



Home Office

**Border &  
Immigration Agency**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION KEY DOCUMENTS

# SERBIA

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27 APRIL 2007

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## 1. Preface

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- i This Country of Origin Information (COI) Key Documents has been produced by Research, Development and Statistics (RDS), Home Office, for use by officials involved in the asylum/human rights determination process. It provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum/human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. The COI Key Documents includes information available up to 27 April 2007.
- ii The COI Key Documents is an indexed list of key reports, papers and articles produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources. It does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy.
- iii For Home Office users, the COI Key Documents provides direct electronic access to each source referred to in the document, via a link on the source numbers in the index and list of sources. For the benefit of external users, the relevant web link has also been included, together with the date that the link was accessed.
- iv As noted above, the documents identified concentrate mainly on human rights issues. By way of introduction, brief background information on Serbia is also provided. Please note, this background material is not intended to provide a summary of the material contained in the key documents listed.
- v This COI Key Documents and the documents listed are publicly disclosable.
- vi Any comments regarding this COI Key Documents or suggestions for additional documents are very welcome and should be submitted to the Home Office as below.

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## 2. Background information on Serbia

**Full Country Name:** The Republic of Serbia

**Area:** Total area 88,361 sq. km

**Population:** (without Kosovo)\*: 7,498,001 million (Serbian Government census, 2002)

\*There has been no official census in Kosovo since UNMIK took administrative responsibility in 1999.

**Capital City:** Belgrade

**People (Serbia):** Serbs (63%), Albanian (16%), Montenegrin (5%), Hungarian (3%), Others (13%)

**People (Kosovo):** Albanian (88%), Serbs (6%), Muslim Slavs (3%), Roma (2%), Turks (1%)

**Languages:** Serbian (official nationwide); Romanian, Hungarian, Slovak, Ukrainian, and Croatian (all official in Vojvodina); Albanian (official in Kosovo); Bosniak, Montenegrin, Bulgarian and Ruthenian.

**Religion(s):** Christianity: Serbian Orthodox dominant, Roman Catholicism, Islam.

**Currency:** Serbian Dinar (RSD)

**Major Political Parties:** Serbian Radical Party (SRS), Democratic Party (DS), Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS), G17 Plus, Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS), Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), New Serbia (NS), League of Vojvodina Social Democrats (LSDV), Sandzak Democratic Party (SDP), Coalition for Sandzak, Vojvodina Hungarians Alliance (SVM), Coalition of Albanians of the Presevo Valley (KAPD), Roma Party (RP), Union of Roma of Serbia (URS)

**Government:** Following parliamentary elections held on 21 January 2007, all Ministers are caretakers until a new government is formed.

**Head of State:** Prime Minister: Vojislav Kostunica (DSS)

**Deputy Head of State:** Ivana Dulic-Markovic (G17 Plus - resigned 1 October 2006)

**Foreign Minister:** Vuk Draskovic (SPO)

**Membership of International Groupings/Organisations:** United Nations (UN), Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Council of Europe (CoE), European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Stability Pact, South-Eastern Co-operation Initiative (SECI), Central European Initiative (CEI), South Eastern Europe Co-operation Process (SEECP), Danube Commission, Initiative for Danube Co-operation, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Partnership for Peace (PfP). (FCO Country Profile: Serbia, 9 March 2007) [3a]

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### GEOGRAPHY

The Republic of Serbia has external borders with Hungary to the north, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Croatia to the west and north-west; Romania to the north-east; Bulgaria to the south-east; and Albania and Macedonia to the south.

The landscape ranges from flat plains in the north to hilly and mountainous regions in southern Serbia.

Since June 1999, Kosovo, a province of Serbia, has been under the administrative control of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Please follow link for Kosovo's profile (FCO Country Profile: Serbia, 9 March 2007) [3a] <http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029394365&a=KCountryProfile&aid=1019233722672>.

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## RECENT HISTORY

Tito's death in 1980 signalled the beginning of the end of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY). The state's economic decline continued and, increasingly, the power sharing issue rose up the agenda. In 1989 Slobodan Milosevic, riding a wave of nationalist sentiment, came to power in Serbia, and quickly installed his supporters in positions of power and severely restricted the autonomy of Kosovo and Vojvodina. In January 1990, the Yugoslav League of Communists failed to reach agreement on urgent questions of reform and the Slovenian delegation walked out.

The next eighteen months witnessed a round of largely insincere negotiations over how to resolve Yugoslavia's collective problems. In June 1991 Slovenia and Croatia declared their independence. Macedonia withdrew from Yugoslavia after its independence referendum in September 1991, followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992. Serbia, under Milosevic, opposed the independence moves and actively participated in wars and armed conflicts in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-95) under the pretext of 'protecting' Croatian and Bosnian Serbs.

Following the secession of the other Yugoslav republics, Serbia and Montenegro adopted the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) on 27 April 1992, and declared themselves a new state.

When Kosovo and Vojvodina were stripped of their previous degree of autonomy, Kosovo Albanians began boycotting the Serbian institutions and elections. However, after several years of passive resistance, violent opposition to Serbian hegemony grew in Kosovo. Milosevic turned to the policy of ethnic cleansing, this time against the Kosovo Albanian population. NATO intervened between March and June 1999 with a 78-day bombing campaign across Serbia and Montenegro to push repressive Serb troops out of Kosovo and force Milosevic to relinquish control of the province.

Since June 1999, UNMIK has exercised administrative control of Kosovo, whilst the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) has maintained security within the province.

Milosevic's regime came to an end on 24 September 2000, following FRY Presidential elections. He refused to accept the first round victory of Vojislav Kostunica, the Democratic Opposition of Serbia Coalition (DOS) candidate. However, Milosevic had underestimated popular support for the opposition and overestimated the loyalty of the army and security services. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets, storming government buildings, and forcing Milosevic from power. The uprising of 5 October 2000 was consolidated in December 2000, when Democratic Opposition of Serbia Coalition (DOS) swept to power in Serbia, following the Assembly elections. (FCO Country Profile: Serbia, 9 March 2007) [3a]

### **The state union of Serbia and Montenegro**

On 14 March 2002, following months of negotiations between the two republics and mediation by EU High Representative Javier Solana, the federal and republican level governments signed the 'Belgrade Agreement', forming a new, looser union between Serbia and Montenegro. With the formal adoption of a new Constitutional Charter on 4 February 2003, the FRY became the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro (SaM). Foreign policy, defence policy, foreign economic relations and human/minority rights were dealt with at state union level. Svetozar Marovic, a Montenegrin, was appointed President of SaM. There was also a single-chamber Parliament made up of 126 members (91 Serbian, 35 Montenegrin).

The State Union was intended to promote stability within the region and help both republics make further progress towards European integration, but opinion in Montenegro was divided and the union did not function effectively. Under the terms of the Constitutional Charter either republic could hold a referendum on independence after three years. Montenegro chose to exercise this right and, with the EU acting as facilitator, held a successful referendum on 21 May 2006: 55.5% of those who voted did so in favour of independence. The Montenegrin Assembly made a formal declaration of independence on 3 June 2006, thus bringing the union between Serbia and Montenegro to an end.

On 5 June 2006 the Serbian National Assembly decreed Serbia to be the continuing international personality of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, and fully succeeded its legal status. Serbia therefore inherited membership of international organisations of which Serbia and Montenegro was a member. The Republic of Serbia remains party to all international agreements, treaties and conventions to which Serbia and Montenegro was a party. (FCO Country Profile: Serbia, 9 March 2007) [3a]

### **The recent past: 2000-2007**

A landslide victory by the newly elected President Kostunica's Democratic Opposition of Serbia Coalition (DOS) coalition in the Serbian Assembly elections in December 2000 saw Democratic Party (DS) leader Zoran Djindjic appointed as Serbian Prime Minister.

From 2001 until 2003, the Democratic Opposition of Serbia Coalition (DOS) coalition government made good progress in building a democratic and stable future for Serbia. They implemented reforms in Serbia's administrative and legal institutions; devolved more power to the regions; brought stability to Southern Serbia (the Presevo Valley); and helped foster better relations with neighbours and with the international community. Also the government's team of mainly young technocrat economists succeeded in reforming the banking system and tackling the inflation and currency instability that were a feature of life under Milosevic.

In March 2003 Prime Minister Djindjic was assassinated, and 6 months later the DOS lost its parliamentary majority. Early Parliamentary Elections took place on 28 December 2003. Overall turnout was 58.8%, with the Serbian Radical Party winning most votes and gaining 82 of the 250 seats in government.

On 3 March 2004, the Serbian Assembly voted in the new minority government comprising the DSS, G17 Plus and SPO-NS, with support in the Assembly from the SPS. Former Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica was appointed Serbian Prime Minister.

### **The President**

In June 2004, former SaM Defence Minister, DS-leader Boris Tadic was elected President of Serbia. Since December 2002, when the International Crime Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia indictee Milan Milutinovic's term finished, Serbia had been without an elected President. Two sets of elections in 2002 and a third in 2003 were declared invalid because voter turnout failed to reach 50%. However in February 2004, the Serbian Parliament removed the 50% minimum turnout requirement and on 27 June 2004 Tadic was elected President with 53.7% of votes in a second round run-off.

His SRS opponent, Tomislav Nikolic, won 45.0%. The turnout was 48.7%. Under the new constitution, the next Presidential election must take place in 2007.

### **The Constitution**

On 09 November 2006 the Serbian Parliament unanimously endorsed a new Constitution for Serbia. This text was then put to a referendum on 28/29 October 2006. The electorate approved the new constitution with 53.04% voting in favour.

The new Constitution contains some positive provisions including on human rights and the protection of minorities. It is also positive that Serbia has decided to replace Milosevic's text. But concerns have been expressed, including by the European Commission in its Annual Progress Report on Serbia, about the transparency of the process by which the new text was agreed. Despite the references in the text to Kosovo, it is important to note that this Constitution will not have any bearing on the Kosovo future status outcome. The process led by UN Special Envoy Marti Ahtisaari as envisaged in UNSCR 1244 remains the vehicle for determining Kosovo's future status.

Following the endorsement of the Constitution by the Serbian Parliament on 09 November, President Tadic called parliamentary elections on the 21 January 2007. Elections for President, Vojvodina Assembly and local authorities are required to take place by the end of 2007.

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### **Organised Crime**

Like many countries in the Balkans region, Serbia has a problem with organised crime. In the 1990s, criminals in war-torn parts of the Former Yugoslavia exploited the vacuum created by the conflicts of the 1990s and the isolation due to international sanctions, to establish lucrative networks, which reached into government and retarded social and economic development. Organised crime and corruption continue to pose a threat to the rule of law and sound and accountable institutions.

On 12 March 2003, Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic was assassinated outside a government building in Belgrade. In the immediate aftermath of the assassination the Serbian Government imposed a 42-day State of Emergency, during which time a nation-wide crackdown on organised crime ('Operation Sword') enabled the Government to make great progress in eradicating the influence of organised crime in Serbia. It resulted in the arrest of 4000 people from different organised crime gangs in connection with the assassination (for which the Government had blamed, in particular, a group known as the 'Zemun clan'); 14 other murders; 3 kidnapping cases, and 200 drug related crimes. During the State of Emergency, the remains of former Serbian President Ivan Stambolic were found. He had been missing since August 2000. Charges have been brought against, among others, Slobodan Milosevic, Milosevic's wife Mirjana Markovic, and Zemun clan leader Milorad Lukovic 'Legija', in connection with his murder.

The trials of 36 persons indicted for the assassination of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, began on 22 December 2003. Fourteen of the defendants remain at large and are being tried in absentia. The prime suspect, Milorad Lukovic 'Legija', surrendered to police in May 2004. His trial continues at the Special Court in Belgrade.

Since PM Djindjic's assassination, positive steps have also been made towards implementing reforms within judicial, political and military institutions. On 25 March 2003, the government ordered the disbanding of the JSO (Special Operations Unit) of the Serbian Interior Ministry, the so-called 'Red Berets', for its links to organised crime and Slobodan Milosevic's regime. Since October 2000 a number of judges from the Milosevic era were also removed. However, there is still much to be done by the current Serbian Government in establishing an independent judiciary and prosecution service, including a functioning witness protection system, and in reforming the state security structures in order to tackle organised crime more effectively. (FCO Country Profile: Serbia, 9 March 2007) [3a]

## RECENT EVENTS AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

### Serbian Internal Politics

#### Parliamentary Elections, held on 21 January 2007

Serbia held parliamentary elections on 21 January 2007, the third poll since the fall of Milosevic. Election monitors from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) declared the elections to be free and fair and consistent with international standards. 6,652,105 voters registered, and over 60% turned out to vote in Serbia. Entitled citizens also voted abroad, with polls conducted in neighbouring Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and further afield, including in the UK.

The results showed an increase in parliamentary representation for pro-EU, pro-reform parties and a corresponding decline in the number of deputies from the more radical and nationalist parties. Under Serbian law, political parties must secure 5% of the vote to enter parliament. Votes from those that do not pass the 5% threshold are reallocated to those parties that will be represented. This was the case with the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), party of the outgoing Foreign Minister, Vuk Draskovic.

Following a change in the electoral law on 25 February 2004, parties representing ethnic minorities do not need to reach the 5% threshold, meaning that the Albanian, Hungarian, Roma and Bosniak communities will be represented in parliament for the first time. Over 20 electoral lists were submitted, comprising some 50 different parties. The most significant results are shown below (figures from the Government of Serbia's Electoral Commission, RIK):

Party/Coalition	Party Leader	Parliament Seats	% of Votes Cast
Serbian Radical Party (SRS)	Vojislav Seselj (detained by the ICTY in The Hague)	81 seats(-1 seat)	28.6
Democratic Party (DS)	Boris Tadic	64 (+27)	22.7
Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS)/New Serbia	Vojislav Kostunica	47 (-6)	16.6
G17 Plus	Mladjan Dinkic	19 (-15)	6.8
Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS)	Slobodan Milosevic	16 (-6)	5.6
LDP Alliance	Cedomir Jovanovic	15 (new entry)	5.3
Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO)	Vuk Draskovic	0 (Didn't reach the 5% threshold)	

### Ethnic Minority Parties

Vojvodina Hungarians Alliance	Jozsef Kasza	3
List Coalition for Sandzak	Sulejman Ugljanin	2
Roma Union of Serbia	Rajko Djuric	1
Roma Party	Srdjan Sajn	1
Coalition of Presevo Valley Albanians	Riza Halimi	1

Negotiations between the DS, DSS, G17 Plus and smaller parties are underway to try and form a coalition government. Under Serbia's electoral law, they must do so before 15 May 2007, or new elections will be triggered.

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### ECONOMY

**GDP:** \$28.7bn (2005)

**Annual Growth:** 5.8% (2006), 6.3% (2005)

**Inflation:** 6.6% (2006), 17.3% (2005)

**Major Industries:** Agribusiness, machine building, metallurgy, mining, consumer goods, electronics, pharmaceuticals, petroleum products and chemicals.

**Major trading partners:** Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Russia, Austria, Slovenia, Hungary, France, Macedonia, Croatia, Montenegro.

**Exchange rate:** £1 = 118.0 Serbian Dinar (FCO Country Profile: Serbia, 9 March 2007) [3a]

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### HUMAN RIGHTS

The USSD 2006 Country Report on Serbia (including Kosovo) stated "The government generally respected the human rights of its citizens and continued efforts to address human rights violations; however, numerous problems persisted. The following human rights problems were reported:

- widespread corruption in the police and the judiciary;
- impunity;
- inefficient and lengthy trials;
- government failure to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in apprehending war crimes suspects;
- government failure to initiate new domestic investigations and prosecutions of war crimes from the 1990s;
- harassment of journalists, human rights workers and others critical of the government;
- arbitrary arrest and selective enforcement of the law for political purposes;

- limitations on freedom of speech and religion, including a problematic new law on religion;
- societal intolerance and discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities;
- the presence of large numbers of internally displaced persons;
- violence against women and children; and trafficking in persons” [2a]

Amnesty International’s (AI) 2006 Report, covering events from January – December 2005, expressed the following concerns:

- War crimes: international prosecutions
- War crimes: domestic prosecutions
- Disappearances
- Possible extrajudicial executions
- Army of SCG
- Past political murders
- Police torture and ill-treatment
- Minorities
- Attacks on human rights defenders
- Violence against women [10a]

Human Rights Watch World Report 2006 echoed some of AI’s concerns, and also noted that in 2005 there was inadequate official response to intimidation and violence against ethnic minorities. [4a]

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### 3. Index to key source documents

(KB users - click source number to access document directly)

<b>KEY FACTS AND GEOGRAPHY</b>	[1]	Europa World Online, Location, Climate, Language, Religion, Flag, Capital (accessed on 22 March 2007) <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.is.2">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.is.2</a>
	[1]	Europa World Online, Country Statistics (accessed 22 March 2007) <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.ss.1">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.ss.1</a>
	[2a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a>
	[2c]	United States Department of State, Background Note: Serbia, last updated October 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5388.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5388.htm</a>
	[3a]	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Serbia, last updated on 9 March 2007 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrypProfile&amp;aid=1159192560811">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrypProfile&amp;aid=1159192560811</a>
	[6a]	BBC, Country Profile: Serbia, last updated on 2 February 2007 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/5050584.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/5050584.stm</a>
	[9a]	Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), The World Factbook Serbia, last updated on 8 March 2007 <a href="https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/rb.html">https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/rb.html</a>
	[14a]	Serbia Country Profile, UNDP (accessed on 26 February 2007) <a href="http://www.undp.org.yu/">http://www.undp.org.yu/</a>
	[25]	Department for International Development (DfID) <a href="http://www.dfid.gov.uk">http://www.dfid.gov.uk</a> Country Profile, Kosovo, updated 17 August 2005 <a href="http://www.dfid.gov.uk/countries/europe/serbiamontenegro.asp">http://www.dfid.gov.uk/countries/europe/serbiamontenegro.asp</a>
<b>MAP</b>	[16a]	United Nations Cartographic Section, Map on Serbia. <a href="http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/english/htmain.htm">http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/english/htmain.htm</a>
<b>HISTORY</b>	[1]	Europa World Online, Recent History (accessed on 22 March 2007) <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.is.4">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.is.4</a>
	[2a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a>
	[2c]	United States Department of State, Background Note: Serbia, last updated October 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5388.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5388.htm</a>

<b>HISTORY CONT...</b>	<p>[3a]</p> <p>[6a]</p> <p>[6b]</p> <p>[22a]</p>	<p>Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Serbia (last updated on 9 March 2007) <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrProfile&amp;aid=1159192560811">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrProfile&amp;aid=1159192560811</a></p> <p>BBC Country Profile: Serbia, last updated on 2 February 2007 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/5050584.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/5050584.stm</a></p> <p>BBC Timeline: Serbia, last updated on 2 February 2007 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/5055726.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/5055726.stm</a></p> <p>Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2006: Serbia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114</a></p>
<b>POLITICS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS</b>	<p>[1]</p> <p>[2a]</p> <p>[2c]</p> <p>[3a]</p> <p>[4a]</p> <p>[6a]</p> <p>[6b]</p> <p>[7]</p> <p>[10a]</p> <p>[13]</p>	<p>Europa World Online, Government and Politics (accessed 22 March 2007) <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.dir.1.GOV-AND-POL">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.dir.1.GOV-AND-POL</a></p> <p>United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a></p> <p>United States Department of State, Background Note: Serbia, last updated October 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5388.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5388.htm</a></p> <p>Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Serbia, last updated on 9 March 2007 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrProfile&amp;aid=1159192560811">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrProfile&amp;aid=1159192560811</a></p> <p>Human Rights Watch (HRW), World Report 2006: Serbia <a href="http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/serbia12242.htm">http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/serbia12242.htm</a></p> <p>BBC Country Profile: Serbia, last updated on 2 February 2007 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/5050584.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/5050584.stm</a></p> <p>BBC Timeline: Serbia, last updated on 2 February 2007 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/5055726.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/5055726.stm</a></p> <p>Jane's Sentinel Security Assessments: Country Report – Serbia, last updated 27 April 2006 <a href="http://sentinel.janes.com">http://sentinel.janes.com</a> <a href="http://sentinel.janes.com/docs/sentinel/BALK_country.jsp?Prod_Name=BALK&amp;Sent_Country=Serbia&amp;">http://sentinel.janes.com/docs/sentinel/BALK_country.jsp?Prod_Name=BALK&amp;Sent_Country=Serbia&amp;</a></p> <p>Amnesty International (AI) report 2006: Serbia, covering events from January to December 2005 <a href="http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/yug-summary-eng">http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/yug-summary-eng</a></p> <p>International Crisis Group (ICG) <a href="http://www.crisisgroup.org">http://www.crisisgroup.org</a> Serbia: <a href="http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=1247&amp;l=1">http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=1247&amp;l=1</a> Date accessed 20 March 2007</p>

<b>POLITICS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONT.....</b>	<b>[22a]</b>	Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2006: Serbia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114</a>
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS - GENERAL:</b>	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a>
	<b>[3a]</b>	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Serbia, last updated on 9 March 2007 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/ServletFront?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1159192560811">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/ServletFront?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1159192560811</a>
	<b>[3b]</b>	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Human Rights Annual Report 2006 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/hr_report2006.pdf">http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/hr_report2006.pdf</a>
	<b>[4a]</b>	Human Rights Watch (HRW), World Report 2006: Serbia <a href="http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/serbia12242.htm">http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/serbia12242.htm</a>
	<b>[7]</b>	Jane's Sentinel Security Assessments: Country Report – Serbia, last updated 27 April 2006 <a href="http://sentinel.janes.com/docs/sentinel/BALK_country.jsp?Prod_Name=BALK&amp;Sent_Country=Serbia&amp;">http://sentinel.janes.com/docs/sentinel/BALK_country.jsp?Prod_Name=BALK&amp;Sent_Country=Serbia&amp;</a>
	<b>[10a]</b>	Amnesty International (AI) report 2006: Serbia, covering events from January to December 2005 <a href="http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/yug-summary-eng">http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/yug-summary-eng</a>
	<b>[22a]</b>	Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2006: Serbia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114</a>

<b>HUMAN RIGHTS – SPECIFIC ISSUES:</b> (IN ADDITION TO GENERAL REPORTS ABOVE, INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES IS PROVIDED IN THE DOCUMENTS LISTED BELOW)		
<b>CHILDREN</b>	[1]	Europa World Online, Education (accessed on 23 March 2007) <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.is.107">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.is.107</a>
	[2a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a>
	[2d]	United States Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, 5 June 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65990.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65990.htm</a>
	[4a]	Human Rights Watch, World Report 2006: Serbia <a href="http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/serbia12242.htm">http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/serbia12242.htm</a>
	[10a]	Amnesty International (AI) report 2006: Serbia, covering events from January to December 2005 <a href="http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/yug-summary-eng">http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/yug-summary-eng</a>
	[22a]	Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2006: Serbia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114</a>
	[24a]	The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), At a glance: Serbia (accessed on 28 February 2007) <a href="http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/serbia.html">http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/serbia.html</a>
<b>DEATH PENALTY</b>	[10b]	Amnesty International, Abolitionist and Retentionist countries. (Accessed 28 March 2007) <a href="http://web.amnesty.org/pages/deathpenalty-countries-eng">http://web.amnesty.org/pages/deathpenalty-countries-eng</a>
	[29]	Hands off Cain , Serbia abolished the death penalty for all crimes on February 26, 2002 (Accessed 6 March 2007) <a href="http://www.handsoffcain.info/news/index.php?iddocumento=9001014">http://www.handsoffcain.info/news/index.php?iddocumento=9001014</a>
<b>ETHNIC GROUPS</b>	[2a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a>
	[2c]	United States Department of State, Background Note: Serbia, last updated October 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5388.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5388.htm</a>
	[3a]	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Serbia (last updated on 9 March 2007) <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrypProfile&amp;aid=1159192560811">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrypProfile&amp;aid=1159192560811</a>
	[4b]	Human Rights Watch: Kosovo/Serbia: Protect Minorities from Ethnic Violence dated 19 March 2004 <a href="http://hrw.org/english/docs/2004/03/18/serbia8129.htm">http://hrw.org/english/docs/2004/03/18/serbia8129.htm</a>

<b>ETHNIC GROUPS CONT .....</b>	<b>[9a]</b>	Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), The World Factbook : Serbia (last updated on 8 March 2007 ) <a href="https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/rb.html">https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/rb.html</a>
	<b>[21]</b>	Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO): kosovo, (accessed 23 February 2007) <a href="http://www.unpo.org/member_profile.php?id=32">http://www.unpo.org/member_profile.php?id=32</a>
	<b>[22a]</b>	Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2006: Serbia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114</a>
<b>FREEDOM OF RELIGION</b>	<b>[1]</b>	Europa World Online, Religion (accessed on 22 March 2007) <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.dir.312">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.dir.312</a>
	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a>
	<b>[2b]</b>	United States Department of State, International Religious Freedom Report 2006: Serbia <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2006/71405.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2006/71405.htm</a>
	<b>[4a]</b>	Human Rights Watch World Report 2006: Serbia <a href="http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/serbia12242.htm">http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/serbia12242.htm</a>
	<b>[22a]</b>	Freedom House Freedom in the World 2006: Serbia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114</a>
	<b>[27]</b>	Relief Web <a href="http://www.reliefweb.int">http://www.reliefweb.int</a> Serbia – Council of Europe Secretary General condemns the attack against a Serbian Orthodox Church in Kosovo - Statement by Terry Davis, Source: Council of Europe (COE) dated 07 Mar 2007 <a href="http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/EVOD-6Z3H5A?OpenDocument&amp;rc=4">http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/EVOD-6Z3H5A?OpenDocument&amp;rc=4</a>
<b>FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND MEDIA</b>	<b>[1]</b>	Europa World Online, Directory: Society and Media (accessed on 22 March 2007) <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.dir.1.SOC-AND-MEDIA">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.dir.1.SOC-AND-MEDIA</a>
	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a>
	<b>[4a]</b>	Human Rights Watch World Report 2006: Serbia <a href="http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/serbia12242.htm">http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/serbia12242.htm</a>
	<b>[8]</b>	Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) <a href="http://www.cpj.org">http://www.cpj.org</a> Europe 2006: Serbia: Editor attacked outside home, dated 27 December 2006 <a href="http://www.cpj.org/regions_07/europe_07/europe_07.html#serbia">http://www.cpj.org/regions_07/europe_07/europe_07.html#serbia</a>
	<b>[12]</b>	Reporters sans Frontieres (Reporters without Borders): Annual Report 2006: Serbia <a href="http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=17478">http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=17478</a>
	<b>[22a]</b>	Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2006: Serbia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114</a>

<b>FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND MEDIA CONT .....</b>	<b>[22b]</b>	Freedom House, Freedom of the Press 2006: Serbia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=251&amp;year=2006">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=251&amp;year=2006</a>
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS, ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVISTS</b>	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a>
	<b>[22a]</b>	Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2006: Serbia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114</a>
<b>INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)</b>	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a>
	<b>[4a]</b>	Human Rights Watch World Report 2006: Serbia <a href="http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/serbia12242.htm">http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/serbia12242.htm</a>
	<b>[5a]</b>	UNHCR Global Report 2002 – Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) dated 1 June 2003 <a href="http://www.unhcr.org/publ/PUBL/3edf4ffc0.pdf">http://www.unhcr.org/publ/PUBL/3edf4ffc0.pdf</a>
	<b>[10a]</b>	Amnesty International (AI) report 2006: Serbia, covering events from January to December 2005 <a href="http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/yug-summary-eng">http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/yug-summary-eng</a>
	<b>[17a]</b>	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), <a href="http://www.internal-displacement.org/">http://www.internal-displacement.org/</a> IDPs from Kosovo: stuck between uncertain return prospects and denial of local integration, 22 September 2005 <a href="http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/(httpCountries)/A6A36317DA8D29A1802570A7004CAB90?OpenDocument">http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/(httpCountries)/A6A36317DA8D29A1802570A7004CAB90?OpenDocument</a>
<b>JUDICIARY</b>	<b>[1]</b>	Europa World Online, Judicial System (accessed on 22 March 2007) <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.dir.1153324937">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.dir.1153324937</a>
	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a>
	<b>[2c]</b>	United States Department of State, Background Note: Serbia, last updated October 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5388.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5388.htm</a>
	<b>[4a]</b>	Human Rights Watch World Report 2006: Serbia <a href="http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/serbia12242.htm">http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/serbia12242.htm</a>
	<b>[10a]</b>	Amnesty International (AI) report 2006: Serbia, covering events from January to December 2005 <a href="http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/yug-summary-eng">http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/yug-summary-eng</a>
	<b>[22a]</b>	Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2006: Serbia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114</a>
<b>LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PERSONS</b>	<b>[20]</b>	Gaytimes: Lesbian and Gay Serbia, (accessed 5 March 2007) <a href="http://www.gaytimes.co.uk/qt/listings.asp?CID=1060&amp;action=ShowCountry">http://www.gaytimes.co.uk/qt/listings.asp?CID=1060&amp;action=ShowCountry</a>

<b>LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PERSONS CONT .....</b>	<b>[23a]</b>	The International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) <a href="http://www.ilga.org/">http://www.ilga.org/</a> World Legal Survey: Serbia, Last updated 31 July 2000 <a href="http://www.ilga.info/Information/Legal_survey/europe/yugoslavia_ex.htm">http://www.ilga.info/Information/Legal_survey/europe/yugoslavia_ex.htm</a>
<b>MEDICAL ISSUES</b>	<b>[11a]</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Country Profile: Serbia <a href="http://www.unaids.org/en/Regions_Countries/Countries/serbia_and_montenegro.asp">http://www.unaids.org/en/Regions_Countries/Countries/serbia_and_montenegro.asp</a>
	<b>[15a]</b>	World Health Organisation (WHO), Country Profile: Serbia <a href="http://www.undp.org.yu/">http://www.undp.org.yu/</a>
	<b>[26]</b>	Ministry of Health: Serbia <a href="http://www.zdravlje.sr.gov.yu/default.asp?lang=2&amp;poe=35&amp;trazi=989">http://www.zdravlje.sr.gov.yu/default.asp?lang=2&amp;poe=35&amp;trazi=989</a>
<b>MILITARY SERVICE</b>	<b>[1]</b>	Europa World Online, Defence (accessed on 22 March 2007) <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.is.93">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.is.93</a>
	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a>
	<b>[19a]</b>	War Resisters' International <a href="http://www.wri-irg.org/from-off.htm">http://www.wri-irg.org/from-off.htm</a> Serbia: Conscription, as published in <i>The Right to Conscientious Objection in Europe</i> , Quaker Council for European Affairs, 2005 <a href="http://www.wri-irg.org/co/rtba/serbia.htm">http://www.wri-irg.org/co/rtba/serbia.htm</a>
<b>POLITICAL AFFILIATION</b>	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a>
	<b>[10a]</b>	Amnesty International (AI) report 2006: Serbia, covering events from January to December 2005 <a href="http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/yug-summary-eng">http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/yug-summary-eng</a>
	<b>[22a]</b>	Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2006: Serbia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114</a>
<b>PRISON CONDITIONS</b>	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a>
	<b>[22a]</b>	Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2006: Serbia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7114</a>
<b>SECURITY FORCES</b>	<b>[1]</b>	Europa World Online, Defence (accessed on 22 March 2007) <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.is.93">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/yu.is.93</a>
	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Serbia, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78837.htm</a>

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