



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

**REPORT**  
**ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF**  
**ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE**  
**IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS, IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**  
**FOR 2007**

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a) Investigation into criminal activities related to international organized crime rings in this business, in particular

In the course of 2007, police uncovered an organized crime group of nine dealing in illegal arms, explosives and materiel of the Army of Serbia as well as trafficking in narcotic drugs. This criminal group is using well established criminal conduits for these purposes going through the Republic of Serbia and its province of Kosovo and Metohija (Belgrade - Smederevska Palanka - Vranje - Kosovo and Metohija). Members of this criminal group all had assigned roles in stealing arms, explosives and some of the military assets from the installations around Smederevska Palanka and in transporting them to sites intended for storing such weapons before selling them to end users, who were Albanians. Criminal complaints were filed against nine suspects. Eight of them were arrested and brought before the competent investigating judge. In making these arrests, police officers found and confiscated from suspects belonging to this criminal group the following items:

- one hunting rifle with optical sight;
- four pistols;
- four explosive detonators;
- 184 rounds of various calibre ammunition for both pistols and rifles;
- 250 grammes of explosives;
- 4 passive night vision sights and 216 grammes of various narcotics (54 grammes of heroin, 12 grammes of speed, 160 grammes of marijuana);
- 83 silencers for various calibre weapons;
- 2 optical vision sights;
- one digital electronic scales for measuring narcotic drugs.

In 2007, officers of the Anti-Organized Crime Service (SBPOK) carried out searches of properties around Centa, near Zrenjanin, in which they uncovered and temporarily confiscated from a suspect, larger quantities of weapons that had been brought from the battlefield for the purpose of selling them afterwards. The police seized on that occasion:

- 7 automatic rifles, 7.62mm calibre;
- 2 M48, 7.9mm military rifles;
- 2 hunting, 7.9mm carabines;
- 19 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition for rifles.

**b) Conditions under which stocks of weapons in possession of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) are warehoused and saved**

The MIA has a central arms depot located at 7 Milorada Jovanovic St., a depot at Bosnjaci where confiscated weapons (those confiscated on the basis of judicial proceedings) are held and an arms dump at Ostruznica, where mines and explosive ordnance are stocked. The available storage sites are insufficient for MIA use, taking into account that the arms and equipment of all its organizational units come from these depots. That is why steps have been taken to increase their storage capacity, in cooperation with the Army of Serbia.

The dump site at 7 Milorad Jovanovic St., according to the applicable laws, does not meet the necessary requirements for sites storing larger calibre weapons because of the close proximity of residential quarters and the road network. Accordingly, this dump stores SALW and their ammunition of calibres less than 12.7mm, in the amounts that do not interfere with safe conditions.

The Bosnjaci dump site fulfils the technical and safe conditions for storing arms and munitions. It was built as a customized facility according to the standards set by the military. As in the case of the above depot, storage capacity is insufficient and it serves only for holding large amounts of confiscated arms, as they are collected through criminal, civil or administrative proceedings from all of Serbia and as their disposal or destruction takes long to complete.

The Ostruznica dump site is of small capacity and serves to store munitions and mines and explosives, so it requires an additional storage space.

**c) Discovered weapons**

In the nine months of 2007, Border Police posts uncovered a total of 33 pistols (16 gas pistols and 5 air pistols), 52 hunting rifles, 3 shotguns, one semi-automatic rifle, one shoulder-held missile launcher, 28 optical sights, 12 air rifle barrels. In total, Border Police seized 1,117 various calibre rounds (357 gas and 375 rubber bullets) as well as 34,250 airgun pallets.

During the month of August, the international train service running from Bulgaria to Serbia was disrupted to search for smugglers of air guns.

In October 2007, police organized a campaign against the smuggling of pyrotechnic devices, in which 860,760 such devices worth RSD one million were seized.

**d) Destruction of seized weapons**

As regards destruction of seized weapons, there have been no activities in this respect in 2007. In January, area police stations handed over 29,259 pieces of

weaponry that had been found or confiscated from individuals. These weapons are held at the central MIA depot and, once being administratively handled, will be designated for destruction. In February, amnesty was granted for some 8,000 illegal weapons which were registered and collected in.

**e) Legal regulations**

With regard to legal regulations, and as a consequence of an increase in the number of incidents involving armed violence, a new gun law has been drafted in the latter part of 2007. The new draft law has toughened provisions on the acquisition and carrying of arms and, at the same time, made it compatible with the UN Firearms Protocol and with EU regulations (Council Directive 91/477/EEC) governing this matter.