



ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF JUDICIARY AND POLICE IN NORTHERN KOSOVO

SEPTEMBER 2023



Integration of Judiciary



On 24 October 2017, 40 judges and 13 prosecutors from non-majority communities, mainly Kosovo Serbs, were sworn in before the President of Kosovo, marking the completion of the judiciary integration process.

Additionally, on the same day, 149 previously chosen members of the judicial support staff (115 for the courts and 34 for the prosecution offices) signed their employment contracts.



The main achievements of the integration include:

- Improved rule of law in northern Kosovo.
- Enhanced legal security for all residents in northern Kosovo.
- Excellent inter-ethnic cooperation among judges, prosecutors, and police officers, as well as support staff from all communities.
- Increased trust of citizens in the judicial institutions and police.

A total of 144 Serbs left the Kosovo judiciary



Following the resignations of Kosovo Serb judges and prosecutors, the key challenges are

- Lack of judges and supporting staff,
- Increase in case backlog,
- Lack of translators and legal officers,
- Increase of workload for K/Albanian judges and supporting staff.

About 7.000 cases are pending before the Department.

The most critical challenge has been the work of the Civil Department, as only 3 Albanian judges remained. The court mainly deals with urgent cases involving detention or similar measures.



Over 547 Kosovo Serb police officers resigned

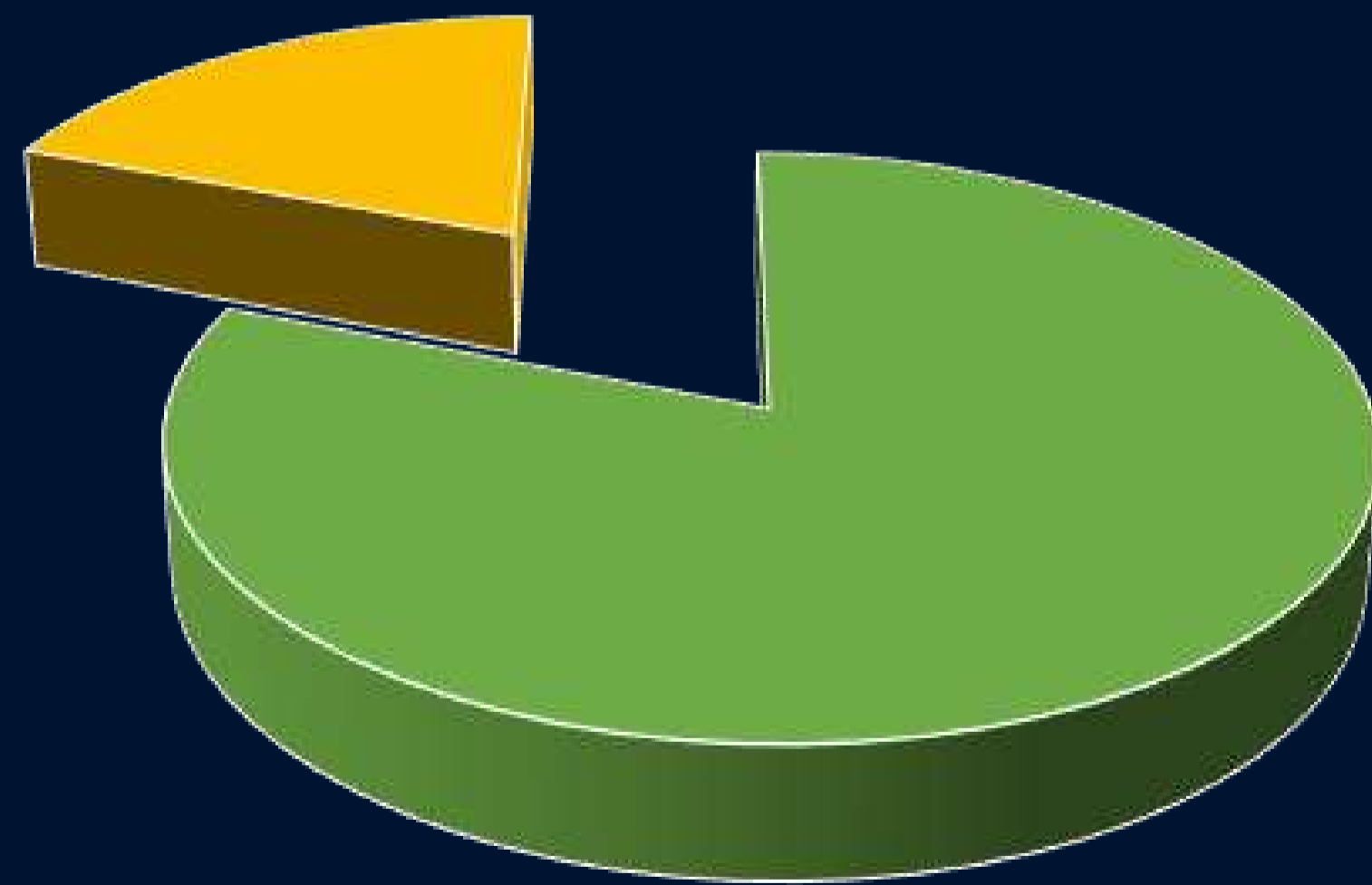


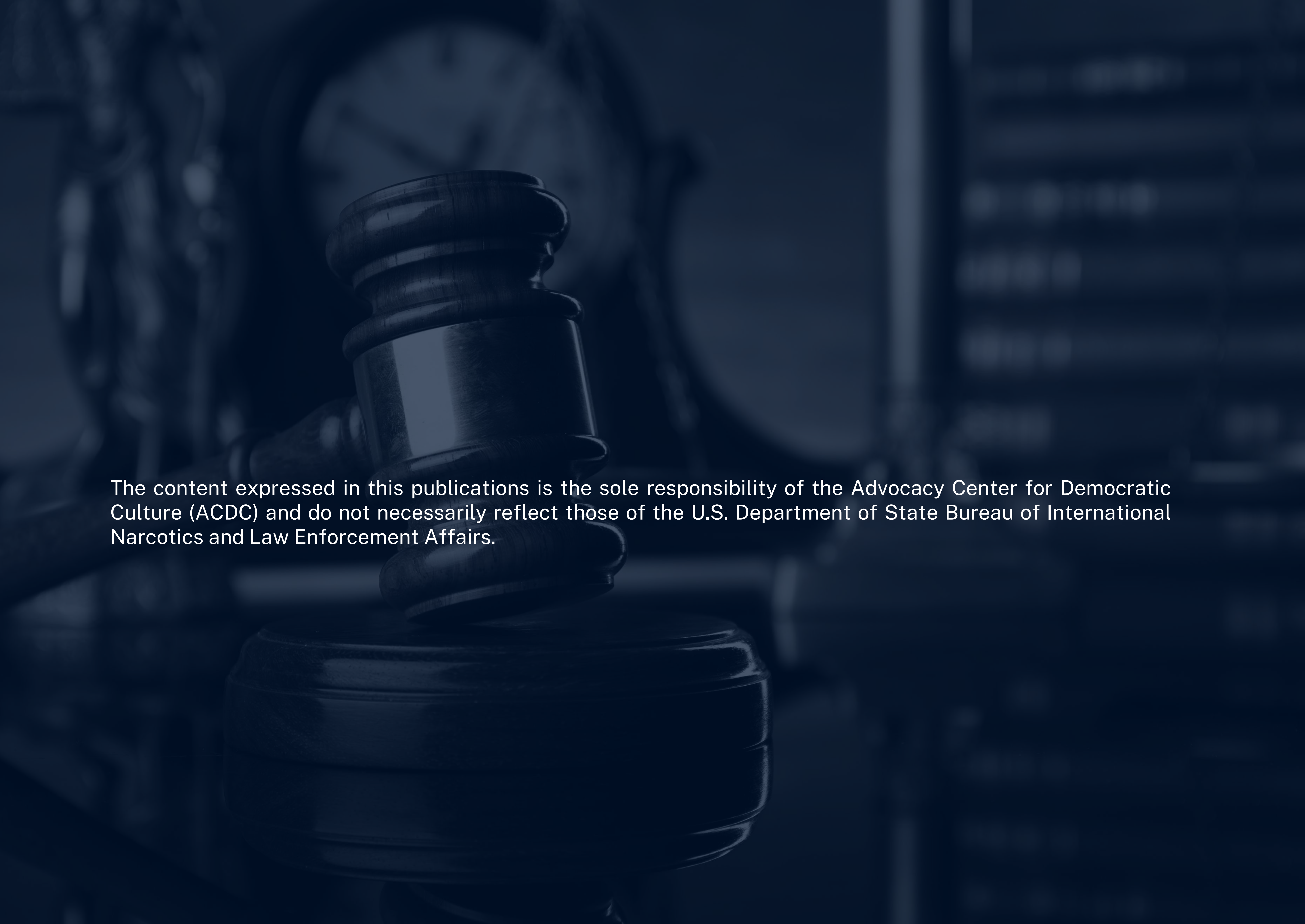
According to available statistical data, the number of cases initiated by the police in the first half of 2023 (following the resignation of the Kosovo Serbs officers) compared to the first half of 2022 has increased by

12,3%

In July 2023, a group of 74 new police officers, all from non-Albanian communities, joined the Regional Directorate of the Kosovo Police in North Mitrovica.

As of mid-August 2023, already 9 out of 38 newly recruited Serb officers resigned.





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