

“The Influence of Gun Violence on Youth Security in Serbia“

The Guards of the School

By:
Dimitrije Kljajić
Srđan Baša



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Serbia: Two mass shootings in two days

Nemanja Rujevic
05/05/2023

More people have been killed in a second gun attack in Serbia, immediately after a bloodbath at a school in Belgrade. The country is in shock, and its people are casting about for reasons.

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'Normalisation of violence': What led to Serbia mass shootings?

Violence is ubiquitous in Serbian society and major reforms are needed to prevent mass shootings, psychologists say.

Defining the problem and establishing priorities

- ▶ High civilian armament rates resulting in easy access to weapons among the youth.
- ▶ How many legal and illegal weapons are there in Serbia?

"Based on the only database on the number of registered weapons held by the MUP, as the authority that issues permits for the possession and carrying of weapons, in Serbia there are under 800,000 weapons in legal possession in the hands of about 570,000 owners. This includes both physical and legal entities. "Some persons such as hunters and shooting associations, security companies, can own several weapons. Serbia has about 12 weapons per hundred inhabitants, and for example, the United States of America has 120 weapons per hundred inhabitants," says Ljubišić.

By: Radio Slobodna Evropa

Data and statistics

Where do you feel safe the most?	
At home	84,5%
In your hometown	77,9%
You feel completely safe	75,3%

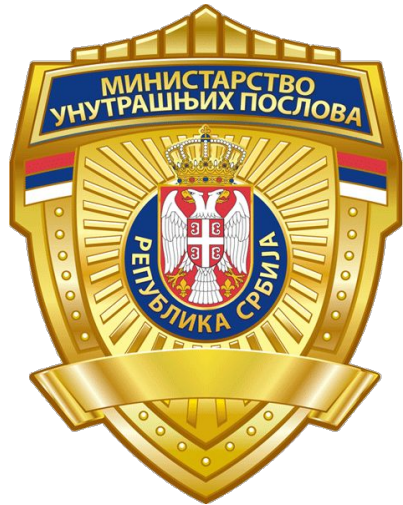
Why do you feel safe?	
Institutions are doing their job well	6,1%
You live normal and respect the order and law	47,1%
You live in good neighbourhood	21,2%

Who keeps you safe the most?	
Yourself	50,3%
Friends	8,4%
Neighbours	7,6%
Police	19,9%

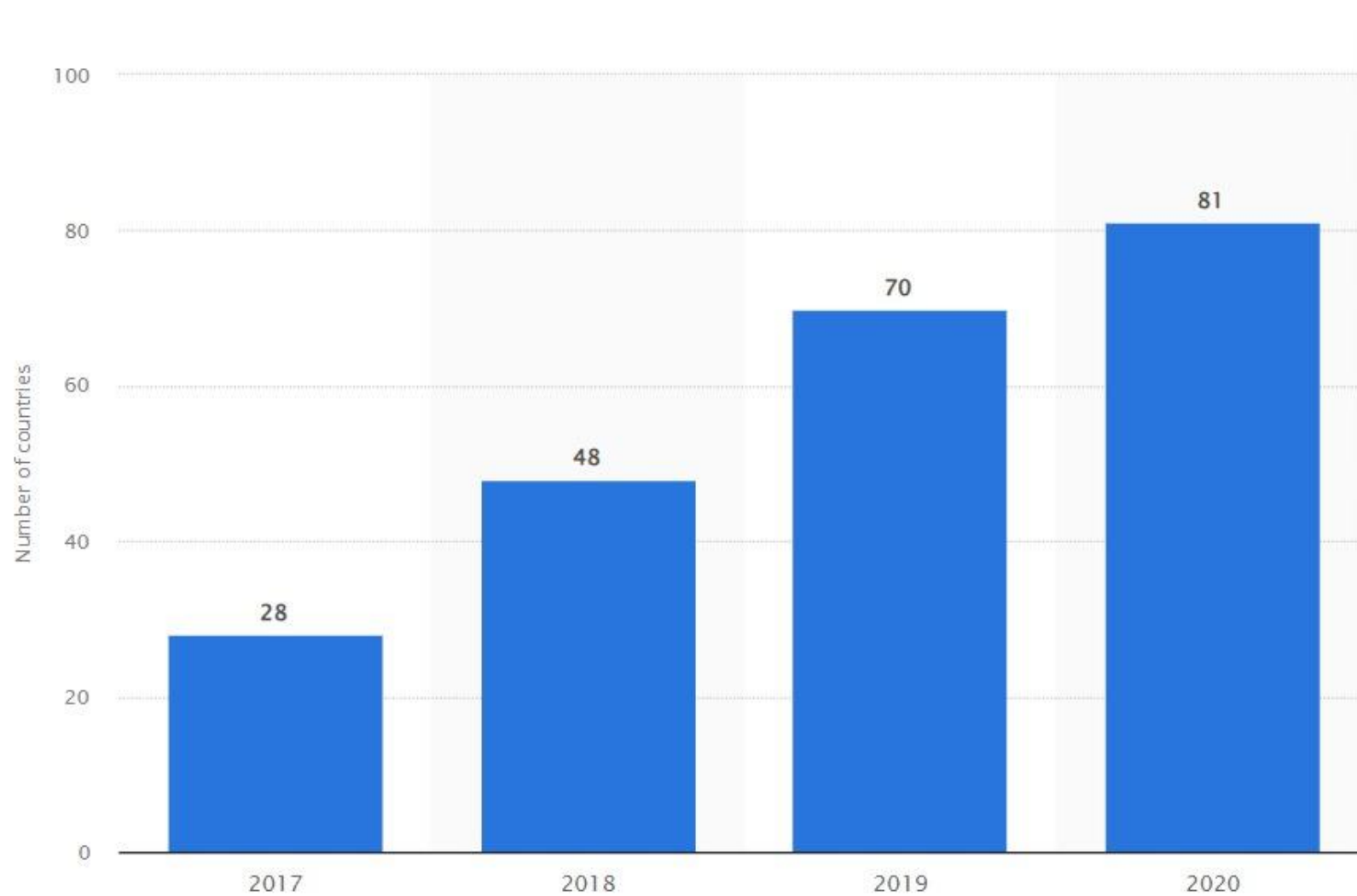
Sonja Stojanović. 2010. How safe citizens of Serbia feel. (e-book) Belgrade: Belgrade Center for Security Policy.

Defining available options

- ▶ Coordinated search by the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MUP), stricter regulations for possession, and digital media propagation of media consequences.
- ▶ Digital propagation of consequences through social networks and media has been insufficient and largely untapped so far, unlike the previous two options.
- ▶ Also, targeting the younger population as the largest consumer of social networks can be most effectively influenced in this way.



Number of countries with evidence of using social media to spread computational propaganda about politics from 2017 to 2020:



By: Statista.com

Concept of policy paper

- ▶ Creating an initiative in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MUP), educational institutions, ordinary citizens, and the non-governmental expert sector, which would operate through current social media platforms (Instagram or TikTok pages) and lectures in educational institutions.
- ▶ Within the educational sector, we would introduce a class where children, along with representatives from the mentioned institutions, would analyze and interpret the published material.

Implementation, monitoring of practical policy, and evaluation

- ▶ Creating content in the form of informative posts and launching a campaign inspired by the initiative 'Students plead with you, slow down near schools.' (Đaci vas mole, usporite pored škole!)
- ▶ In addition to suitable and tailored materials for children, the initiative would involve distributing vests and books with anti-armament themes.
- ▶ The ultimate goal is a profound impact on the culture of arming and a change in awareness among the youth.

Thank You for your attention!

