

SEESAC

South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons

AR/001

14 April 2003

SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT SUPPORT TO REPUBLIC OF SERBIA NATIONAL WEAPONS AMNESTY

SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 4 - Public Awareness and Communications Strategy FA 6 - Weapons Destruction Programmes
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	SG 1 - Capacity Building SG 4 - Project Support SG 5 - Resource Mobilisation

BACKGROUND

On 25 March 2003 the Government of Serbia proclaimed a fifteen-day amnesty for illegal weapons possession, to encourage voluntary surrender and registration of illegally held arms. The initial success of this initiative led to an extension of the amnesty until 24 April 2003. During this period anyone voluntarily surrendering illegal weapons to their nearest police station or military facility will not be prosecuted. Individuals will also have the chance to register non-military, sporting and hunting weapons according to the regulations governing firearms ownership.

The Belgrade-based South East Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) supported by UNDP and the Stability Pact has maintained close liaison and co-operation with the Serbian Ministry of the Interior during the amnesty initiative, and has provided significant technical and financial support in the following areas:

- Financial assistance for the physical destruction of weapons and ammunition.
- Production of specific amnesty literature.
- Technical assistance to NGOs for public awareness events.

WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION DESTRUCTION

The weapons were prepared for destruction by limited disassembly at the Institute of State Security in Belgrade. The initial physical destruction of 3,859 weapons took place on 12 April 2003 at the **Sartid** industrial smelting facility in **Smeredevo**. The weapons were converted into approximately 12 tonnes of molten steel. SEESAC used 'seed funding' to develop the capacity of the Ministry of Interior's destruction agencies, and also covered the initial operational costs. This has resulted in drawing valuable public attention to the process, has contributed towards maintaining the political



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momentum of the amnesty initiative and has provided tangible evidence to the civil population that recovered weapons will be destroyed and permanently taken out of circulation. The initial cost per weapon destroyed was approximately six US dollars per weapon (US\$ 6), but future destruction costs are predicted to be substantially lower as capacity development has now taken place, and economies of scale will begin to apply. The destruction was attended by the Republic of Serbia Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr Dusan Mihajlovic, the United Nations Resident Co-ordinator, Mr Frank O'Donnell, the Canadian Ambassador, Donald P McLennan and diplomatic representatives from the European Union, OSCE and the United States.



On 16 April 2003 approximately 40,000 rounds of small arms ammunition will be destroyed by controlled burning at the *Prvi Partizan* ammunition facility in **Uzice**. The destruction operation will be monitored by SEESAC technical staff.

SEESAC now intends to move on to Phase 2 of the process, which will be to encourage further destruction operations for the remaining 35,000 weapons collected during the amnesty initiative.¹ This will involve negotiation with Ministry of Interior, co-ordination activities and resource mobilization with potential donors.

PRODUCTION OF AMNESTY LITERATURE

An important component of the success to date of the national weapons amnesty has been the development of a wide-ranging public information campaign. SEESAC has contributed to this by funding the production of specifically targeted literature (US\$ 50K). The contribution of the Serbian Post Office in the free distribution of this literature must also be acknowledged; they distributed leaflets to every household in Serbia, thereby ensuring maximum effectiveness of this component of the public information campaign. Examples of the literature are at Annex B, and details of the types and quantities follow:

❑ Ministry of Interior Information Leaflets	-	2,300,000
❑ OTPOR ² Posters	-	100,000
❑ OTPOR Leaflets	-	750,000
❑ Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro leaflets	-	60,000

SUPPORT TO PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

In order to allow civil society to play an appropriate supporting role, SEESAC also co-ordinated public awareness actions across Serbia with the help of several NGOs. This mainly involved the use of the amnesty literature, but as the initial deadline for weapons surrender approached, the Belgrade-based Balkan Youth Union staged an event in central Belgrade which attracted a high level of media interest; hundreds of toy weapons were destroyed by passing children who received T-shirts and balloons carrying anti-weapon slogans.



¹ As at 14 April 2003.

² OTPOR is the NGO 'resistance'.

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Annexes:

- A. Details of Weapons Destroyed.
- B. Public Information Literature

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ANNEX A TO
SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT AR/001
DATED 14 APRIL 2003

SUMMARY OF WEAPONS DESTROYED

GENERIC WEAPON TYPE	QUANTITY	REMARKS
(a)	(b)	(c)
Revolvers	122	
Pistols	721	
Air / Gas / Starter Hand Guns	286	
Muzzle Loader	6	
Shotgun	11	
Air Rifles	986	
Rifles	1174	Hunting, Sniper, Carbine, Military
Assault Rifles	405	
Sub Machine Gun (SMG)	157	
Mortar	1	82mm
TOTAL	3859	



PUBLIC INFORMATION LITERATURE

<p>Ministry of Interior</p>	<p>IMUNITETA ZA NELEGALNO ORUŽJE DO 9. APRILA 2003.</p> <p>NELEGALNO NEREGISTROVANO ORUŽJE U NAJBЛИЖОЈ СТАНИЦИ ПОЛИЦИЈЕ ПРЕДАЈТЕ ОРУЖЈЕ КОЈЕ НЕ ИМАТЕ ПОСЕДОВАЊЕ У НЕЗАКОННОЈ СТАЊИ ПОЛИЦИЈИ ИЛИ НАСТАВИ</p> <p>Најбоље својате последице за кривично поседовање оружја, ако га предајете у периоду амнестије.</p> <p>НЕ МОЖЕ СЕ ЛЕГАЛИЗОВАТИ</p> <p>АУТОМАТСКО ОРУЖЈЕ: ручна Комада кавалеријског оружја и механички придржани авионски топови и механички придржани пушкомитралјежи, пушке и остали бајонети, митралјежи, уце, фронтални цикли, ови и остали бајонети, вештачки и други механички-експлозивни средства.</p> <p>За додатне информације, обратите се најближој станици полиције. Безбедно обавештавање на интернет: www.mup.gov.rs</p>	<p>IMUNITETA ZA NELEGALNO ORUŽJE DO 9. APRILA 2003.</p> <p>NELEGALNO NEREGISTROVANO ORUŽJE U NAJBЛИЖОЈ СТАНИЦИ ПОЛИЦИЈЕ ПРЕДАЈТЕ ОРУЖЈЕ КОЈЕ НЕ ИМАТЕ ПОСЕДОВАЊЕ У НЕЗАКОННОЈ СТАЊИ ПОЛИЦИЈИ ИЛИ НАСТАВИ</p> <p>Најбоље својате последице за кривично поседовање оружја, ако га предајете у периоду амнестије.</p> <p>МОЖЕ СЕ ЛЕГАЛИЗОВАТИ</p> <p>ВОЈНО, СПОРТСКО И ТРОВЕНО ОРУЖЈЕ: инсталације репеленти спортско оружје - пушке и лопате кошачке пилуле, ситничарске ловачке карабинае</p> <p>За додатне информације, обратите се најближој станици полиције. Безбедно обавештавање на интернет: www.mup.gov.rs</p>
<p>ОТПОР</p>	<p>ЗА СРБИЈУ БЕЗ ОРУЖЈА!</p> <p>ЗА СРБИЈУ БЕЗ КРИМИНАЛА</p> <p>НАРОДНИ ПОКРЕТ ОТПОР</p> <p>Иницијатива за неопходно и безбедно уклањање оружја и осталих експлозивних средстава www.npo.org.rs</p>	<p>По подацима МУПа у Србији данас постоји више стотина хиљада комада различитог оружја које се чува по кућама... ово оружје је велики ризик за безбедност, пре свега деце, али и свих укућана.</p> <p>Зато вас, у циљу ваше и безбедности свих грађана, Народни покрет Отпор позива да сво неlegalно оружје предате најближој станици МУП-а.</p> <p>Ако оружје вратите до 9. априла имате имунитет, НЕЋЕ БИТИ КРИВИЧНОГ ПОСТУПКА за неlegalно поседовање оружја. Искористите ову шансу!</p> <p>ВРАТИТЕ ОРУЖЈЕ! УРАДИТЕ КОРИСНУ СТВАР ЗА СЕБЕ И СРБИЈУ</p>
<p>Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro</p>	<p>ОСТАВИ ДОК НЕ БУДЕ КАЧУК</p> <p>ЗА ЖИВОТ БЕЗ ОРУЖЈА</p> <p>ЦРВЕНИ КРИСТ СРБИЈЕ</p>	<p>ИГРАЧКА ПЛАЧКА</p> <p>ЗА ЖИВОТ БЕЗ ОРУЖЈА</p> <p>ЦРВЕНИ КРИСТ СРБИЈЕ</p>