

URGENT ACTION

SERBIAN AUTHORITIES BAN BELGRADE PRIDE

On 30 September, the Serbian National Security Council banned the Belgrade Pride, due to security threats from extremist right-wing groups, who had reportedly threatened violence and arson throughout the city if the event went ahead. The Pride was scheduled to take place on 02 October.

Amnesty International considers the banning of Pride to be a huge step backwards for human rights in Serbia, and a massive government concession to right-wing nationalist groups, in particular Dveri and Obraz, who have orchestrated opposition to the Pride. The decision to ban the Pride followed public assurances from the Minister of Interior that it would not be banned, despite concerns about the security risks associated with the event.

This is the fourth time that Pride had been planned in Belgrade. In 2010, police protected participants against violent counter-demonstrators and more than 100 people, mostly police, were injured. Damage to property was estimated at over €1 million. In 2009, the Pride march, scheduled for September, did not take place after the authorities refused to provide security at the last moment following threats from far-right groups.

No further appeals are requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the third update of UA 253/11. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR70/016/2011/en>

Name: Organisers of Belgrade Pride

Gender m/f: Both

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