police on the night of July 26, transferred to Erebuni Medical Center and then to the hospital of convicts. Charged under Article 219(3) (Seizing buildings, constructions, transportation or other means of communication) and Article 235 (Illegal procurement, sale, keeping, transportation or carrying of weapons, ammunition, explosives or explosive devices) of the Criminal Code.
16	Aram Manukyan	On July 26, 2016, a 2-month detention was chosen as a preventive measure. Aram Manukyan was charged under Article 219(3) (Seizing buildings, constructions, transportation or other means of communication) and Article 235 (Illegal procurement, sale, keeping, transportation or carrying of weapons, ammunition, explosives or explosive devices) of the Criminal Code.
17	Pavlik Manukyan	Charged under Article 219(3) (Seizing buildings, constructions, transportation or other means of communication) and Article 235(3) (Illegal procurement, sale, keeping, transportation or carrying of weapons, ammunition, explosives or explosive devices by an organized group) of the Criminal Code.
37*	20 members of ‘Sasna Tsrer’ group	On August 3, 2016, by a court ruling, a 2-month detention was chosen as a preventive measure for 20 members of ‘Sasna Tsrer’ group. They were charged under Article 218(3)(1) (Taking hostage) and Article 235(3)

¹⁷ See <http://yerkirmedia.am/low/zangvacayin-ankargutyunner-kalanavorvel/>

	(Illegal procurement, sale, keeping and transportation of weapons and ammunition) of the Criminal Code.
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Table 3

Number of police officers and civilians who sustained bodily injuries in the clashes on July 19-20 and on the night of July 30, 2016, by official data

Date	Police officers	Civilians
July 19-20	37	25
Night of July 30	12	61
Total	49	86