

Promoting Professional Prison Practice



Organised crime in prisons

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PCCP plenary, Paris

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Funded by
the European Union

Upcoming activities

17-18 October: *ICT Roundtable*, Helsinki

19 October: *Human rights in prison*, webinar

1-3 November: *Georgia conference*, Tbilisi

14-15 November: *PCVE workshop*, Rome

24 November: *Personal resilience*, DG webinar

www.europris.org



Challenges in European prisons

- Staff wellbeing
- Recruitment and staff retention
- Violence
- Mental disorders
- Overcrowding
- Prison subcultures
- Organised crime

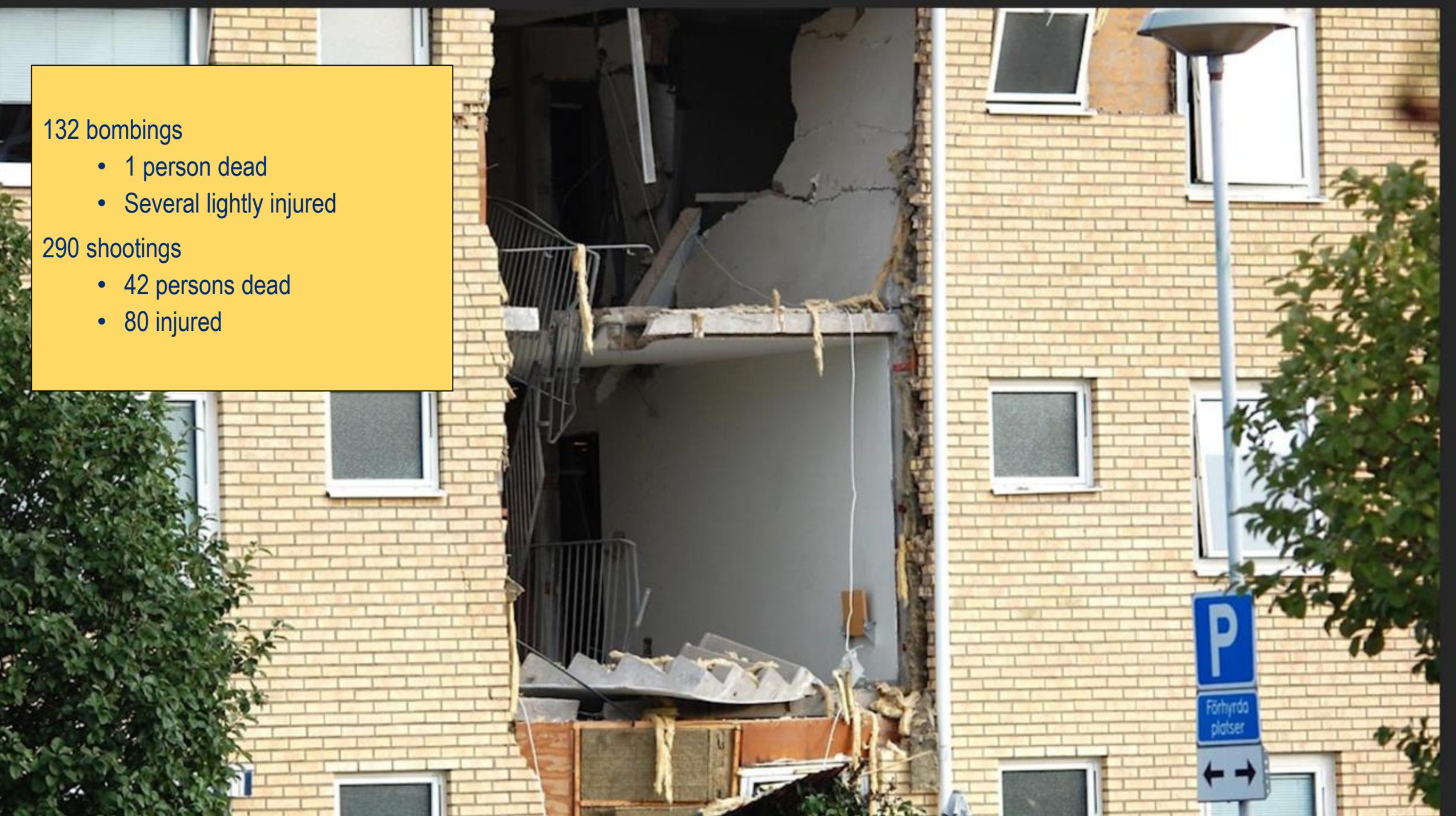


132 bombings

- 1 person dead
- Several lightly injured

290 shootings

- 42 persons dead
- 80 injured





Lawyer Inez Weski released from custody after six weeks

June 2, 2023



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Law to root out rogue jobs agencies postponed until 2026



Along the Seine: how the changing French river changed Van Gogh



CDA backs fossil tax break halt, majority of MPs now in favour



MPs shoot down NS peak travel ticket price hike



Carer investigated following



Sections

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Drug ship seized off Cork with €157m of cocaine was 'largest in the history of the State', briefing told

Shipment would not have come on route 'without an Irish organised criminal group being involved' in the operation

Expand



Characteristics

- Gangs
- Family ties/clans
- Networks, no codex
- Parallel societies, antagonistic and isolationist
- Values in conflict with the whole welfare state (tax, education, law, employment etc)
- Criminal corporations
- Variety of crimes, drug trafficking as base income
- Large violence capital - No one is talking, including civilians
- Adaptive and innovative, recruits underaged to avoid criminal responsibility
- International

Challenges to prisons

- Evasions and violent extractions – help from the outside
- Violence against staff – prison sentence a credit/easily triggered
- Violence against other prisoners – segregation to maintain safety, keep fractions separated
- Corruption – bribes, unauthorised influence and threats
- Contraband
- Rehabilitation efforts, hard to reach
- Recruiting in prison

Organised crime is a social problem!

Nevertheless, expectations on law enforcement agencies and correctional services are high.

National level

- High intensity professional prison work
 - Case management
 - Motivational work
 - EXIT programmes
- Interagency cooperation (support)
 - Probation services
 - Social services
 - Employment agencies
- Interagency cooperation (intelligence sharing)
 - Police
 - Tax office
 - Bailiff office

EuroPris initiatives

- Council of Europe
- EU commission DG Justice and DG Home
- Expert group on Prison Security
- Round table, Belgium
- Tabletop exercises
- OCP conference in 2025
- EMCDDA partnership

Human Rights aspects

- Crisis mode (Sweden) - mobilisation
- Parallels to terrorism and the developments since 9/11
- High risk prisoners – High security regimes
- There may be a need to proactively balance fundamental rights of prisoners, and probationers, and the countermeasures to fight and prevent organised crime