

## Helsinki Committee for Human Rights i

Focus 

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### Overall Situation of Human Rights Weighted by Strong National Feelings, Xenophobia and Unsolved Problems of the Past The 2005 Annual Report

**05/22/2006**

Overall Situation of Human Rights Weighted by Strong National Feelings, Xenophobia and Unsolved Problems of the Past - Annual Report -

Political, social and economic problems characteristic of the societies with strong national feelings, xenophobia and unsolved problems of the past kept weighting the overall situation of human rights in Serbia in 2005, says the annual report of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights. The report criticizes the restoration of basic tenets of Milosevic's policy - nationalism, populism, fundamentalism, marginalization of political opponents and reality, resistance to change, marginalization of political opponents and the silent rehabilitation of the Socialists' cadres (to be ascribed to the Socialist Party's support to the minority government, but shared ideological and other interests as well) slowed down and brought to a standstill the much needed confrontation with the past. Burdened with national policy and pending state issues, Serbia is still left without a new constitution that determine her borders and define her as a modern state.



Srebrenica  
1995-2005



Building up  
Democracy and  
Good Governance  
in Multiethnic  
Communities



USIP  
Belgrade-Prishtina  
project



Hague Tribunal

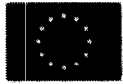
Two years of the Kostunica cabinet were marked by permanent campaigning against a sector, intolerably coarse language used in the Serbian parliament, tabloidization of the media, instrumentalization in the showdown with the liberal alternative, and overall clericalization of this just mirrors Serbia's poor liberal potential. Instead of looking for a new paradigm capable of all citizens, regardless of their ethnic, religious or political backgrounds, the Kostunica cabinet handed to the most conservative social structures," says the report. Throughout 2005 the political scene was in turmoil. The political elite's unreadiness to commit itself to larger interests of Serbia without "a clear-cut vision of her future," while political parties were more and more fragmented into groups. This negatively affected citizens' spirits and their interest in politics, quotes the international report. On the other hand, they were less and less captured by mushrooming scandals, for none of them ended up in a court of law.

The Helsinki Committee's latest annual report titled "Serbia 2005: Human Security in an Unfinished State" underlines that the international community's presence considerably hampers Serbian national development for sticking to the ethnic model of the state. However, their capacity for generating national chauvinistic campaigns, ethnically motivated violence and isolationism is still great and affects bilateral relations.

On more than 500 pages "Human Security in an Unfinished State" deals with topics in 10 chapters - "Shadow of the Past," "Legal System," "Economic and Social Transition," "In an Unfinished State," "Minorities in Serbia," "Decentralization," "Serbia in the Region and the International Community" and "Key Challenges: Kosovo and Montenegro."

Summing up the year 2005, the Helsinki Committee, among other things, demands the Serbian government to:

- To prepare the public in Serbia for realistic solutions to Kosovo and Montenegrin issues in line with the principles defined by the international community so as to avoid additional frustration among political factors;
- To cooperate with The Hague Tribunal seriously and in full sincerity, which implies immediate arrest of Ratko Mladic and other indictees;
- To pursue system reforms and, in the first place, round off the legal framework necessary for the normal functioning of the judicial system;
- To clearly manifest its political will for the implementation of the enacted legislation;



Prevention of Torture



Training for Lawyers



Helsinki Charter

- To resume the principles of a secular state and, in this context, distance itself from the S Church's political activity;
- To promote the European value system and thus prepare younger generations for Se future;
- To guarantee the freedom of the media under the existing provisions and their freedom frc of informal circles;
- To warrant the atmosphere of tolerance so as to enable a free social debate leading to th Serbia's option for Europe;
- To be an active factor in curbing all forms of nationalism so as to pave the way to interethni and open the door to alternative options; and
- To influence the state institutions to adopt the programs for facing the past, a process th the renewal of trust and cooperation with the countries in the region.

The 2005 annual report, in Serbian and English versions, was published thanks to the a: Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights. It is available at [www.helsinki.org.yu](http://www.helsinki.org.yu), while the Helsinki Committee's office (No. 7/1, Zmaj Jova Street).

Belgrade, May 19, 2006



South Serbia:  
Building  
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Ties



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