

Life Sentence Prisoners in the Republic of Macedonia

Abstract

The article analyses the most important personal traits of life sentence prisoners in the Republic of Macedonia in order to give a profile of an offender of the most serious crimes. In determining the profile of an offender in general, he is analysed and is examined not as a biological being, but as a distinct social type of person with characteristics and traits formed under the influence of the negative features of the social environment. In a separate chapter, the author of the article analyses personal characteristics and traits of life sentenced prisoners in the the Republic of Macedonia based on the results of a research conducted in prison Idrizovo as a penitentiary institution, where all life sentence prisoners are serving their prison sentence. Personal characteristics of life sentence prisoners are relevant in determining the aetiology of the most serious crimes. Also, knowing the personality of a serious offender is of great importance for the application of appropriate treatment for successful realization of the process of re-socialization.

Key Words: life sentence prisoner, personal traits, imprisonment, sentence, sanction.

1. Introduction

The person of a criminal, his traits and characteristics, biophysical, psychological and social characteristics are important in the process of becoming a criminal. Thus, even Cesare Lombroso in his book "Man delinquent" ("L'uomo delinquente") (1876)² draws attention to the offender saying that crime is an individual and social reality that can not be separated from the personality of the offender, who developed the theory of the existence of a separate criminal type who brings atavistic features that make the oddity of the human race, and its physical properties have a major impact on the moral qualities of man.³ However, at the present stage of development of criminology, as a science, it is an unacceptable theoretical approach that departs from the "atavistic type" born criminal, biological and physical, hereditary and genetic predisposed type of person who should be expected to develop criminal behavior in advance.

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² Lombroso, Cesare (1876) "L'Uomo Delinquente", Milan: Hoepli.

³ Furthermore, he gives a typology of perpetrators: born criminals, mentally ill criminals, criminals of passion, random criminals ("kriminaloidi" and "psevdokriminalci") and criminals out of habit.

In determining the profile of an offender, in general, he is considered and explored not as a biological uniqueness, but as a distinct social type of personality with characteristics and traits formed under the influence of the negative features of the social environment, which committed a certain offense.⁴

The system of criminal sanctions in the Republic of Macedonia is determined by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Macedonia (CCM).⁵ Thus, criminal sanctions include: sentences, alternative measures, security measures and educational measures whose execution is regulated by the Law on Execution of Sanctions (LES)^{6,7}

For crimes, criminal offenders may be imposed the following sentences: 1) imprisonment, 2) fine, 3) prohibition on performing a profession, activity or duty, 4) prohibition of driving, 5) expulsion of foreigners from the country and 6) prohibition on attending sports competitions.⁸

Alternative measures that may be imposed to perpetrators of the crimes are: 1) suspended sentence, 2) suspended sentence with supervision, 3) conditional suspension of criminal proceedings, 4) community service, 5) judicial notice and 6) house arrest.⁹

The offenders can be sentenced with the following security measures: 1) compulsory psychiatric treatment and custody in a health institution, 2) compulsory psychiatric treatment in freedom, 3) compulsory treatment of alcoholics and drug addicts and 4) medical and pharmacological treatment of offenders of sexual assault upon a child of up to 14 years of age.¹⁰

Imprisonment cannot be shorter than thirty days, or longer than 20 years. For crimes for which the law prescribes a life imprisonment sentence, a sentence of imprisonment of up to 40 years may be imposed.¹¹

If a sentence of 20 years of imprisonment is prescribed for a premeditated crime, a sentence of life imprisonment may be prescribed for severe forms of this crime.¹²

⁴ Арнаудовски, Љ. (2007), „Криминологија“, Скопје: 2 Август С-Штип. [Arnaudovski, Lj. (2007) “Criminology”, Skopje: 2 Avgust S Stip].

⁵ Кривичен законик на Република Македонија („Службен весник на Република Македонија“ бр. 37/1996; 80/1999; 4/2002; 43/2003; 19/2004; 81/2005; 60/2006; 73/2006; 7/2008; 139/2008; 114/2009; 51/2011; 135/2011; 185/2011; 142/2012; 166/2012; 55/2013, 82/2013, 14/2014; 27/2014 и 28/2014) [Criminal Code of the Republic of Macedonia (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 37/1996; 80/1999; 4/2002; 43/2003; 19/2004; 81/2005; 60/2006; 73/2006; 7/2008; 139/2008; 114/2009; 51/2011; 135/2011; 185/2011; 142/2012; 166/2012; 55/2013, 82/2013, 14/2014; 27/2014 and 28/2014)].

⁶ Закон за извршување на санкциите („Службен весник на Република Македонија“ бр.2/2006, 57/2010 и 170/2013) [Law on Execution of Sanctions (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 2/2006, 57/2010 and 170/2013)].

⁷ See article 1 paragraph 2 LES.

⁸ See article 33 paragraph 1 CCM.

⁹ See article 48-a CCM.

¹⁰ See article 61 CCM.

¹¹ Article 35 paragraph 1 CCM.

¹² Article 35 paragraph 2 CCM.

The sentence of life imprisonment may not be prescribed as the only main sentence.¹³

The sentence of life imprisonment may not be pronounced for an offender who at the time the crime was committed has not attained the age of 21 years.¹⁴

The condemned sentenced to life imprisonment may not be released on parole before he serves at least 20 years of the punishment of imprisonment.¹⁵

Under the Criminal Code of the Republic of Macedonia, life imprisonment is provided for the following crimes: Murder,¹⁶ Statutory rape of a helpless person,¹⁷ Sexual assault of a juvenile under the age of 14,¹⁸ Robbery,¹⁹ Armed robbery,²⁰ Extortion,²¹ Kidnapping an aircraft or ship,²² Endangering air traffic safety,²³ Acknowledging occupation,²⁴ Murder of representatives of the highest state authorities,²⁵ Punishment for the most severe forms of crimes,²⁶ Opposing a superior,²⁷ Attack upon a military person while performing his official duty,²⁸ Failure to report the preparation of a crime,²⁹ Terrorism,³⁰ Genocide,³¹ Crime against humanity,³² War crimes against the civil population,³³ War crime against wounded and ill,³⁴ War crimes against prisoners of war,³⁵ Use of un-allowed combat means,³⁶ Misuse of chemical or biological weapons,³⁷ Unlawful killing and wounding of an enemy,³⁸ International terrorism,³⁹ Endangering persons under international protection,⁴⁰ and Taking hostages.⁴¹

¹³ Article 35 paragraph 3 CCM.

¹⁴ Article 35 paragraph 4 CCM.

¹⁵ Article 36 paragraph 4 CCM.

¹⁶ Article 123 paragraph 2 and 3 CCM.

¹⁷ Article 187 paragraph 3 CCM.

¹⁸ Article 188 paragraph 2 CCM.

¹⁹ Article 237 paragraph 5 CCM.

²⁰ Article 238 paragraph 5 CCM.

²¹ Article 258 paragraph 4 CCM.

²² Article 302 paragraph 3 CCM.

²³ Article 303 paragraph 3 CCM.

²⁴ Article 306 CCM.

²⁵ Article 309 CCM.

²⁶ Article 327 paragraph 2 and 3 CCM.

²⁷ Article 330 paragraph 5 CCM.

²⁸ Article 333 paragraph 4 CCM.

²⁹ Article 363 paragraph 2 CCM.

³⁰ Article 394-b paragraph 1 CCM.

³¹ Article 403 CCM.

³² Article 403-a CCM.

³³ Article 404 paragraph 1 and 2 CCM.

³⁴ Article 405 CCM.

³⁵ Article 406 CCM.

³⁶ Article 407 paragraph 3 CCM.

³⁷ Article 407-b paragraph 3 CCM.

³⁸ Article 409 paragraph 2 CCM.

³⁹ Article 419 paragraph 3 CCM.

⁴⁰ Article 420 paragraph 3 CCM.

⁴¹ Article 421 paragraph 3 CCM.

Life imprisonment sentences are served in institutions of closed type.⁴² According to our legislation institutions of closed type are for sentences of longer than three years, as well as the imprisonment sentence of over six months delivered against recidivists. The persons sentenced to life imprisonment will serve their sentence in accordance with the provisions for execution of the imprisonment sentence, and they are entitled to use all rights and benefits, except for those which are limited with the house rules of the institution.⁴³

Only the Prison Idrizovo has a special department for convicted females to imprisonment in the entire territory of the Republic of Macedonia. Also, the **Prison Idrizovo is the only penal institution for execution of life imprisonment imposed to males and females**, and imprisonment against males and females who foreign nationals and/or stateless persons.⁴⁴

The article analyses the number of imposed life imprisonment sentences and the personal traits of life sentence prisoners in the Republic of Macedonia in the period between 1991 and 2011. Also, this paper provides an overview of the most important personal characteristics of life sentence prisoners in the country based on the results of research conducted in Prison Idrizovo, as the only institution in which they are serving their prison sentence.

2. Methods

For the preparation of the paper, in accordance with the above stated goals of the research and the determined subject and content, appropriate basic and specific research methods are applied.

The normative method is used in the analysis of the positive domestic legal norms that regulate the imposition and enforcement of life imprisonment sentence. Also, an analytical legal interpretation of the

⁴² Prisons Idrizovo and Stip are penal institutions of closed type with a high degree of physical and material security. These are penal institution for execution of imprisonment of males with a penalty exceeding 3 years or when the rest of his sentence in custody amounts calculated over 3 years, and males recidivists convicted with imprisonment over 6 months or when the rest of his sentence in custody exceeds 6 months. In these penal institutions there are several departments: admission section, closed, semi-open and open section, and department for chronically ill and disabled inmates, addiction department. See: Arnaudovski, Ljupcho and Gruevska-Drakulevski, Aleksandra (2011) "Law on Execution of Sanctions, Integral text, With an Introduction, Short Explanations and Register of Terms and Annex", Skopje: Center for Regional Policy Research and Cooperation 'Studiorum'. Arnaudovski, Ljupcho and Gruevska-Drakulevski, Aleksandra (2013) "Penology", part 1 and part 2, Skopje: Faculty of Law "Iustinianus Primus" in Skopje.

⁴³ Article 49 LES.

⁴⁴ Annual Reports of the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions for the Work of the Penal Institutions for 2008 and 2009. [Годишни извештаи на Управата за извршување на санкциите на Република Македонија за работењето и состојбата во Казнено поправните и Воспитно поправните установи во Република Македонија за 2008 и 2009 година.]

(<http://www.pravda.gov.mk/tekstoviuis.asp?lang=mak&id=godizv>).

legislation related to this issue is used. The Descriptive method found application in explaining and describing the subject of the research.

Besides the theoretical part, the paper contains empirical research that allows performing empirical verification of the theses' that are put forwards. For this purpose official statistics from the annual reports of the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia, the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions of the Republic of Macedonia for performance and state penal and correctional institutions in the country for 2008-2011, and data from a survey conducted in Prison Idrizovo is used. Collected empirical data are interpreted by speculative and logical approach.

3. Personal traits of life sentence prisoners in the Republic of Macedonia (Research and Discussion)

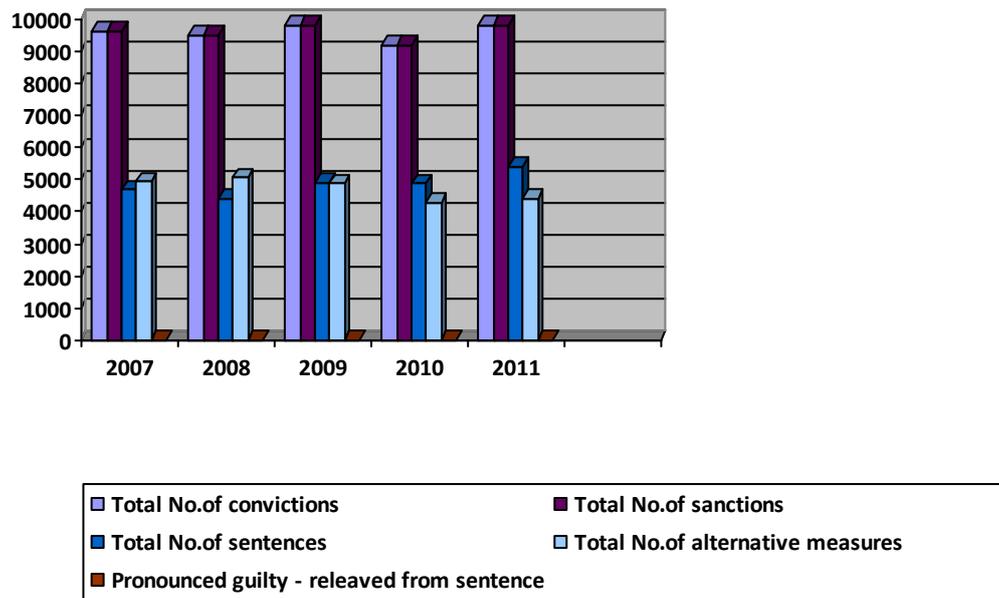
3.1 Number of imposed prison and life prison sentences in the Republic of Macedonia

In the following part of this paper you will find presented data on the imposed and enforced prison and life prison sentences in the Republic of Macedonia for the period 2007-2011. The analysis of the data on judicial penal policy in the Republic of Macedonia in the period 2007-2011, presents the following conclusions.⁴⁵

In the analyzed period, a total of 9630 sanctions were imposed in 2007, 9493 in 2008, 9790 in 2009, 9165 in 2010 and in 2011 total of 9806 criminal sanctions were imposed. Of the total number of criminal sanctions imposed in the analyzed period, on average, 50.82% were imposed sentences and 49.18% alternative measures (see Graph 1).

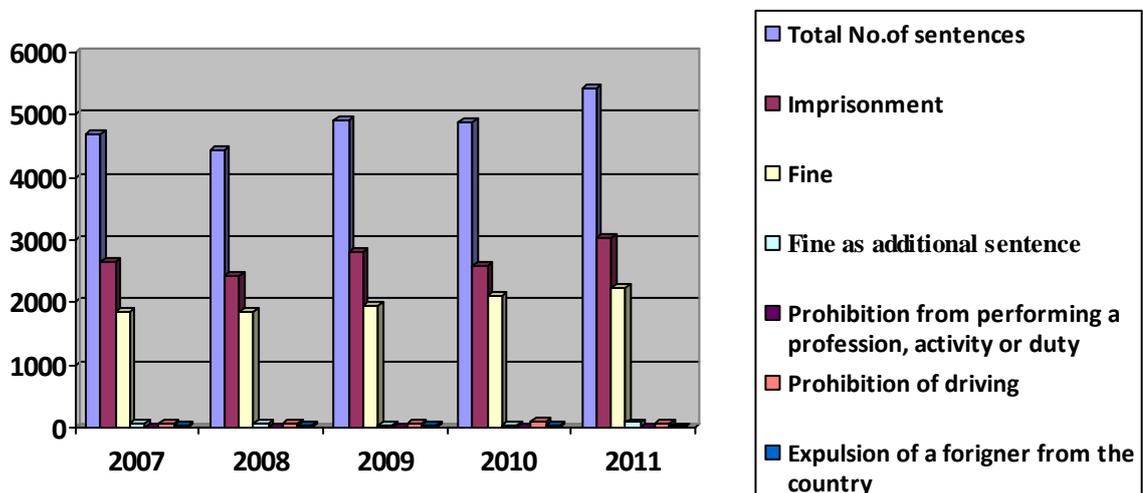
Graph 1. Number of convictions and imposed sanctions (2007-2011)

⁴⁵ See more at: Груевска-Дракулевски, Александра, Казнената политика на судовите во Република Македонија во периодот 2007-2011, во Македонска ревија за кривично право и криминологија, год. 16 и 17, бр. 1-2, 2011/2012. [Gruevska-Drakulevski, Aleksandra, "Criminal Policy of the Courts in the Republic of Macedonia in the Period 2007-2011", *Macedonian Review for Criminal Law and Criminology*, UDK 343, Year 18 and 19, No.1-2, 2011/2012, ISSN 1409-5327, Association for Criminal Law and Criminology", Skopje: 2 Avgust S Stip].



Of the total number of imposed sentences, on average, 55.5% were imprisonment, 41.1% were fines, then, a prohibition of driving - 1.46%, 1.2% were imposed fines as additional sentence, 0.7% were expulsion of foreigners from the country and 0.04% were prohibition from performing a profession, activity or duty (see Graph 2).

Graph 2. Number of imposed sentences (2007-2011)



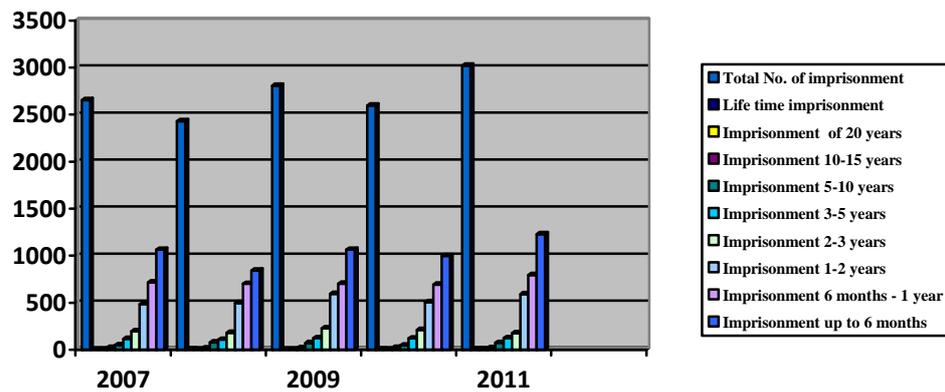
Of the total number of prison sentences imposed, in most cases, on average, 38.36% are imposed prison sentences of up to 6 months, on average, 26.78% are imposed prison sentences of 6 months to 1 year. The prison sentences of 1 to 2 years are imposed on average at 19.78%. Prison sentences 2-3 years on average are imposed at 7.4%, 4.4% are prison sentences 3-5 years. Long sentences, those lasting 5-10 years are

imposed in 2.42%, 10-15 years - 0.72%, life imprisonment is imposed on average 0.1%, and imprisonment of 20 years at 0.04%.

It can be concluded that in terms of the amount of imposed prison sentences in the analyzed period in the country dominated the short sentences, up to 6 months and from 6 months to 1 year (65.14%).

Data is presented in Graph 3.

Graph 3. Convicted persons to imprisonment (2007-2011)



The data of sentenced persons to imprisonment are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Convicted persons to imprisonment (2007-2011)

	2007	%	2008	%	2009	%	2010	%	2011	%	Average
Total No. of convictions	9639		9503		9801		9169		9810		
Index	100		99		103		94		107		
Total No. of sanctions	9630		9493		9790		9165		9806		
Index	104		99		103		94		107		
Total No. of sentences	4694	48,7	4434	46,7	4912	50,2	4882	53,3	5412	55,2	50,82
Index	100		94		111		99		111		
Total No. of imprisonment	2654	56,5	2430	54,8	2808	57,2	2596	53,2	3020	55,8	55,5
Index	100		92		116		92		116		
Life time imprisonment	0	0	6	0,2	1	0,0	2	0,1	5	0,2	0,1
Index	100		600		17		200		250		
Imprisonment of 20 years	0	0	1	0,0	1	0,0	0	0,0	5	0,2	0,04
Index	100		100		100		0		500		
Imprisonment 10-15 years	23	0,9	15	0,6	19	0,7	21	0,8	18	0,6	0,72
Index	100		65		127		111		86		
Imprisonment 5-10 years	50	1,9	79	3,3	72	2,6	46	1,8	74	2,5	2,42
Index	100		158,0		91,1		63,9		160,9		
Imprisonment 3-5 years	117	4,4	108	4,4	124	4,4	121	4,7	125	4,1	4,4
Index	100		92		115		98		103		
Imprisonment 2-3 years	198	7,5	181	7,4	227	8,1	210	8,1	177	5,9	7,4
Index	100		91		125		93		84		
Imprisonment 1-2 years	484	18,2	496	20,4	595	21,2	506	19,5	592	19,6	19,78
Index	100		102		120		85		117		
Imprisonment 6 months - 1 year	717	27,0	701	28,8	704	25,1	693	26,7	794	26,3	26,78
Index	100		98		100		98		115		

Imprisonment up to 6 months	1065	40,1	843	34,7	1065	37,9	997	38,4	1230	40,7	38,36
Index	100		79		126		94		123		

Source: State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia

3.2 Personal traits of life sentence prisoners in the Republic of Macedonia

As previously mentioned, the Prison Idrizovo is the only penal institution for execution of the sentence life imprisonment in our country. Hence, the research of the characteristics of the life sentence prisoners is conducted in this institution and relates to the period 1991-2011.

The data relate to the number of life sentence prisoners in the analysed period, gender, age, nationality, education, marital status, social status, drug and alcohol (mis)use, recidivism, type of committed crimes, etc.

3.2.1 Number of life sentence prisoners

In the period between 1991 and 2011 there were a total of 29 life sentence prisoners in the Republic of Macedonia, serving their sentence in Prison Idrizovo. Also, in the period between 1991 and 1996 and between 1999 and 2004 there were no imposed life imprisonment sentences. This explains why none of the life sentence prisoners were released on parole.⁴⁶

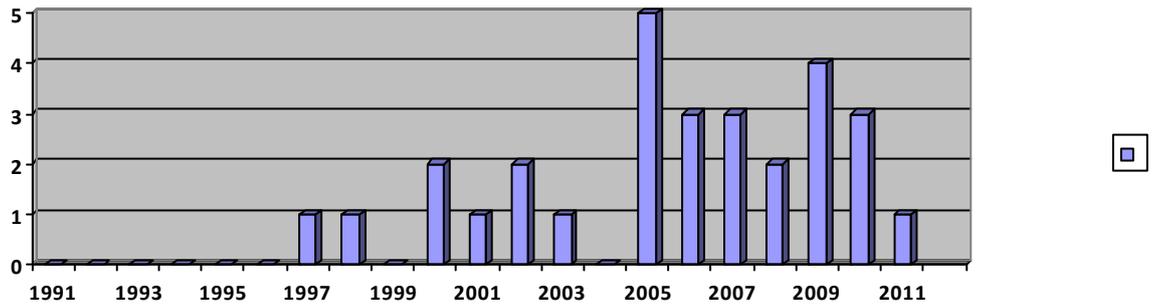
In 2005 five convicted persons were admitted in the Prison Idrizovo for serving life imprisonment, in 2009 – 4 convicted persons, and 3 convicts were admitted in 2000, 2002, 2007 and 2008. In 1997, 1998, 2001, 2003 and 2011 1 convict was admitted. Hence, the total number of life sentence prisoners for the period between 1991 and 2011 is 29.

The data is presented in Table 2 and Graph 4.

⁴⁶ The condemned sentenced to life imprisonment may not be released on parole before he serves at least 20 years of the punishment of imprisonment. Before the amendments of the CCM in 2014, the condemned sentenced to life imprisonment could not be released on parole before he serves at least 15 years of the punishment of imprisonment. According to article 3 of the CCM there is an obligatory application of a mitigated criminal law: (1) The law in force at the time when a crime was committed shall be applied upon the person who has committed the crime. (2) If the law has changed once or several times after the crime was committed, the more mitigative law shall be applied to the offender. (3) If this law prescribes a new alternative measure, a safety measure or an educational measure, it can be applied only if it corresponds to a previously prescribed measure and if it is not less favorable for the offender.

Table 2. Number of admitted life sentence prisoners (1991-2011)

Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	0	5	3	3	2	4	3	1	29

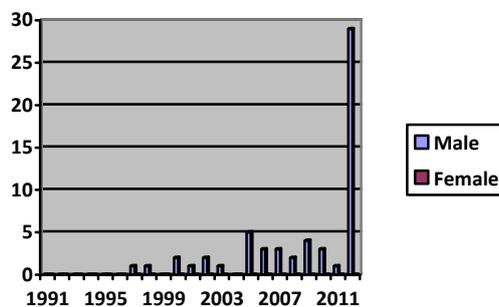
Graph 4. Number of admitted life sentence prisoners (1991-2011)

3.2.2 Gender of life sentence prisoners

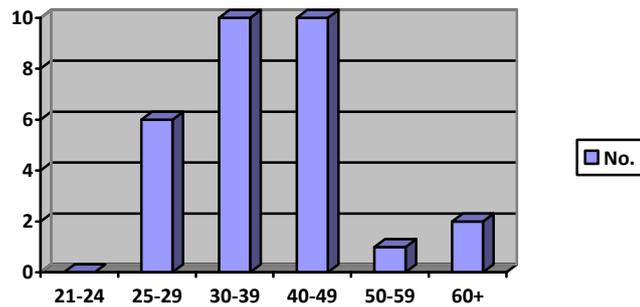
According to the data all of the life sentence prisoners are males. There is no female sentenced to life imprisonment (see Table 3 and Graph 5).

Table 3. Gender of life sentence prisoners (1991-2011)

Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	0	5	3	3	2	4	3
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Graph 5. Gender of life sentence prisoners (1991-2011)

Data once again confirms that crime, in general, is a male phenomenon. According to a great deal criminological research men participate to a great extent in a larger percentage than women in total crime. As can be seen, in the analysed period, none of the women

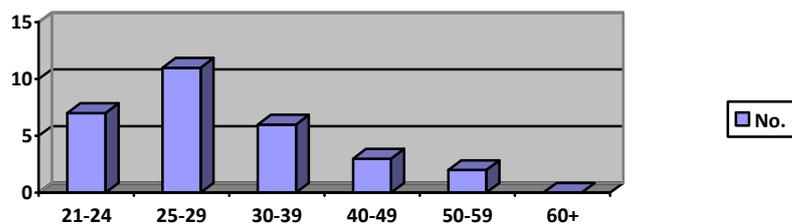


Next is analysed the age of the life sentence prisoners at the time of commitment of crime. Most of the life sentence prisoners (37.9%) were age 25 to 29 at the time of commitment of crime; 24.1% were age 21-24, 20.7% were age 30-39, 10.3% were age 40 to 49 and 6.9% were age 50 to 59 at the time of commitment of crime. This proves one characteristic of the crime, which is that crime peaks at the age of 21 to 29 of perpetrators of crime (see Table 6 and Graph 7).

Table 6. Age of life sentence prisoners at the time of commitment of crime

Age	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Total
No.	7	11	6	3	2	0	29
%	24.1	37.9	20.7	10.3	6.9	0	100.0

Graph 7. Age of life sentence prisoners at the time of commitment of crime



It can be concluded that the data prove an important phenomenological feature of crime in general, that is age. Different age groups perceive different share in the crime. "Criminal maturity" is achieved in age groups 20 to 24 and 25 to 29 and after the age of 30 is noted criminal passivity. The data confirm the thesis of the so-called 'change with age' ('maturing reform'), developed by Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck who in their research, which covers a period of 15 years, found a positive correlation between graduation and deterrence of crime. Also, the recidivism rate gradually grows and reaches its peak in age group 30-39 years, and then decline sharply. Or, as Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck note "as minors grow and gain ... family responsibilities ... they desist

from participating in criminal activities".⁴⁸ Age is a factor with an impact on the increase of the total crime. The explanation can be found in the so-called trend of `baby boom` or `baby slump`.⁴⁹

3.2.4 Nationality of life sentence prisoners

Analysing the variable nationality, the results of the research present that most of the life sentence prisoners are Albanians (48.3%), 37.9% are Macedonians, 10.3% are Roma and 3.4% are Turk (see Table 7).

Table 7. Nationality of life sentence prisoners

Nationality	No.	%
Macedonian	11	37,9
Albanian	14	48,3
Roma	3	10,3
Turkish	1	3,4
Total	29	100.0

It can be concluded that Albanians prove to commit the most serious crimes in the country, for which life imprisonment is imposed.

Age and nationality of life sentence prisoners

At the time of commitment of crime 37.9% of life sentence prisoners were age 25 to 29, 24.1% were age 21 to 24, 20.7% were age 30 to 39, 10.3% were age 40 to 49 and 6.9% were age 50 to 59.

The youngest perpetrator of crime that was sentenced with life imprisonment was 21 at the time of commitment of crime and is of Roma nationality and the oldest was 59 years old and is of Macedonian nationality.

Most of the Albanians committed the crime(s) in the age group between 25 to 29 and 21 to 24. On the other hand, most of the Macedonians committed the crime for which life imprisonment was imposed one age group later, namely, 25 to 29 and 30 to 39 (see Table 8 and Graph 8).

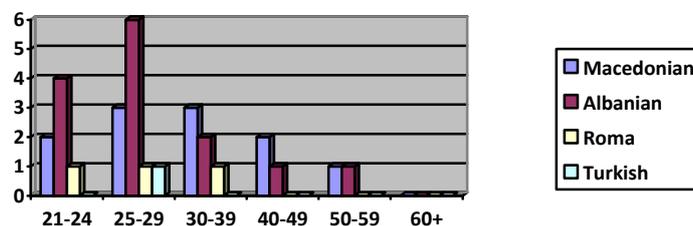
Table 8. Age and nationality of life sentence prisoners at the time of commitment of crime

Age	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Total	%
Macedonian	2	3	3	2	1	0	11	37.9
Albanian	4	6	2	1	1	0	14	48.3
Roma	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	10.3
Turkish	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3.4
Total	7	11	6	3	2	0	29	100.0
%	24.1	37.9	20.7	10.3	6.9	0	100.0	

⁴⁸ Farrel, Stephen and Bowling, Benjamin (1999) "Structuration, Human Development and Desistance from Crime", British Journal of Criminology, Vol.39, p.258.

⁴⁹ Bottoms, A., Rex, S. and Robinson, G. (2004) "Alternatives to prison: options for an insecure society", Cullompton: Willan Publishing.

Graph 8. Age and nationality of life sentence prisoners at the time of commitment of crime



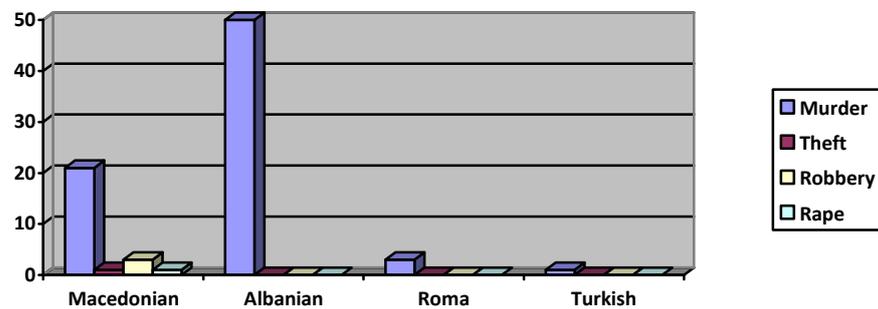
3.2.5 Type of committed crime for which life imprisonment was imposed

According to the data all of the persons convicted to life imprisonment have committed serious types of crime namely murder. Most of them have committed more than one murder, and some besides murder have committed theft (1.3%), robbery (3.8%) or rape (1.3%), but the sentence because of the murder committed was life imprisonment. There was a total of 80 crimes committed by the 29 convicted persons to life imprisonment. Most of them (93.8%) were murders. It is noticeable that the Albanians committed most of the murders, high 66.7%; Macedonians – 28%, Roma - 4% and Turkish – 1.3% (see Table 9 and Graph 9).

Table 9. Type of committed crime for which life imprisonment was imposed

	Macedonia n	Albania n	Roma	Turkish	Total	%
Murder	21	50	3	1	75	93.8
Theft	1	0	0	0	1	1.3
Robbery	3	0	0	0	3	3.8
Rape	1	0	0	0	1	1.3
Total	26	50	3	1	80	100.0

Graph 9. Type of committed crime for which life imprisonment was imposed



Most of the murders committed are under article 123 paragraph 2 of the CCM (48%), 8% are under article 123 paragraph 3 and 2.7% are murder under article 123 paragraph 1.

Those murders that are under paragraph 2, most of them are for taking the life of another for self-interest, because of committing or covering up some other crime, for ruthless revenge or for other low motives, taking the life of an official or military person, while they are performing work on public or state security, or on duty guarding the public order, catching a perpetrator of a crime, or guarding a person under arrest, taking the life of another and hereby, with intent, brings in danger the life of another person, taking the life of another while performing family violence and taking the life of a female person, knowing that she is pregnant (see Table 10).

Table 10. Type of murder committed

	No.	%
Murder (Article 123 Paragraph 1)⁵⁰	32	2.7
Murder (Article 123 Paragraph 2)⁵¹	36	48.0
Murder (Article 123 Paragraph 3)⁵²	6	8.0
Murder from negligence (Article 126)⁵³	1	1.3
Total	75	100.0

3.2.6 Education of life sentence prisoners

A high of 69% have finished only elementary school, 27.6% have finished secondary school, and 3.4% (1 prisoner) have graduate degree (see Table 11 and Graph 10).

Table 11. Education and nationality of life sentence prisoners

	Macedonia	Albania	Rom	Turkis	Total	%
Elementary school	5	11	3	1	20	69.0
Secondary school	6	2	0	0	8	27.6
Uncompleted education	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Graduate degree	0	1	0	0	1	3.4
Total	11	14	3	1	29	100.0

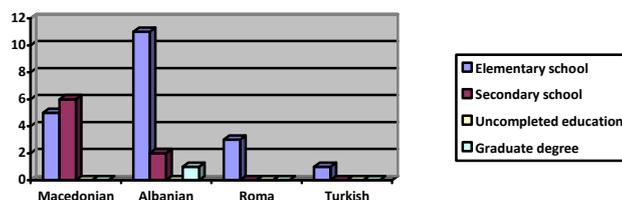
⁵⁰ (1) A person who takes the life of another shall be punished with imprisonment of at least five years.

⁵¹ (2) The following person shall be punished with at least ten years or with life imprisonment, who:

- 1) takes the life of another in a cruel or treacherous manner;
- 2) takes the life of another while performing family violence;
- 3) takes the life of another and hereby, with intent, brings in danger the life of another person;
- 4) takes the life of another for self-interest, because of committing or covering up some other crime, for ruthless revenge or for other low motives.
- 5) takes the life of another on order;
- 6) takes the life of a female person, knowing that she is pregnant;
- 7) takes the life of an official or military person, while they are performing work on public or state security, or on duty guarding the public order, catching a perpetrator of a crime, or guarding a person under arrest.

⁵² (3) A person who with intent will take life of two or more persons, for which he hasn't been charged previously will be punished with a at least ten years or with life imprisonment, unless if it is not a criminal act upon article 9 line 3, article 10 line 3 and articles 124,125 and 127.

⁵³ A person who takes the life of another from negligence shall be punished with imprisonment of six months to five years.

Graph 10. Education and nationality of life sentence prisoners

A significant factor of crime is illiteracy, or not having appropriate educational and professional qualifications. Education perpetuates the values of society. Through education people achieve a culture of respect for the community, adopting the concept of honest work. Most of the life sentence prisoners have completed only elementary school and lower percentage have completed secondary school.⁵⁴

To conclude, the factors lack of appropriate educational and professional qualifications of literacy, have a strong impact on crime according to the criminology literature. Hence, this should not be overlooked when applying treatment during imprisonment. Gaining educational and professional qualifications can be a positive experience for the continuation of life on "the right track" after imprisonment.

3.2.7 Marital status of life sentence prisoners

Most of the life sentence prisoners are married (55.2%), then, 27.6% are single, 6.9% are having partners or are widowed and 3.4% are divorced (see Table 12).

Table 12. Marital status of life sentence prisoners

	Macedonia n	Albania n	Rom a	Turkis h	Tota l	%
Married	3	11	2	0	16	55.2
Single	6	2	0	0	8	27.6
Partners	0	0	1	1	2	6.9
Divorced	1	0	0	0	1	3.4
Widowed	1	1	0	0	2	6.9
Total	11	14	3	1	29	100.0

High 62.1% of the life sentenced prisoners have children, either in marriage or out of marriage, and 37.9% are childless (see Table 13).

Table 13. (Not)having children

⁵⁴ See: Груевска-Дракулевски, Александра (2010) „Влијанието на казната затвор врз рецидивизмот“ (докторска дисертација), Скопје: Правен факултет „Јустинијан Први“ во Скопје. [Gruevska-Drakulevski, Aleksandra (2010) “Impact of imprisonment on recidivism” (PhD thesis), University of “Ss. Cyril and Methodius”, Law Faculty “Iustinianus Primus” in Skopje, Skopje].

	Macedonia	Albania	Rom	Turkis	Tota	%
	n	n	a	h	l	
With children	4	10	2	0	16	55.2
No children	7	4	0	0	11	37.9
Children out of marriage	0	0	1	1	2	6.9
Total	11	14	3	1	29	100.0

The criminology literature points many theories that explain that desistance from crime and marriage are correlated.⁵⁵ However, these findings did not prove to be valid for the life sentence prisoners in the Republic of Macedonia.

3.2.8 Social status of life sentence prisoners

Numerous researches show close correlation between crime and (un)employment. Namely, significant factor of crime is unemployment. This proves to be true for the life sentenced prisoners in the country, as well.

High 96.6% of the life sentence prisoners in our country are unemployed and only 3.4% (which represents one prisoner) is employed (see Table 14).

Table 14. Social status of life sentence prisoners

	Macedonia	Albania	Rom	Turkis	Tota	%
	n	n	a	h	l	
Unemployed	11	13	3	1	28	96.6
Employed	0	1	0	0	1	3.4
Retired	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	11	14	3	1	29	100.0

To conclude, the high rate of serious crime is a characteristic of unemployed offenders,⁵⁶ which confirms the importance of the financial and social status for committing a crime.

⁵⁵ See: Gruevska, Aleksandra (2005) "Theories of desistance that explain the finding that marriage and desistance are correlated: strengths and limitations of each view" in Journal for Legal Theory and Practice, Kopaonik School of Natural Law, XVIII Conference on Law and Universal Values, Association of Jursit in Serbia, No.9-2005, Year LIV, Book 493, Beograd p.1283-1291

⁵⁶ See: Груевска-Дракулевски, Александра (2010) „Влијанието на казната затвор врз рецидивизмот“ (докторска дисертација), Скопје: Правен факултет „Јустинијан Први“ во Скопје. [Gruevska-Drakulevski, Aleksandra (2010) "Impact of imprisonment on recidivism" (PhD thesis), University of "Ss. Cyril and Methodius", Law Faculty "Iustinianus Primus" in Skopje, Skopje].

3.2.9 Recidivism of life sentence prisoners

Another feature of crime is high percentage of recidivists. When analysing this variable, the conclusion is that of the total number of life sentence prisoners, 51.7% are first time offenders and 48.3% are recidivists. Most of the recidivists are Macedonians, then Albanians, and one Roma and one Turk. Surprisingly, most of the Albanians are first time offenders. It indicates the seriousness of the crime for which they are sentenced with life imprisonment (see Table 15). The data on recidivism for crime in general show that most of the recidivists in our country are Macedonians.⁵⁷ This conclusion proves for the life sentenced prisoners, as well.

Table 15. Recidivism of life sentence prisoners

	Macedonia n	Albania n	Rom a	Turkis h	Tota l	%
Recidivists	9	3	1	1	14	48.3
First time offenders	2	11	2	0	15	51.7
Total	11	14	3	1	29	100.0

3.2.10 Drug and alcohol (mis)use of life sentence prisoners

According to the data only 3 of the life sentence prisoners (10.3%) are drug addicts and 7 (24.1%) are occasional alcohol consumers, but are not alcoholics. A high of 65.5% are not users of drugs or alcohol.

It is worth mentioning that none of the Albanians are users of drugs or alcohol.

The data is presented in Table 16.

Table 16. Drug and alcohol (mis)use of life sentence prisoners

	Macedonian	Albanian	Roma	Turkish	Total	%
Drug	2	0	1	0	3	10.3
Alcohol	6	0	1	0	7	24.1
No addicts	3	14	1	1	19	65.5
Total	11	14	3	1	29	100.0

To conclude, in the analysed period (1991 to 2011) there were total of 29 life sentence prisoners, serving their sentence in the Prison Idrizovo. Most of them are Albanians (48.2 %), followed by Macedonians (37.9 %), Roma (10.4 %) and Turks (5.3 %).

All of them have committed at least one murder for which life imprisonment is imposed. None of them is being released to conditional release.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

All life sentence prisoners have low levels of education, most of them have families and children and are unemployed. Most of them are not addicted to drugs or alcohol. A high percentage of them are recidivists.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that the personal characteristics of life sentence prisoners are relevant in determining the phenomenology and aetiology of the most serious crimes. Also, knowing the personality of a serious offender is of great importance for the application of appropriate treatment for the successful realization of the process of re-socialization.

In determining the profile of an offender in general, he is considered and explored not as a biological uniqueness, but as a distinct social type of personality with characteristics and traits formed under the influence of the negative features of the social environment, which committed a certain offense.

According to the data of the conducted research in Prison Idrizovo as an only penal institution for serving life imprisonment, it can be concluded, that in the analysed period (1991-2011) there were total of 29 life sentence prisoners, serving their sentence in Prison Idrizovo. Most of them are Albanians (48.2 %), followed by Macedonians (37.9 %), Roma (10.4 %) and Turks (5.3 %).

All of them have committed at least one murder for which life imprisonment is imposed. None of them is being released to conditional release.

All life sentence prisoners have low levels of education, most of them have families and children and are unemployed. Most of them are not addicted to drugs or alcohol. High percentage of them is recidivists.

This survey reaffirmed the thesis that these personality traits are actually factors that affect serious crime. Crime does not occur as a result of one factor; rather it occurs as a result of interaction of many factors.

To conclude, knowing the personality of a serious offender is of great importance for the application of appropriate treatment for the successful realization of the process of re-socialization.

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