

## Ministry of Internal Affairs welcomes the U.S. State Department Report on human trafficking

**Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, also the National Coordinator against Trafficking in Human Beings, Rašćarić; today held a press conference regarding the report of the U.S. State Department on human trafficking. Deputy Minister Rašćarić;, said that the Ministry of Internal Affairs welcomes the report of the U.S. Department of State, which was published yesterday, concerning the situation in Kosovo, as regards the fight against trafficking in human beings.**

*Thursday, 05 July 2012*

Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, also the National Coordinator against Trafficking in Human Beings, Rašćarić; today held a press conference regarding the report of the U.S. State Department on human trafficking. Deputy Minister Rašćarić;, said that the Ministry of Internal Affairs welcomes the report of the U.S. Department of State, which was published yesterday, concerning the situation in Kosovo, as regards the fight against trafficking in human beings. The report is objective and there are things that can be improved and some have already been improved since the day of preparation until the day of the publishing of the report. "We have managed to thoroughly analyze the report and I can tell you that the Government of Kosovo is committed to combating trafficking in human beings. We are determined to fight against this phenomenon which directly affects human dignity, with all forces and means in an institutional way", said Deputy Minister Rašćarić;. National Coordinator against Trafficking in Human Beings, Rašćarić;, said the purpose of the Kosovo government is to protect all citizens of Kosovo, so that the country is safe for everyone. Kosovo was always a source, potential transit and destination for trafficking in human beings. The largest number of victims of trafficking victims in Kosovo are for the purposes of sexual exploitation, but also exploitation at work, also a phenomenon that was recently observed are children beggars. "We have legal basis, which contains strategic and operational documents, and we deal with daily activities trying to fulfill our predefined objectives. We will continue with all our capacities, which increasingly are being strengthened. In this respect there is a political dimension, because the fight against this form of organized crime is associated with our striving to European integrations, visa liberalization, etc.," said Rašćarić;. Deputy Minister Rašćarić; said that the Kosovo government has succeeded to comply with all standards, but they are making continuous efforts so this will be reflected in this report. Also, regarding the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking a progress has been achieved and a functioning system of designated shelters was established, which safeguards the victims and after rehabilitation they return back to normal life. "The thing we can be proud of, which is mentioned in the report, is that the efforts are being made to prevent this phenomenon from happening. Through various campaigns, &nbsp; via relevant institutions we are raising the level of citizen awareness about trafficking in human beings and thus reduce the number of potential victims",- said Rašćarić;. Deputy Minister Rašćarić;, noted that what is somewhat negative in the report, is the processing of cases of those who are involved in trafficking as perpetrators and accomplices. There has been some progress in this regard, the courts are doing their job, but trials last longer than the reporting period. The Government of Kosovo has drafted a new Criminal Code, which will pass in the Assembly of Kosovo, where are foreseen the penalties which directly refer to the issue of human trafficking. In the ranking system of states in terms of meeting the criteria, Kosovo is on par with a number of EU member states and even exceeds some of them. However, the Government of Kosovo is committed to achieve maximum to move into first position and meet all requirements regarding the elimination of trafficking.