



**Politsei- ja Piirivalveamet**  
Police and Border Guard Board

Morgane Dussud  
Researcher, Human Rights  
Access Info Europe  
[redacted]@access-info.eu

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Dear Morgane,

Please find below the answers to your questions.

**1. What legislation governs the use of equipment at the disposal of police forces in protest situations?**

*The use of firearms, special equipment and protective gear at the disposal of police forces is governed by the Police and Border Guard Act*  
<http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=2012X03K3&keel=en&pg=1&ptvyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=politsei>

*Police and Border Guard Act, Chapter 4 DIRECT COERCION, § 27. Special equipment, § 28. Service weapons, § 29. Self-defence equipment of the police, § 32. Use of handcuffs, shackles or binding means, § 32<sup>1</sup>. Use of water cannon, § 32<sup>2</sup>. Use of electric shock weapon, § 32<sup>3</sup>. Use of firearm.*

*Intervention is regulated also by the Public Meetings Act*  
<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/123022011006?leiaKehtiv>

**2. What types of equipment are police forces permitted to use in protest situations? (For example: batons, shields, water cannons, rubber bullets, etc.)**

*According to the Police and Border Guard Act same weapons and equipment are allowed to use during demonstrations than during everyday policing (batons, shields, water cannons, gas, rubber bullets, which is subject to a requirement of proportionality). Exception to everyday policing is requirement to warn the crowd about usage of firearm. During everyday policing such warning is not necessary when urgent intervention is needed.*

*§ 31. Caution against direct coercion. Cautioning against the use of a firearm against a crowd may not be neglected.*

**3. For all the equipment types available for use by police officers in situations of protest that are supplementary to normal police equipment, please provide me with data including:**

**a. The number of items in the possession of police forces for each equipment type;**

*Such information is for police internal use only and cannot be published.*

**b. The amount of times that such equipment types have been used in the last five years;**  
*Firearms or special equipment is not used against the demonstrations in the last five years.*

**4. What guidance and training are police provided with on use of equipment for dealing with protest? Please send a copy or direct website link to any guidance documents regarding the use of force in such situations.**

*Police basic training course includes the topic of police action in managing the masses (20 hours). All members of managing the masses units are receiving additional specific course (50 hours) and once per year additional in-service training.*

**5. Has the police or government compiled any evaluation reports on the policing of protests in the past five years? If so, please send a copy of the evaluation documents or direct me to the direct on-line link.**

*Police or government hasn't compiled any evaluation reports on the policing of protests in the past five years as there haven't been any cases of usage firearms or special equipment toward crowds.*

Yours sincerely,



Marek Unt

Police Captain

Head of Division, Rapid Response Division

Operational Bureau

Public Order Police Department

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