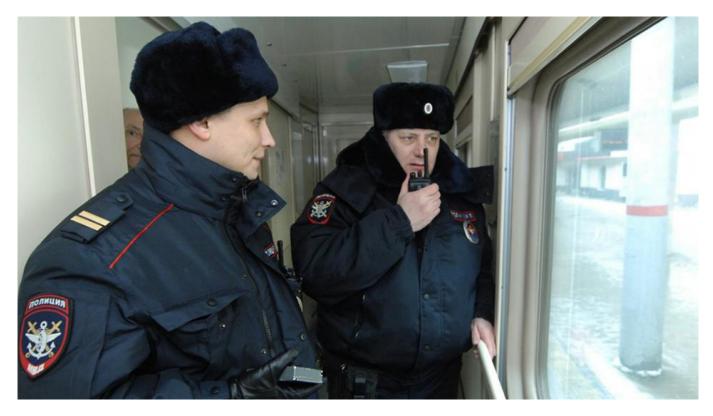


Moscow Crime Rate Hits Decade Low, Prosecutors Say

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Sergei Kiselyov / Moskva News Agency

Prosecutors in Moscow have said that fewer crimes were recorded in 2017 than in any year in the past decade thanks in part to major drops in robbery and murder rates.

Crime rates in the Russian capital <u>ranged</u> from 170,000 to 195,000 in the past decade, according to the state-run TASS news agency. Last year, the Prosecutor General's Office placed Moscow at the top of the nationwide crime count as the only Russian city to post six-digit numbers.

The 140,000 crimes committed last year marked a drop of 19 percent compared to 2016, in which 174,000 crimes were committed, the Moscow prosecutor's office <u>said</u> Friday.

Theft, burglary and armed robbery dropped up to 38 percent in the past year, the prosecutors said, while the murder rate dropped by 10 percent.

Meanwhile, Russia's Interior Ministry <u>reported</u> an annual nationwide drop in crime rates

of 4.7 percent.

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