

## Criminals with Counterfeited Bosnian Documents

Written by OCCRP

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*Boris Grubešić, the spokesman for the BiH Prosecutor's Office, said people with fake documents are most often discovered at border crossings. Foto by CIN*

For five years the Prosecutors' Offices and police in BiH have continuously uncovered the masterminds and associates involved in counterfeiting of Bosnian identity papers. Many abuses have been reported and among those who got false documents were criminals and citizens from neighboring countries.

### By The Center for Investigative Reporting

Hundreds of people, including criminals, managed to obtain counterfeited Bosnian documents. These fake documents enable them to avoid justice, police and prison but also to cross borders freely, to obtain passports and visas, and abuse them in many other ways.

"This is how terrorists, war criminals, drug dealers, car thieves, people who commit business fraud, people who engage in economic criminal can hide. This is how they can register various citizens associations, private companies," said Gojko Vasić, a head of the Republika Srpska (RS) Crime Police.

Over the past two years, the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH) has conducted a wide investigation into forgeries and illegal issuing of Citizens' Identity Protection System (CIPS) documents.

Prosecutors said it is difficult to state precise figures, but they suspect that hundreds of people,

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including criminals, have obtained bogus BiH IDs. This has shown that CIPS, designed to be a system that would thwart forging of identification documents and the use of fake IDs and help fight against organized crime, has not lived up to expectations.

Boris Grubešić, a spokesperson for the BiH Prosecutor's Office, said 70 people are believed to be masterminds and facilitators behind those activities. So far, some 25 suspects have been arrested, including municipal officials and employees of law enforcement agencies that issue personal documents.

For example, Mladen Smiljanić, who worked as a investigator in Brčko District police and was also the local contact for the Interpol's office in Sarajevo, was arrested in February 2009. In the indictment, he was accused of hiding a warrant against an unnamed person from Serbia, in order to enable this person to obtain Bosnian papers. For his services Smiljanić asked for either some 4.000 KM or a motorcycle.

Criminal activities have been discovered throughout the country, but mainly around Banja Luka, Brčko, Bijeljina, Bratunac, Vlasenica, Tuzla and Sarajevo. According to the BiH Prosecutor's Office, original looking IDs and passports with fake names can be easily obtained for €2,000.

The BiH Prosecutor's Office said in a statement sent to the Center for Investigative Reporting in Sarajevo (CIN) that bogus IDs could have been obtained by forging old identity papers and other documents, -- birth certificates, certificates of citizenship. These fake documents were then used for issuing new identity cards.

### **The First Case**

Prior to the ongoing investigation, the BiH Prosecutor's Office conducted another one in May 2005. The result of this investigation was the Court of BiH's conviction of Cvijo Tovilović, an employee of the RS Ministry of Interior (MUP) in Banja Luka.



142. MARKOVIĆ DEJAN, sin Živka, rođen  
u Banja Luci u Ulici Cara Lazara broj 15, J  
ne posjeduje PI



**Stvarni identitet: Slađan Lonco**

Source: RS Ministry of Interior, BiH Police, and other sources. Photo: OCCRP. Photo: OCCRP. Photo: OCCRP.



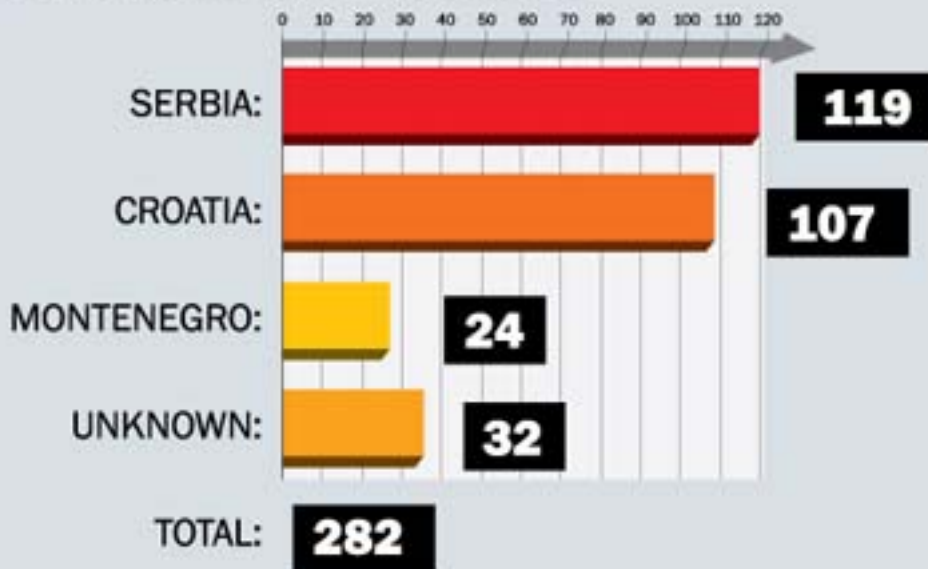
9. POPOVIĆ DRAGAN, rođen 27.07.1977  
nastanjen u Ul. Sime Miljuša br. 84,  
pasoša 4522372,  
**Stvarni identitet lica : Lonco Slaviša**



Popović Dragan

## Bosnians on the Run:

Number of BiH citizens sentenced to prison believed to be hiding in neighboring countries.



Source: BiH Ministry of Justice

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