

## INFORMATION

as regards the implementation of the UN Human Rights Council Resolution 34/8  
“Effects of Terrorism on the Enjoyment of Human Rights”

With respect to your open telegram number 2363-1/2017, for the purpose of compilation of relevant information as regards the preparation of a report relating to specific data, statistics, best practices and main challenges in solution of negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights, on the basis of a contribution by the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy and the Ministry of Culture and Information, we would like to notify you of the following:

The Republic of Serbia, on the basis of its own historical experience, recognises the danger and threat of terrorism to the basic values of society: freedom, peace and safety of citizens, human rights and democracy, rule of law, sovereignty and territorial integrity, stability and security of the state and the legitimately elected government, as well as international peace and security of the international community.

Having regard to the current situation on the international level and in the neighbouring countries, the Republic of Serbia has adopted the National Strategy for the Prevention and Countering of Terrorism for the period 2017-2021. The above mentioned Strategy defines essential and permanent commitments and policy goals of the Republic of Serbia in the field of prevention and countering terrorism, and establishes a strategic doctrinal framework of the comprehensive answer to this threat, with an emphasis on the prevention of possible attacks with the support and participation of the wider social community.

Also, the Law on the Organisation and Competences of the Government Authorities in Combating Organised Crime, Corruption and Other Severe Criminal Offences will apply from 1 March 2018. The Law has been adopted in compliance with the National Strategy Against Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism in order to ensure successful connecting of a wide range of state authorities and a concentration of expertise which would, depending on each specific case, provide a strong support to the public prosecutor, as the competent authority whose main right and duty is to prosecute perpetrators of criminal offences, not only in conducting investigations and/or collecting materials to raise and indictment, but also further during the court proceedings. The enforcement of this Law is expected to also have positive effects on the field of social security, particularly in respect of preventing the above mentioned consequences as regards the communication between institutions, access to competent authorities and protection of personal data.

With regard to the effect of terrorism on the enjoyment of social rights, it is important to note that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognizes the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance. In this respect, every contracting State is obliged to do everything, in accordance with its capabilities, to ensure full enjoyment of these rights to its citizens. Ratified international treaties are an integral part of the legal order of the Republic of Serbia and are directly applicable, while limitations of constitutionally guaranteed rights are possible for the purposes prescribed by the Constitution, to the extent necessary to achieve the purpose of the guaranteed right, without encroachment of its essence. In this respect, if terrorist attacks, depending on their nature, scope and location where they are undertaken, have wider effects on the public order, peace and safety, and require the imposition of measures of state emergency, such measures may entail temporary limitations of guaranteed rights, including rights to pension and disability insurance. Imposed emergency measures may result in a temporary suspension of payment of pensions and benefits, or in an inability to access the competent institutions for the purpose of exercise of the rights, particularly national authorities, as well as a hampered communication between the institutions themselves. With regard to the above, special attention should be given to the protection of personal data, and provisions should be made for reinforcing preventive measures, in order to prevent a loss of documentation and ensure data privacy in extraordinary situations.

The Republic of Serbia is dedicated to strengthening international cooperation with a view to preventing and countering terrorism, in accordance with the principles of public international law, in light of the fact that every terrorist attack inevitably affects the exercise of the constitutionally guaranteed rights of the citizens, first and foremost the right to life.

With a view to preventing such terrorist attacks, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy is making efforts in promotion of human rights through the implementation of various trainings on human rights and by raising awareness, from the level of local communities to the level of the state, in order to fight the circumstances which cause the spreading of terrorism and which make individuals and groups more vulnerable to the effects of terrorism and recruitment by terrorists.

In the field of culture, a lot of attention is given to nourishing cultural diversity, which is protected and promoted through intercultural dialogue, mutual respect and understanding between cultures. Draft Strategy for Cultural Development of the Republic of Serbia from 2017 to 2027 contains a chapter titled "Culture of Mutual Understanding". This chapter states that the cultural development level considerably contributes to the reduction of the polarization in the society and bridging the gaps between social groups, as well as that cultural diversity is a universal human right and the primary driver of the sustainable development of the society, and that it flourishes in circumstances of democracy, tolerance, social justice and mutual respect between peoples and cultures.

The Law on Culture, which serves as the basis for the Draft Strategy, affirms the policy of equal opportunities, with a special concern for socially vulnerable groups and their integration. In accordance with the above, financial support is annually provided to projects

which contribute to the preservation of cultural specificity of national minorities, and there is active cooperation with national councils of national minorities, as official representatives of their rights. Also, support is provided to projects which use creativity and culture as an instrument for sending a message against terrorism and violence.

Special attention is given to the culture of memory, which is nourished by encouraging the participation of citizens, interpretations of personal and official histories in an equal measure, particularly through contemporary creativity. Artistic activism is particularly important in the context of raising awareness on various topics. Contemporary art production serves to present and treat topics such as: Holocaust victims, phenomenology of violence, terrorism in the contemporary world, migrant crises.

With regard to cultural heritage, the project titled "Disaster Risk Management in the Field of Cultural Heritage", supported within the framework of the UNESCO Participation Programme 2016-2017, is being implemented. One of the goals of the project is to contribute to building an integrated system for disaster risk management in the field of cultural and natural heritage, with a very important segment relating to the establishment of an early warning system and the readiness of our protection institutions for answering the threatening situation. Risk management of disasters, such as terrorism, which highly undermine human rights and fundamental freedoms, is essential for mitigation and reduction of negative effects and consequences it has on economic, social and cultural rights. Thus the impact of the above mentioned project is important, as well as initiation of further activities of our protection institutions for the purpose of efficient disaster risk management, both with respect to natural disasters and war and terrorism.

Also, it is important to note that the Ministry of Culture and Information has active communication with the Ministry of Interior and INTERPOL in prevention of illegal trade of objects which are suspected to have been stolen within the territories held by terrorists, and whose sale would further finance terrorism. In this respect, verifications are carried out through central institutions for protection of cultural heritage (depending on the type of work of art/historical object) or protection of old and rare library stock, which are competent for the entire territory of Serbia.

In addition to the above, the Ministry of Culture and Information is involved in the preparation and implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Countering of Terrorism and the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy, with the Ministry of Interior as the principal body in charge.

As a participant in the implementation of the Strategy, the Ministry of Culture and Information has planned funds for the following three years, through project co-financing of media content, for projects with the topic of prevention and counteracting of terrorism.

Organisation of media campaign, roundtables and public debates, including cooperation with the civil society, should contribute to the improvement of general awareness of the entire public on terrorism.