



Ministry of Internal Affairs Report

2023

Priorities for 2023



- Criminal police reform
- Fight against organized crime
- Management of emergency and extreme situations
- Protection and strengthening of human rights
- Traffic safety
- Strengthening intelligence-led policing
- Border management and migration
- Implementation of infrastructure projects
- Strengthening international police cooperation
- Renewal of the car fleet
- Rearmament of structural units of the Ministry
- Improvement of police services
- Correct and timely communication with media and public
- Increasing the degree of confidence in the police
- Strengthening of technical capabilities



GALLUP



**In 2023, the disclosure rate of registered crimes exceeds 64%.
The trend of crime reduction is also maintained**

The incidence of serious crimes such as murders and attempted murders, as well as serious health injuries, has been reduced. This particular result was positively reflected in the annual global index of "Law and Order" of the international research organization "Gallup". According to the assigned index, Georgia is ahead of such countries as Italy, France, Australia, Hungary, Belgium, Canada, Japan, Croatia and others.

According to the same study, Georgia ranks next to countries such as Austria, the Netherlands and Hong Kong. The index is based on a survey conducted in different countries, which assesses people's personal safety, sense of security and their confidence in law enforcement. According to the study, the Georgia's index improved in 2023 compared to the 2022 report.

Fight against Organized Crime

Within the framework of the activities of the Interagency Coordination Council for the Fight against Organized Crime, under the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the "2023-2024 Action Plan for the Fight against Organized Crime" was developed; the document, combining complex interdepartmental activities, is developed within the scopes of 3 main goals:



Systemic strengthening of the fight against "thieves in law" and members (their supporters) of the "thief world"



Raising/improving the effectiveness of cybercrime prevention mechanisms and investigations



Improving the quality of investigations in the direction of the fight against drug transit and drug trafficking

Within the scopes of the action plan, an updated form of production of crime statistics was introduced, which, inter alia, ensures the processing of statistics in the direction of organized crime in a detailed form. In the report on the implementation of the given recommendations, the European Commission positively assessed and emphasized the importance of the existence of the mentioned policy documents. In 2023, a significant challenge was the illegal drug trafficking. As a result of the active struggle conducted by the police and other law enforcement agencies, the disclosure rate of drug-related crimes increased by 21% compared to 2022.



Another fact that reflects the successful work of Georgian law enforcers is the report of United States of America on trafficking, according to which, based on the measures taken by the states against human trafficking, in 2023, Georgia is at the highest level in the world in the first basket.



In 2023, in order to raise the qualifications of employees, various types of trainings focused on the issues of the fight against organized crime and improvement of investigative skills.

During the reporting period, the Main Division of the Central Criminal Police Department of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara was established; this will contribute to the prevention, prompt detection and suppression of drug-related and organized crime.⁴



In 2023, international police cooperation has expanded significantly. In particular, police attachés from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia were commanded to the Republic of Ireland and the State of Israel. 12 countries were additionally covered. As of today, 18 police attachés have been commanded, thus covering 36 states, and relevant procedures are being carried out in connection with the expansion of the network of attachés with several countries.

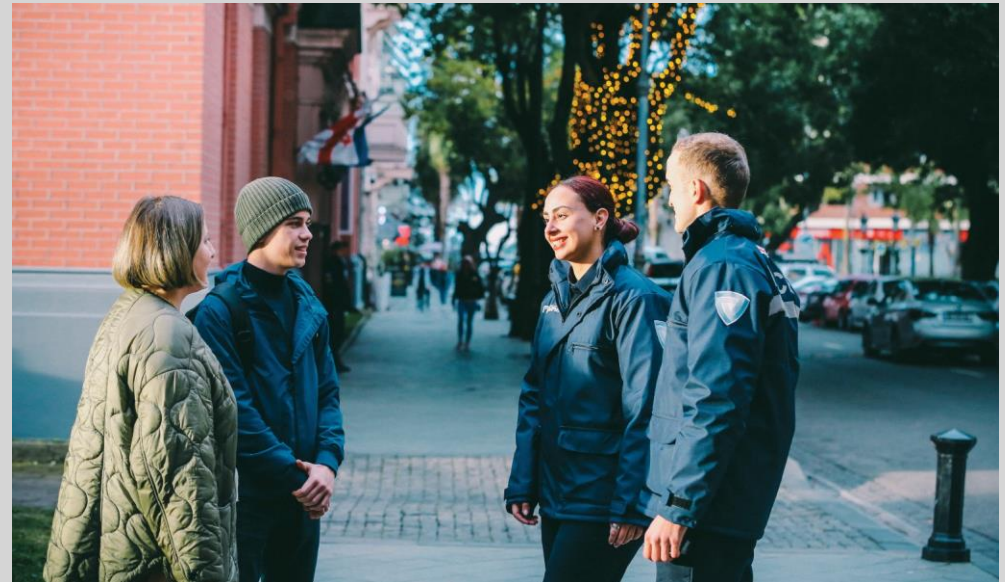


Criminal Police Reform

The year 2023 was also important in the direction of criminal police reform. Operative, investigative and precinct directions were fully separated from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia in all territorial bodies. Within the framework of the reform, only the investigation of criminal cases was defined as the function and duties of the investigator, and other police duties were completely removed from him/her, which increased the effectiveness of the investigators' activity. Within the framework of the same reform, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Police Department was separated as an independent unit from Imereti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Police Department. Racha Police Department was abolished in 2007 and has not been functioning as a separate unit since then.



Within the framework of the criminal police reform, the development of the Community Officer Institute continued, the main task of which is to prevent crime, increase the effectiveness of police activities, and bring them closer to international standards. In 2023, the aforementioned institute was launched in Rustavi and Batumi, and dozens of young people, protecting the safety of citizens as law enforcement officers, joined the ranks of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The training of employees in the direction of community policing activities continued last year as well.





Intelligence-led Policing

The Ministry of Internal Affairs also actively works on the concept of intelligence-led policing. In 2023, the 2023-2025 action plan of the strategy for the development of intelligence-led policing was approved. Within the framework of the development of intelligence-led policing, the analytical network was expanded throughout the country, and as of today, 94 analysts work in the territorial bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.



Effective Border Management and Interdepartmental Coordination



In 2023, the "Integrated State Border Risk Analysis Model of Georgia" was approved, which was developed according to the final version of the model adopted by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency - "FRONTEX". The "2024 action plan for the implementation of the integrated model of risk analysis of the state border of Georgia" was also approved, the main goal of which is to establish a unified approach in the context of border management. In order to improve the prevention of crime and the effective response to it, a face recognition analytical system was introduced at the border checkpoints of Georgia, including international airports; through the mentioned system it is possible to detect wanted, expelled, suspicious, banned persons, as well as various types of violations. In addition, through special software, the person is identified and the photo in the relevant travel document is compared with his/her face. In 2023, the analytical module of persons expelled from Georgia was created and put into practice, which will significantly increase the capacities of border risk analysis..



Border Police



During the reporting period, important steps were taken in the direction of both coastal and land border protection, rapid response, strengthening of operative-investigative components, retraining of frontiers, improvement of field training, equipping sectors with modern observation and detection technological systems, as well as updating the network of the electronic observation system. The network of the electronic observation system was also updated and information technologies were introduced.





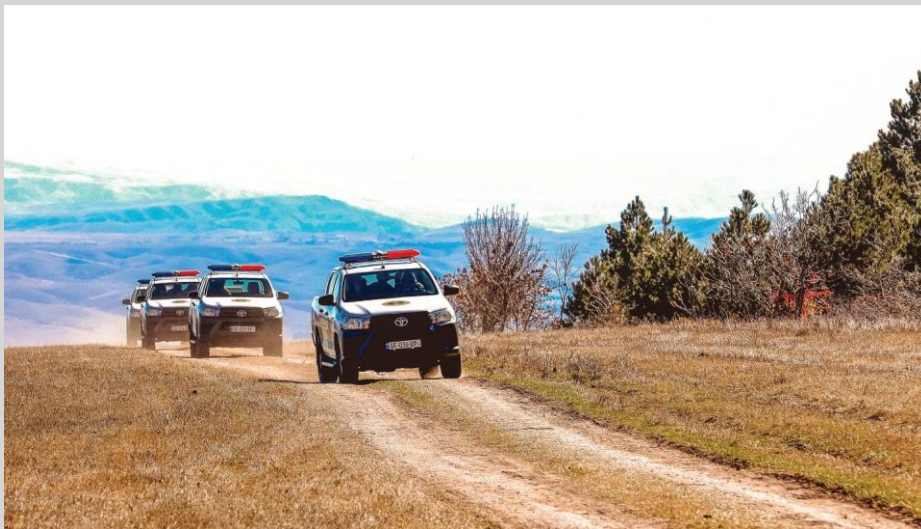
For the first time in the history of Georgia, 12 employees of the tactical group of the Coast Guard Department took part in the maritime security operation under the auspices of "NATO" - "Sea Guard" in Greece.

Important steps have been taken in the direction of strengthening border aviation. Within the framework of the signed agreement, based on the negotiations with "Airbus Helicopters", the deadlines for handing over the helicopters were reduced and the first helicopter "H145" was delivered to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the remaining two helicopters will be delivered in the near future. It is a multi-purpose helicopter that can perform police, transport, search and rescue functions. The new helicopter is fully equipped with fire fighting and mountain rescue equipment. This type of helicopter is distinguished by its ability to operate and maneuver at high altitude, which is fully compatible with the existing tasks, considering the mountainous terrain of Georgia. Theoretical and practical training of pilots and on-board technicians was carried out at the training academy of "Airbus Helicopters" in Germany through the said helicopters.

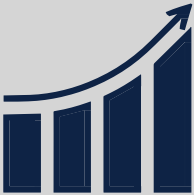




With the help of the US Embassy, in 2023, 7 trainings were conducted for the employees of the Main Division of Rapid Response. In total, about 200 employees of the Border Police were retrained with the support of the USA. In terms of the development of the Border Police, last year the aid provided by donor organizations amounted to more than 3 million US dollars. With the help of the European Union, the fleet of the Border Police was renewed and 20 off-road trucks and cars worth more than one million euros were handed over to the Border Police of Georgia.



Improvement of Social Guarantees and Large Infrastructural Projects



The year 2023 was exceptional both in terms of salary growth and improvement of working conditions. The infrastructure, equipment and material-technical base were renewed. In order to improve the guarantees of social security, the salaries of the employees of Ministry continue to increase

In 2022, the salaries of all employees of the Ministry increased by 10%, and in 2023, already increased salaries were increased by an additional 20%. The growth trend continued this year as well, and from January 1, the salaries of all employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs increased by an additional 10%.



პოლიციის ქალაქი



In order to improve the social guarantees of police officers, in 2023, the construction of "Police City" began in Tbilisi

Seven multi-storey buildings are being built in "Police City" in Politkovskaia street, and within the project, up to 1,000 police officers will get apartments.



Within the framework of the ongoing criminal police reform in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the employees of the newly created department of Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti police started working in a modern building in Ambrolauri. Construction of the police building in Abastumani, where there were no facility for the police and Emergency Management Service before, was completed in 2023. The employees of the mentioned department started working in completely new buildings equipped with modern infrastructure and technologies. A new building for firefighters was also built in Kaspi.





In terms of improving police services, during the reporting period, the Batumi branch of the Unified Service Center of the Patrol Police Department was opened, where citizens will receive about 50 services on a one-stop basis. The building of Adjara Patrol Police Department was completely renovated and equipped with new infrastructure.

In 2023, the renovation of car fleet of the Ministry of Internal Affairs continued, and up to 400 new vehicles of various types were purchased by the Ministry.



International Relations

2023 was an important year in the direction of international relations. Last year, 12 high-level visits were made. For the first time in history, the Ministers of Internal Affairs of Germany and Spain were on an official visit to Georgia. During the year, high-level official meetings were held with the Ministers of Internal Affairs in Germany and Hungary.





During the reporting period, the Deputy Ministers of Internal Affairs were on an official visit and held meetings with their colleagues in Poland, Israel, Turkey, Lithuania, the Republics of Austria and Latvia. In addition to the official visits, several important protocols and agreements were signed within the framework of bilateral cooperation with partner states. Both exchange training programs and the development of technical and infrastructural projects with the support of donors were actively continued.



Traffic Safety

In 2023, the Ministry of Internal Affairs actively proceeded with the development of a video surveillance system to ensure speed control and safe movement on the roads.



In 2023, 883 video cameras were put into operation, including 672 general vision cameras and 211 license plate recognition cameras. A total of 7,419 video cameras are activated in the nationwide system;



In 2023, 168 sections covering a road section of 447 kilometers were commissioned across the country. As a result, a total of 574 medium speed control sections have been installed throughout Georgia, covering a total of 2,024 kilometers.;

According to the legislative changes in the direction of road traffic safety, the sanctions for speeding, drunken driving became stricter and movement in mountainous regions without winter tires was restricted in the period from December 1 to March 1.

In 2023, the project - "Training for police officers to improve road safety in Georgia with a comprehensive approach" was completed. In total, 150 employees of the Ministry were trained. Within the framework of the project, trainings were gradually carried out in Poland and Georgia, and at the end, the Polish side donated to the Ministry of Internal Affairs special equipment..



As a result of stricter laws, increased fines, and a number of public awareness activities, the number of road traffic fatalities has decreased over the past three quarters. Despite all this, the statistics in this direction worsened in the fourth quarter.

In 2023, compared to the previous year, the number of road traffic incidents stipulated by the Criminal Code of Georgia increased by more than 2%.

As a result of traffic accidents, the number of injured people has decreased to 3%, the number of fatalities increased by the same percentage.

In order to strengthen traffic safety, a new structural unit - Traffic Safety Analysis Unit - was created within the Information-Analytical Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which in the future will provide a detailed analysis of the causes of traffic accidents, identification of the so-called "Black Spots" and plan further preventive measures

Patrol Police

Employees of the Patrol Police Department play an important role in road safety protection.

The area of the Department is gradually expanding throughout the country, in 2024 it is planned to continue the mentioned process in the Racha-Lechkhumi region.

As part of the renewal of the police infrastructure, the patrol police vehicles with manual gearboxes have been almost completely replaced with new vehicles with automatic gearboxes, which improves and simplifies the work process of patrol inspectors. Also, in the mountainous regions, patrol cars were replaced by off-road vehicles.





FRONTEx

Within the framework of the joint operation organized by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency "FRONTEx", employees of the Patrol Police Department are commanded as additional experts at the airports of the associated countries of the European Union. 22 joint operations were carried out in 2023 within the framework of this cooperation.

In 2022-2023, the number of members of the Border Management and Coordination Main Division of the Patrol Police Department increased by 158 staff units. In 2024, the process continued and 100 staff units were added again. In 2023, in parallel with the increase in passenger movement and the pass-through capacity of checkpoints, in order to implement border and passport control in a timely and effective manner, the work spaces of frontiers-controllers, the so-called passport booths were arranged in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Batumi airports; the mentioned contributes to the improvement of the working conditions of employees, as well as the provision of high-quality service to citizens, visitors and tourists.





Within the framework of international cooperation and with the local resources, the technical equipment for the registration and identification of persons and motor vehicles, as well as primary and in-depth checks, was updated. Also, a number of trainings were held to improve the qualifications, inter alia, the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were retrained in the direction of state border risk analysis.



For the effective implementation of passport border control, the checkpoints were provided with modern models of passport readers necessary for the primary inspection of documents and laboratories necessary for secondary inspection. Also, the necessary means of communication for the frontiers-controllers were completely renewed.

In 2023, the professional development of patrol police officers continued in various directions, both at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as outside the country, at seminars and trainings planned by international donor organizations.

During the reporting period, the Unified Service Center of the Patrol Police conducted a survey of citizen satisfaction and found that the competence of patrol inspectors, friendliness towards citizens and focus on problem solving were evaluated positively by 97% of respondents, and the level of satisfaction with the service of the call center is 94%.





Emergency Management Service

The year 2023 was a significant challenge for the Emergency Management Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Firefighters worked tirelessly 24 hours a day risking their own lives throughout the year.



Last year, several hundreds of firefighters went to Turkey and were involved in continuous search and rescue operations.





The tragedy in Racha was a great challenge, firefighters worked 24 hours a day..





In 2023, the Emergency Management Service was equipped with new, different types of vehicles, including off-road, all-terrain and water vehicles. All firefighters-rescuers are equipped with the highest standard fire-resistant uniforms and appropriate special equipment.





Last year, the Emergency Management Service purchased 4 speedboats worth up to 2 million GEL, fire-rescue vehicles worth more than 11 million GEL, special equipment for firemen and rescuers worth 3 million five hundred thousand GEL, and technical fire-resistant clothing worth up to 4 million GEL. During the reporting period, the Emergency Management Service received various types of equipment and special technique from donor organizations, which further strengthens the effective work of firefighters..

10 fire-rescue vehicles purchased in 2023 for forest fires have already been distributed to different regions of Georgia.



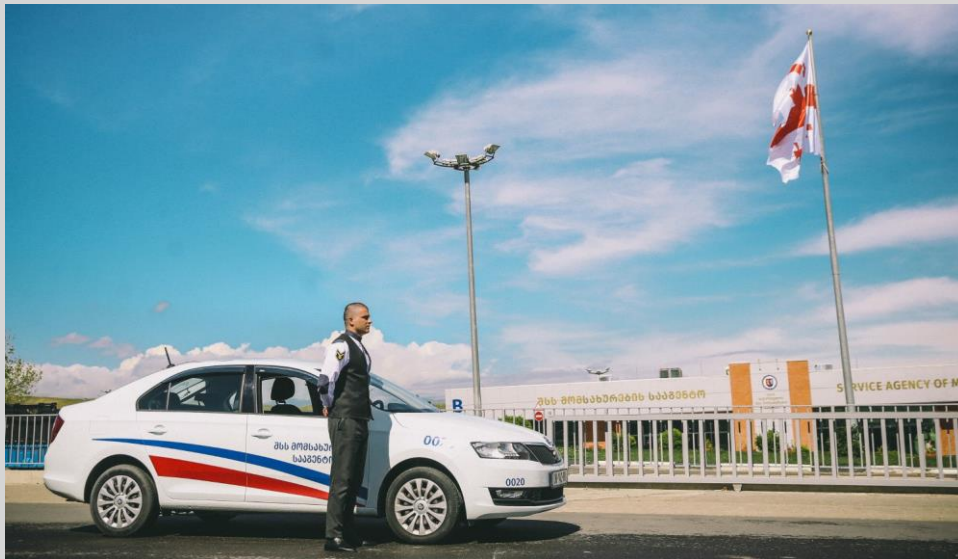
Police Services

In addition to the protection of citizens' safety and law and order, the Ministry of Internal Affairs constantly takes care of the development of police services. In 2023, the Service Agency started to issue e-certificates. Also, a new program for vehicle registration was created, which, using modern technologies, ensures the provision of services to citizens on the principle of one window.





In 2023, legislative amendments were made and ballistic testing of all types of weapons subject to registration became mandatory. In structural units of Tbilisi, Poti, Zugdidi, Gori and Telavi of the Service Agency new buildings were constructed and the corresponding infrastructure was arranged for the ballistic and theoretical testing of weapons.

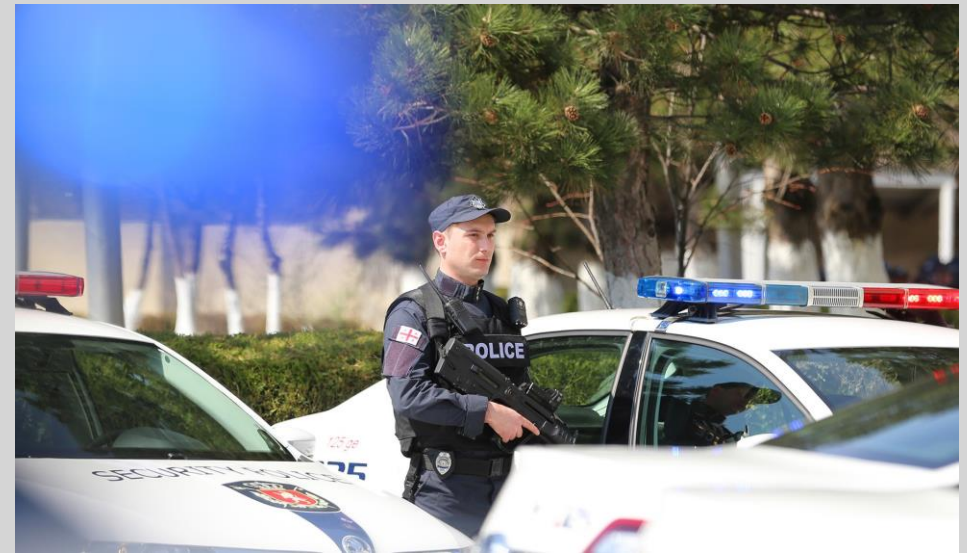


Last year, the Service Agency continued to fulfill its obligations under the Association Agreement between European Union and Georgia, which involves conducting of practical driving test under real traffic conditions. 45 new vehicles were purchased for the "B" category practical driving test. New vehicles were equipped with modern GPS systems and were distributed to structural units of the Service Agency in 10 cities across Georgia.





During the reporting period, the renovation of the Security Police car fleet continued and vehicles were transferred to the operational response groups.



In terms of service improvement, the Public Safety Management Center 112 application has been updated, which is now available to citizens in five (Georgian, Russian, English, Azerbaijani and Armenian) languages.



Prioritization software ProQA police, fire rescue and medical protocols questionnaires and initial instructions relevant to the Georgian reality have been fully integrated into the "ERC-112" software and as of today, all calls/messages to the emergency number are managed with the help of mentioned questionnaires and instructions



Forensic-Criminalistics Department

In order to improve the quality of investigation and increase the efficiency, last year, the Expert Forensic Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs started work on creation of a unified national DNA database. The DNA database will be created on the database platform of Levan Samkharauli National Forensic Bureau. In 2023, the employees of the mentioned service were trained in Poland.



During the reporting period, re-accreditation was successfully carried out and the Department obtained a certificate 12 laboratories corresponding to the requirements of the international standard ISO. In addition to laboratories accreditation, the Expert Forensic Department has applied for crime scene accreditation, which involves working at crime scenes in accordance with American standards.



New equipment and software were introduced in all laboratories and expert areas of the Department. The Department purchased 10 fingerprint scanners with software, which were placed in 10 temporary detention isolators across the country, allowing fingerprinting on the spot of a person admitted to the detention isolator.



Legislative amendments



In 2023, by initiative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs number of important legislative amendments were implemented

- On the initiative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with the support of the government and the parliament, the legal regulations for the circulation of weapons were regulated. In 2023, the Parliament of Georgia adopted a package of legislative changes related to the regulation of arms circulation;
- At the end of 2023, the Parliament of Georgia approved the amendments prepared by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, according to which it became mandatory to equip vehicles with winter tires during the winter period;
- On the initiative of the Government, in 2023, a package of legislative amendments was submitted to the Parliament, which provides for the improvement of social guarantees for employees dismissed from law enforcement agencies. In accordance with the procedures established by the Legislation, after the completion of the legislative discussions, the mentioned amendments will be implemented from May 1, 2024.



For the first time, after 2006, the maximum pension limit for all persons receiving compensation will be increased and instead of the existing limit of 560 GEL, it will be 1000 GEL.

In case of the death of a police officer, the amount of monthly pension for the family is determined by 1,200 GEL instead of 1,000 GEL.

The mentioned change will affect the family members of the policemen who died in the line of duty.



The coefficients established by law for calculating the pension are increased in accordance with the newly established amount.



Human Rights Protection and Investigation Quality Monitoring Department

In 2023, important steps were taken in areas such as:

- early marriage;
- crimes committed by and against minors;
- Violence against women, discrimination and intolerance crimes
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An updated tool for restraining order and risk assessment was launched, the standard for establishing electronic surveillance was changed. The mechanism was positively evaluated by the European Commission, which is mentioned in the document on the implementation of recommendations. During the reporting period, the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs along with the Human Rights Protection and Investigation Quality Monitoring Department developed training courses for investigators. Last year, employees of various units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were trained on the use of electronic surveillance bracelets and hate crimes by the Department.



In 2023, almost 8,000 law enforcement officers were trained in various fields by the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Also, throughout the year within the framework of cooperation with international partner and donor organizations several dozen employees of the Academy were trained in different directions.





Ministry of Internal Affairs

REPORT

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