US Presidential Candidate Huckabee Blames Liberal Leaders, Policies for High Crime Rates

WASHINGTON, June 29 (Sputnik) - High crime levels in the United States are caused by strict gun control policies imposed by liberal mayors and governors, Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee told the National Sheriffs' Association Conference on Monday. "I find it interesting that throughout most of America, the cities with the highest crime rates are run by the most liberal mayors and governments in the country and often have the strictest gun control," Huckabee said. In the city of Baltimore itself, Huckabee said, one in 70 people are likely to be a victim of crime while in west Baltimore, one in 48 people are likely to be a victim. Huckabee added that in New York City, shootings are up 20 percent from last year. In Chicago, 209 homicides have occurred and 1,035 people have been shot in the first six months of 2015 and 77 percent of victims nationally have been African American, while 18 percent are Hispanic, Huckabee said. But in Fort Worth, Texas, a more conservative city, one in 179 people have a chance of being a victim of a crime, according to Huckabee. Nationally, the number of police officers killed has increased by 24 percent in 2015, and the number of people killed by firearms has increased 56 percent, he said. Huckabee is one of 13 declared candidates seeking the 2016 Republican presidential nomination.