

## **Weapons in the Republic of Slovenia**

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The paper deals with the security aspects of the use of weapons in criminal and petty offences in the Republic of Slovenia, in particular in the period since the stabilisation of the situation in the Balkans. The paper focuses on presentation of the most notorious criminal and petty offences, committed with the use of weapons, on smuggling and forfeiture of weapons, on injuries and accidents inflicted by weapons, suicides, problems of weapons at police departments, on activities related to the legalisation of weapons and on police activities undertaken to suppress this kind of crime. The number of these phenomena is on the increase in Slovenia, which is also true of trends of illegal armament and carrying weapons.

Trafficking in arms has recently become a serious regional problem not only in Southeast Europe, but in the entire international community and it can only be successfully combated by strengthening the co-operation between police forces and other concerned organisations and agencies. Trafficking in arms in Southeast Europe has an additional impact on the safety situation of individual states and increases the potential for their destabilisation, terrorism, abuse of arms for criminal purposes and contributes to the death of thousands of civilians.

**Keywords:** weapons, criminal offences, petty offences, homicides, robberies, extortion, kidnapping, legalisation of weapons, house search, crime investigation technique

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