

I | Olga Vaina worked in the prison from 1998 to 2008 in Tallinn which is Magazini 35a, a male prison. It is a special zone (in Estonia a special zone system, is not the same as in the U.K.) and in the area in which I worked was for prisoners who were sentenced for under ten years. Part of this was for prisoners awaiting investigation (remand).

In Harku the female prison where Anna-Maria Galoian was to be sent I was working there to extend my qualification in 2006. It is a terribly difficult atmosphere because Harku prison is separated in its running from the staff as prisoners rule themselves in separate zones. This is unofficial and the prisoners make up and have their own rules. If any of the inmates disagrees with these rules then they are punished by the other prisoners, often being badly beaten and/or sexually abused.

At the time when I was in this prison as an official I had already had eight years working in prisons but all the administrators knew that you could not change this prisoner ruling regime. They were scared to even try.

In Estonia the treatment of female prisoners is much worse than that of male prisoners.

In Estonian Tallinn prisons the prison officials (wardens) run these institutions and if you are willing to co-operate with them you will receive additional benefits such as cigarettes but if you are a prisoner who has upset the Minister of Justice or a prosecutor then your life will be hell.

They will for example put you in with prisoners, trusted

informants, who will treat you badly on behalf of others for rewards for themselves. Often these prisoners who have been ill-treated resort to suicide. This happened to some of the members of the Night Watch.

Every member of this political movement was put into a cell with six other very dangerous prisoners who tormented them for instance by giving water with one litre of salt in it. If they tried to sleep they would put matches on their feet between the toes and set them alight. So the only way to get away from them was to attack a prison official. This is what happened to a colleague of mine in 2007. I personally witnessed this.

Every official works a twelve hour shift and when a new shift comes on they review on camera what has and is going on. One member of Night Watch threw boiling water in the face of an official because it was his only way to get into solitary confinement where he could be alone in a cell. I personally saw this attack. But even when you do this your prison time is inevitably extended.

Conditions in the female prison are much crueller, if Anna-Maria Galoian was in the female prison. Harku prison is under a special control within the Ministry of Justice. And the current Minister of Justice, a Reform Party member is Kristen Michel. There are no individual cells, the prisoners are held in dormitory like accommodation

When I was working part time for the Reform Party in 2006-2007 (campaigning) I saw that the relationship between Kristin Mical and Anna -Maria was not good. He was asking her to get more financial resources for the Party both legally and illegally. She strong resisted doing anything illegal.

In my opinion as an experienced prison official that pressure would be brought to bear on other prison officials who would provoke her into behaving against the prison rules. There is a risk that this would then automatically extend her prison sentence.

Also she would be in danger of being forced into having a sexual relationship with other woman prisoners. Even when I was there in 2006 I was attacked sexually by some prisoners. Everyone is afraid of them.

To provoke someone like Anna Maria who has no criminal background or prison experience, would be very easy.

The only way some prisoners can escape from these torments is suicide. It is my opinion that the current Government of Estonia decided to put Anna-Maria into this prison to make her life such hell that she would want to kill herself.

With my working experience of over ten years in the prison system I am sure that Anna-Maria Galojan would be under constant physical and psychological danger.

Because of this in my opinion it would be extremely dangerous for her to return to Estonia to face prison.

As a citizen of Estonia I see that the Reform Party Government has a personal political vendetta against Anna-Maria Galojan using the media and judicial resources to attack her.

Even now when Anna-Maria Galojan is in London in the territory of the United Kingdom the Estonian Government

controlled media does not give up and everyone can read the comments of those who want to kill, destroy and kidnap her from the U.K.

I am sure that she can not return to Estonia for as long as this Government is in power because she would be in big danger.

She will have to stay in London for her own protection.


Olga Väina