

“80 percent of citizens” against gay Pride Parade

Source: Beta

BELGRADE -- Serbia’s Prime Minister Ivica Dačić has stated that 80 percent of citizens are against the holding of a gay Pride Parade.



Ivica Dačić (Tanjug, file)

He told daily Press that there would have been a “bloodshed” in Belgrade if the parade had not been banned.

“I’d rather they criticize me for banning the parade than for allowing a bloodshed and all security assessments show that this is exactly what would have happened. Even if we hired more than 5,000 police officers, there would have been unrests, fights and casualties,” the prime minister was quoted as saying.

According to him, foreign embassies, mainly those of western countries, would have been attacked in the riots during the Pride Parade.

The Serbian [authorities decided to ban all public gatherings](#), including the Pride Parade, on Saturday in Belgrade.

b92 – October 6, 2012

LGBT community holds gay parade indoors

Source: B92, Beta

BELGRADE -- Members of the Pride Parade Organizing committee held a Pride Parade indoors on Saturday.



(Tanjug)

The Pride Parade was supposed to be held in downtown Belgrade but the Serbian authorities [decided to ban all public gatherings](#) due to high security risks.

The LGBT activists ended their gathering by sitting down on the sidewalk in front of the Media Center where they held this year’s parade.

They had rainbow-colored flags and a banner that said “September 28, 2013” – a date when the next Pride Parade

should be held in Belgrade.

“We hope that the authorities will have enough time to allow us to have a 970-step walk next year,” said the organizers. They held a press conference that was attended by numerous NGOs and LGBT organizations.

Strong police forces were securing the area around the Media Center during the gathering.

The Pride Parade participants told reporters that the police did not allow them to go out in the street.

Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić has stated that [“80 percent of the citizens”](#) are against the Pride Parade.

Serbian authorities decide to ban gay parade

Source: B92

BELGRADE -- The Serbian authorities on Wednesday decided to ban the gay parade, scheduled for October 6 in Belgrade, and cited security concerns as the reason for the ban.



MUP officers secure the area around the 'Ecce Homo' exhibition location (Tanjug)

All other gatherings planned for Saturday have also been banned. The Interior Ministry (MUP) made its decision based on security assessments.

Earlier in the day Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Irinej urged the authorities to ban the parade, and an exhibition, deemed to be insulting to Christians.

The exhibition, dubbed "Ecce Homo", and the gay parade were planned as part of the week-long Belgrade Pride 2012. Right-

wing movement Dveri also asked for the show to be banned.

At 16:30 CET on Wednesday, several hundred police officers in riot gear were deployed around the Center for Cultural Decontamination where the controversial exhibition opened this evening.

The police also shut down the traffic in several surrounding streets as a security precaution.

Previously, Prime Minister Ivica Dačić - who also serves as interior minister - said that the parade would be banned if security services found the risk of violence associated with it was too high.

Goran Miletić, one of the organizers, told B92 that they had received an explanation from the MUP "which said absolutely nothing except to quote a legal article which stated that it had been appraised that security could be jeopardized during the gathering".

"If the state capitulated last year, this is an open coalition with hooligans considering that representatives of the executive branch of government completely adopted the arguments of extremist organizations, and even their demands," said Miletić.

PM explains decision

The Ministry of the Interior stated that on the basis of all security assessments and recommendations, it decided to ban all gatherings scheduled for October 6 in order to preserve the peace and security of citizens and their property, the government said on its website.

Such a decision was made on the basis of Article 11 of the Law on Public Gatherings, the assessment of security services, the police and the Office for Coordination of Work of Security Services, as well as in view of the announcement of a serious threat to public order and security of citizens during public gatherings scheduled for that day, the statement further said.

Ivica Dačić underlined that this decision is not aimed at harming and denying anyone's human and civil rights and freedoms.

It has been made in order to protect the safety of citizens of Belgrade and prevent possible clashes and riots that might threaten diplomatic and consular offices of foreign states too, he was quoted as saying.

"First of all, this decision was made in order to protect the lives of citizens, including members of the police," Dačić said and added that only for securing today's exhibition, "which causes great distress to the public because in it Jesus Christ is mentioned in a provocative context", at least 2,000 policemen must be engaged.

The prime minister added that at this moment, "the last thing Serbia needs are clashes and victims", and concluded:

"It is very important for the credibility of Serbia to show the strength of the state. And this does not amount to any kind of capitulation before some who think they can use their paramilitary or any other threats to endanger the holding of public gatherings - it means that it has been assessed that, at this time, serious violations of public peace and order could occur, which would seriously jeopardize interests of the citizens and the state as a whole."