

POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL WEAPONS IN KOSOVA



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AUTHOR:



Vesa Kroçi

Graduated from RITK (Rochester Institute of Technology of Kosovo), where she majored in Public Policy & Governance and Peace & Conflict Studies. Began her journey at KCSS as an intern, following prior experience in the NGO sector. Drawn to the organization's focus on public policy and security, she found a professional and collaborative environment defined by mutual understanding and support. During her time at KCSS, she contributed to key projects such as Women, Peace & Security, the Kosovo Probation Service, the Regional Youth Partnership, and REACH. Her experience significantly shaped her professional and personal growth, making her more confident, focused, and responsible. She was later promoted to Project Manager, a role that strengthened her leadership skills and deepened her commitment.

DESIGN AND LAYOUT BY:

Brand Vision Shpk

Contact: +383 45 559 923

Email: brandvision.rks@gmail.com

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Introduction

There is broad consensus that the widespread proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons poses a fundamental challenge to the stability and security of post-war Kosovo. Kosovo today still faces a significant problem with unauthorized firearms in civilian hands. This issue intersects with organized crime, difficult border controls, and the slow pace of disarmament, undermining both public safety and the rule of law. This issue intersects with organized crime, complex border controls, and the growing cases of illegal possession of arms are disturbing both public safety and the rule of law.

Historical Background

Gun ownership is more than a mere tradition in our culture; it is a deeply entrenched symbol of identity, power, and survival. For centuries, the presence of a gun in the household was not a choice, but a necessity, a safeguard against the ever-looming threats of occupation and conflict. The need for security, forged through generations of foreign rule and internal disputes, made the possession of arms a defining trait of resilience and defiance. Conflicts over land, honor, or vendettas would often escalate to violence, and a gun was the ultimate equalizer, a tool of both protection and retribution. To hold a gun was to hold power, a symbol of self-determination in an unforgiving world.

However, as time has passed and society has evolved, the perception of gun ownership has shifted dramatically. What was once seen as a cultural necessity and a symbol of protection has now, in the modern age, become a source of public concern. The ease with which people can obtain guns outside of legal channels has fueled a troubling rise in violence and criminal activity, with incidents of gun-related crime becoming alarmingly frequent, especially in recent months. Authorities are facing a formidable challenge in curbing this growing epidemic, which threatens the stability and security of society as a whole. This shift in the role and meaning of gun ownership marks a stark departure from the values of previous generations, revealing how deeply the misuse of firearms can corrode the very foundations of a community.

Illegal Weapons in Post-War Kosovo

After the 1999 war, Kosovo was left with a significant surplus of weapons due to the breakup of Yugoslavia and the conflict itself. Under the administration of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR), early disarmament efforts included house searches, weapons collection points, and two amnesty campaigns in 2001 and 2002. These campaigns allowed citizens to surrender weapons without prosecution.¹ While over 1,300 firearms were collected during the 2002 amnesty, this represented only a small fraction of the weapons held by civilians. Many Kosovars were reluctant to surrender their arms due to mistrust of institutions and ongoing concerns about personal security.²

By the mid-2000s, estimates from the Small Arms Survey indicated that around 400,000 firearms remained in circulation in Kosovo, of which approximately 317,000 were held illegally by civilians. Only about 34,000 firearms were legally registered to individuals, while around 45,000 were in the possession of official security institutions or private security companies (Small Arms Survey, 2006).³ These figures underline

the limited effectiveness of early disarmament efforts and the persistence of military-grade weapons in civilian hands, reflecting broader challenges in post-conflict arms control and public trust in security institutions. Despite the widespread belief that many illegal firearms in circulation are remnants from the 1999 war, evidence suggests otherwise. This misconception persists in public discourse, often framing illegal weapon possession as a legacy of the conflict. However, according to the Director of the Public Safety Department, this narrative is outdated. As he explains, “We’re not dealing with leftover war weapons because the ones from the Kosovo war are from the 1980s. The weapons confiscated by police each year are of recent manufacture.”⁴

This statement underscores a significant shift in the nature of Kosovo’s illegal arms landscape. While the immediate post-war years saw the circulation of surplus military-grade weapons, recent trends indicate that newly manufactured firearms—often trafficked through regional and international criminal networks—constitute the majority of those seized by law enforcement today. This has critical implications for arms control policy, as it suggests that illicit firearms are no longer solely a post-conflict issue but part of a broader, ongoing problem tied to organized crime, porous borders, and weak regional oversight mechanisms.

1 Anna Khakee and Nicolas Florquin, *Kosovo and the Gun: A Baseline Assessment of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Kosovo* (Geneva: Small Arms Survey & UNDP, June 2003), <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS-OP13-Kosovo-and-the-Gun.pdf>.

2 Small Arms Survey, *A Fragile Peace: Guns and Security in Post-Conflict Kosovo, Special Report* (Geneva: Small Arms Survey, June 2006), <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS-SR-Kosovo.pdf>.

3 Small Arms Survey, *A Fragile Peace: Guns and Security in Post-Conflict Kosovo, Special Report* (Geneva: Small Arms

Survey, June 2006), <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS-SR-Kosovo.pdf>.

4 Interview with the Director of the Public Safety Department, online interview, 2025.

Legal and Policy Framework for Weapons Possession

Kosovo has established a legal framework for civilian firearms possession that aligns with European and international standards. After the war, UNMIK introduced initial regulations, later replaced by Kosovo's own Law on Weapons (Law No. 05/L-022, 2015).⁵ This law governs the legal purchase, ownership, and use of firearms for civilian purposes, excluding military-grade weapons. It includes licensing requirements, such as background checks and training, and prohibits automatic firearms and explosives. Possessing an unlicensed weapon is a criminal offense. As stated in an interview conducted by the director of the public safety department, the current gun law in Kosovo is fully in line with the EU regulation on firearms, and it is serving the purpose for which it was initially created. The law was first drafted, amended and supplemented; the current version is from 2015. It has achieved its purpose allowing citizens, after undergoing several procedures, to legally obtain a firearm. One of the main goals was to legalize the firearms market to prevent citizens from resorting to buying guns on the black market.⁶

Furthermore, the director of the PSD stated that besides the law, we also have a strategy that deals with small and light weapons. There

⁵ Republic of Kosovo, Law No. 05/L-022 on Weapons, Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosovo, published August 19, 2015, <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDocumentDetail.aspx?ActID=11018>.

⁶ Interview with the Director of the Public Safety Department, online interview, 2025.

is also an agreement or roadmap with the European Commission and regional countries that addresses specifics of firearms.⁷ To improve arms control, Kosovo created the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Commission and adopted a comprehensive SALW and Explosives Control Strategy (2017–2021), recently updated for 2024–2028. This strategy aligns with regional initiatives like the EU- and UN-backed Roadmap for sustainable arms control in the Western Balkans. Kosovo has pledged to harmonize its laws with EU directives, including amendments to tighten firearm regulations and enhance enforcement. Regionally, Kosovo works to adopt best practices in weapon registries, evidence management, and cross-border cooperation. While the legal framework is strong on paper, effective enforcement remains a challenge, requiring continued reforms, stronger penalties, and increased public trust in state institutions.

The legal framework means that it must be adapted either to new requirements or situations, and like all other laws even in the EU laws sometimes need specific updates. This does not exclude the possibility that our laws will be further advanced. Overall, the gun laws cover well the area of possession, trade, and storage of weapons. Nevertheless, illegal possession of firearms goes beyond the law, because it involves citizens who do not comply with the law and are, in a way, not the target group of this legislation.

⁷ Interview with the Director of the Public Safety Department, online interview, 2025.

Sources, Trends, and Market Value of Illegal Firearms in Kosovo

The illegal firearms market in Kosovo is shaped by a combination of historical legacies and current trafficking trends. While some weapons still circulate from the post-war period, the majority of illegal arms traced today are recently manufactured, with no connection to the 1999 conflict. A significant proportion of these weapons are gas-powered firearms that have been illegally converted to function as live firearms. According to law enforcement insights, many of these converted weapons originate from Turkey, although other regional sources—including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, North Macedonia, and other former Yugoslav republics—also play a role. Despite the presence of these regional supply routes, the most concerning trend involves the rise in trafficked and converted firearms entering the country illegally.⁸

Accurate data on the total number of illegal weapons remains elusive, as no national or international report can definitively account for their prevalence. However, law enforcement agencies in Kosovo trace approximately 1,500 illegal firearms annually, reflecting the continued scale of the problem. These weapons are relatively accessible on the black market, with prices starting as low as 500 to 600 Euros, depending on the type and condition. This affordability, combined with porous regional borders and limited institutional capacity, continues to fuel the circulation of illegal weapons in Kosovo, making arms trafficking a pressing and ongoing challenge for national security and public safety.⁹

Another growing concern is the increasing access to illegal firearms among young people. Open-source data indicates that individuals involved in incidents with unlicensed weapons often belong to the youth demographic, typically ranging from late teens to early thirties. For the purposes of this analysis, the term “youth” includes individuals aged 25 to 30, who are frequently cited in such cases. However, people from older age groups are sometimes implicated especially in domestic

violence—the majority of reported cases involve younger individuals carrying illegal firearms. This trend not only reflects gaps in firearm regulation but also raises serious concerns about public safety and youth vulnerability to violence and criminal activity.¹⁰

Furthermore, in recent years, Kosovo’s law enforcement agencies have intensified their efforts to combat the illegal possession of firearms. The Kosovo Police have played a central role, regularly conducting targeted operations, special raids, and systematic border controls to detect and confiscate illicit weapons. As a result, of these efforts, during 2022, the police confiscated 1473 weapons and 29903 pieces of ammunition. Meanwhile, during 2023, the police confiscated 1392 weapons and 37215 pieces of ammunition.¹¹ In a significant move to reduce the circulation of such weapons, approximately 1,000 illegal firearms were officially destroyed in 2024 (Indeks Online, 2024).¹² These actions reflect a growing institutional commitment to arms control, although the overall scale of illegal weapon possession continues to present serious challenges for public security.

One of the advantages of the law is that incidents involving licensed firearms are extremely rare. It is possible we go through an entire year without even one incident or perhaps just one here and there. The good thing is that people who are granted licenses undergo training that educates them on the safe handling of firearms. Another aspect is that every firearm sold is verified from the moment it is manufactured, then during its importation into our country, and again at the point of sale linking the weapon to an individual who is its registered owner. Every gun is tested, and this makes it easier for law enforcement to identify the perpetrator in cases of misuse or crime by tracing the firearm.

10 Interview with the Director of the Public Safety Department, online interview, 2025.

11 Telegrafi. (2024, January). Many illegal weapons in the hands of citizens – during 2023 the Police confiscated about two thousand different weapons and ammunition. <https://telegrafi.com/en/shume-arme-ne-duart-e-qytetareve-gjate-viit-2023-policia-konfiskoi-rreth-dymije-arme/>

12 IndeksOnline. (2024, September 12). Shkatërrohen rreth 1 mijë armë të konfiskuara nga Policia e Kosovës. <https://indeksonline.net/shkaterrohen-rreth-1-mije-arme-te-konfiskuara-nga-policia-e-kosoves/>

8 Interview with the Director of the Public Safety Department, online interview, 2025.

9 Interview with the Director of the Public Safety Department, online interview, 2025.

Organized Crime and Trafficking

Another concerning trend is the link between illegal weapons and organized crime. Kosovo, like other Western Balkan areas, is part of regional trafficking routes for various contraband, including firearms. Organized crime groups have exploited porous borders and weak state controls in the past to smuggle weapons from and through Kosovo towards other markets. The presence of a large pool of war-era weapons makes for a ready supply. According to regional crime assessments, criminal groups in the Western Balkans are actively smuggling firearms through the region into Western Europe. Kosovo has been identified as both a source and transit point in this illicit arms trade, although exact volumes are hard to measure. In some cases, illegal weapons from Kosovo (or the wider Balkans) have turned up in European crime scenes and even terror attacks, highlighting the international dimension of the

problem. The widespread availability of SALW in Kosovo's society not only fuels local crime but also offers opportunities for gun-running networks, thereby linking Kosovo's internal security with transnational criminal activity.

Most of the weapons seized at the border are traced back to organized criminal networks. These groups are monitored as much as capacities allow. While institutions have been relatively successful in seizing weapons, the fact that these arms are still used within Kosovo shows that the problem is far from resolved.¹³

13 Interview with the Director of the Public Safety Department, online interview, 2025.

Femicide in Kosovo

Femicide (or feminicide, as it is referred to in some contexts) is defined as an intentional killing with a gender-related motivation. It is different from homicide, where the motivation may not be gender-related¹⁴. This phenomenon is rooted in deeply entrenched social norms, systemic inequalities, and power imbalances that perpetuate discrimination and violence against women. In Kosovo, femicide has emerged as a critical public safety and human rights concern, reflecting broader challenges related to patriarchal cultural practices, insufficient legal protection, and limited institutional responses. Addressing femicide in Kosovo requires an integrated approach that combines legal reform, awareness-raising, and strengthened coordination among government institutions and civil society.

The illegal weapons situation has a gendered

dimension. In Kosovo, as elsewhere, the vast majority of weapon owners and users are men, and the victims of gun violence in domestic settings are often women. Women's groups have raised concerns that the easy availability of guns exacerbates domestic violence, making it more likely to result in serious injury or death. The trauma of war combined with a patriarchal culture and ready access to guns can be a toxic mix for households.

Between 2019 and 2025, Kosovo has experienced a disturbing pattern of femicides, with at least 20 cases officially reported between 2018 and 2022.¹⁵ In 2023 alone, Kosovo Police registered four femicides and over 2,100 instances of domestic abuse, highlighting the ongoing threat to women's safety in both private and public spheres.¹⁶ However, these numbers likely

14 UN Women. (2024, November 25). Five essential facts to know about femicide. UN Women. Retrieved June 26, 2025, from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/five-essential-facts-to-know-about-femicide> [unwomen.org+6unwomen.org+6knowledge.unwomen.org+6](https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/five-essential-facts-to-know-about-femicide)

15 Global Campus of Human Rights. (2023). How did Kosovo respond to the issue of femicide? Retrieved from <https://gcjnetwork.org/from-the-legal-framework-to-the-judicial-practice-how-did-kosovo-respond-to-the-issue-of-femicide/>

16 Deutsche Welle. (2024). Femicide in Kosovo: Why do

underestimate the true scope of the problem, as many cases remain unreported due to fear of retaliation, mistrust in the justice system, and societal stigma. Amnesty International (2023) observed that law enforcement agencies often dismiss or downplay psychological and emotional abuse, subjecting victims to prejudice, insensitivity, and humiliation—which in turn fosters a culture of blame and discourages survivors from reporting.¹⁷ Despite the existence of legal frameworks meant to combat domestic and gender-based violence, Kosovo’s judicial system has been repeatedly criticized for its leniency in prosecuting femicide cases. In several instances, perpetrators have received reduced sentences or avoided incarceration altogether, even when there was a prior record of violence.¹⁸ Such rulings undermine efforts to deter gender-based crimes and send a damaging message about institutional indifference. The Kosovar Centre for

Security Studies has emphasized that systemic weaknesses in the judiciary and law enforcement, coupled with a lack of political will, contribute to the continued rise in violence against women.¹⁹

Deeply rooted patriarchal norms and economic dependency significantly contribute to the persistence of femicide in Kosovo. Many women face financial dependence on their partners and are often excluded from property ownership or inheritance rights, which restricts their ability to leave abusive relationships. These structural inequalities are compounded by traditional social expectations that discourage women from reporting abuse, due to fear of blame, social ostracism, or potential loss of child custody. In numerous cases, victims had previously sought help or alerted authorities about threats, yet appropriate preventive measures were not taken. This pattern points to broader institutional shortcomings in addressing gender-based violence. The convergence of cultural attitudes, legal inefficiencies, and economic constraints creates a hostile environment that continues to put women’s lives at risk.

women keep being killed? Retrieved from <https://www.dw.com/en/femicide-in-kosovo-why-do-women-keep-being-killed/a-69043065>

17 Amnesty International. (2023, August 22). Kosovo: Authorities are failing domestic violence victims. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/08/kosovo-authorities-are-failing-domestic-violence-victims/>

18 Deutsche Welle. (2024). Femicide in Kosovo: Why do women keep being killed? Retrieved from <https://www.dw.com/en/femicide-in-kosovo-why-do-women-keep-being-killed/a-69043065>

19 Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (QKSS). (2023). Strengthening protection mechanisms of gender-based violence in Kosovo. Retrieved from <https://qkss.org/en/publikimet/strengthening-protection-mechanisms-of-gender-based-violence-in-kosovo>

To what extent do cultural or historical factors contribute to illegal firearm possession in Kosovo

The prevalence of illegal weapons in Kosovo has significant social and security implications. Public safety is directly undermined when so many firearms are accessible. Minor personal disputes or neighborhood quarrels can more easily escalate into deadly incidents if guns are present. Unfortunately, Kosovo has witnessed violent crimes – including homicides, armed robberies, and incidents of domestic violence. Women and children are often the unintended victims of the abundance of guns, whether through domestic abuse cases or accidental discharges. In a society still healing from war, the ubiquity of

weapons contributes to a climate of latent tension and insecurity.

Socially, the cultural normalization of weapons is a double-edged sword. On one hand, many in Kosovo inherit a tradition where owning a gun is linked to concepts of honor, protection, and even hospitality under the Albanian customary law (Kanun). The Kanun states many things such as: Right and Duty to Bear Arms: The Kanun grants every adult male the right and even obligation to carry arms, primarily for the purposes of honor, self-defense, and protection of the family and household. Being unarmed was often seen

as dishonorable and a sign of weakness or vulnerability. In terms of Arms and Honor: A man's weapon, especially a rifle or pistol, was deeply tied to his personal and family honor. Disarming a man was considered a serious insult, and in many cases, grounds for a blood feud (gjakmarria). Furthermore, Blood Feuds and Retribution: Weapons played a central role in the enforcement of the Kanun's rules on revenge and retributive justice. The code specified circumstances under which killing could be justified, and firearms were commonly used in these acts of vengeance. Moreover, Protection of Property and Guests: Armed men were responsible for protecting not only their own property but also guests and travelers, in accordance with the Kanun's strict rules on hospitality and protection (Besa).²⁰

²⁰ Kanuni i Leke Dukagjinit, 1913

Furthermore, to eliminate the need for citizens to own weapons, the state must first convince them that public safety is guaranteed. This takes time. The public discourse about potential war or conflict makes it difficult for people to give up weapons stored at home. There are cultural and traditional factors at play for some, it is still considered normal for every household to have a gun. This mindset will not change easily. The issue becomes even more serious when such weapons are obtained through unregulated black markets, turning it into a public safety concern.

Law Enforcement Challenges

One of the major challenges in addressing the proliferation of illegal weapons in Kosovo is the difficulty in detecting and preventing their entry at the borders. As stated by the Director of the Public Safety Department, even when firearms are confiscated in cities like Pristina, analysis often reveals that the weapons have entered the country undetected, highlighting weaknesses in internal border control.²¹ This issue cannot be attributed solely to border police, as Kosovo's extensive and porous borders span hundreds of kilometers, making continuous surveillance logistically and financially unfeasible. An ideal response would involve monitoring known trafficking routes and hotspots through advanced surveillance technologies — a solution that, while effective, requires significant investment and sustained political commitment. Unfortunately, such priorities often compete with other national concerns, and neighboring states may not prioritize cross-border coordination or resource allocation for this purpose.

²¹ Interview with the Director of the Public Safety Department, online interview, 2025.

A second critical issue is the persistent domestic demand for firearms. While hobbyists and sport shooters can obtain guns legally through registration, there is insufficient research into why many individuals choose to obtain weapons illegally. Without a deeper understanding of the social, psychological, and economic factors driving this demand, policy responses remain reactive rather than preventative. Addressing both the supply and demand sides of the problem is essential for developing effective, long-term strategies to reduce the circulation of illegal firearms in Kosovo.

While customs authorities successfully intercept a number of firearms each year at official border checkpoints, a significant challenge persists in the form of the so-called "green border" — remote, unofficial crossing points that are extremely difficult to monitor. These areas are often exploited by traffickers, particularly in regions where local residents live in close proximity to the border and may be familiar with terrain that facilitates undetected movement. High-profile incidents, such as the Banjska attack, have illustrated how substantial quantities of weapons can be smuggled into the country despite existing controls. Addressing this issue requires not only

enhanced border security and intelligence coordination but also a broader sense of public responsibility. The problem extends beyond organized criminal networks; ordinary citizens who possess or conceal unregistered firearms contribute to the overall threat to public safety and undermine efforts toward disarmament and legal accountability.

There are two critical issues that must be addressed in discussions of gun violence, particularly within the context of domestic violence. In many of the most concerning cases, the firearm functions merely as an instrument through which the act of violence is committed, whether resulting in injury or, in more tragic instances, in death. However, the presence or absence of a firearm does not alter the broader problem of violence itself. Numerous cases have shown that violent acts frequently occur without the use of firearms, highlighting the need for a more holistic and preventative approach. This reality does not exempt institutions from their responsibilities. Public safety remains a collective duty shared by state institutions including the Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders.²²

Although existing legislation regulates the legal possession and use of firearms with a fair degree of clarity, challenges in enforcement

²² Interview with the Director of the Public Safety Department, online interview, 2025.

continue to pose problems. One of the most pressing concerns is the lack of proportionate consequences for repeat offenders found in possession of illegal weapons. From an institutional perspective, current penalties are often regarded as insufficient to deter repeated violations, allowing certain individuals to continue breaking the law with minimal accountability. On a broader level, Kosovo, as a post-conflict society undergoing rapid change, faces deep-rooted challenges related to general education and the cultivation of critical thinking. A societal environment in which violence is tolerated as a means of resolving conflict cannot be transformed through legislation alone. Sustainable progress requires a long-term commitment to educational reform at every level promoting empathy, civic responsibility, and nonviolence. Although no country has entirely eradicated gun-related crime, its prevalence can be significantly reduced by building a society in which violence is neither normalized nor ignored, and where calls for help receive timely and appropriate responses. Achieving this goal demands coordinated efforts from all sectors of society, including government institutions and civil society, to foster a culture in which safety and human dignity are truly safeguarded.²³

²³ Interview with the Director of the Public Safety Department, online interview, 2025.

Recommendations

- **Community Outreach and Education:** Changing the gun culture requires grassroots engagement. The government, alongside NGOs and community leaders, should continue and expand awareness campaigns that highlight the dangers of illegal weapons and promote the idea of safety without guns. Real-life stories of accidents, or testimonials from families affected by gun violence, can resonate with the public. Incorporating lessons on conflict resolution and the risks of firearms into school curricula could influence younger generations. Religious institutions (mosques and churches) and respected local figures can be partners in spreading the message that relinquishing weapons is a contribution to peace and the future.
- **Strengthening Law Enforcement and Cross-Border Cooperation:** Kosovo must persist in professionalizing its police and customs services to detect and deter arms trafficking. This includes investing in better detection technology (scanners, surveillance) at borders and following through with the plan to increase K9 units for sniffing out weapons/explosives. International partners should facilitate intelligence-sharing: for example, Interpol's illicit arms records can help trace weapons origins, and joint operations with neighboring countries (through frameworks like SEESAC or direct bilateral channels where possible) can tackle smuggling routes. A positive step would be formalizing cooperation agreements on arms control with Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and even engaging with Serbia via EU or OSCE-facilitated formats despite political issues.
- **Tightening Legal Loopholes and Judicial Follow-through:** Kosovo should finalize the ongoing harmonization of its gun laws with EU standards seesac.org, adopting any needed amendments (such as regulating alarm weapons or antique firearms which can be converted, etc.). More importantly, courts need to impose consistent sentences for illegal gun possession and related crimes to serve as a deterrent. If the public sees that illegal possession is usually met with a mere slap on the wrist, the law loses credibility. Therefore, resources should also go into the judiciary – perhaps special prosecution units for organized arms trafficking, and fast-track procedures for straightforward possession cases.
- **Socio-Economic Development and Security Confidence:** A broader, indirect solution is to continue improving the overall security environment and economic opportunities in Kosovo. As jobs increase and communities become more prosperous, the appeal of joining criminal networks or clinging to weapons for survival diminishes. Likewise, as Kosovo's police and courts demonstrate more effectiveness in reducing everyday crime, citizens can gain confidence to live without a personal firearm. International missions like EULEX and OSCE can help by mentoring Kosovo Police in community policing techniques, so that police presence is seen as a service and protection, not as a threat or mere formality. Over time, this can address the trust deficit that feeds the desire to self-arm.

- Regional and International Initiatives: Continued participation in regional arms control initiatives will amplify Kosovo's efforts. The Western Balkans Roadmap has various goals (ranging from reducing firearm incidents to boosting destruction of surplus arms) – Kosovo should strive to meet those targets, and the donors of the Roadmap (EU, Germany, France, US, etc.) should keep supporting Kosovo with expertise and funds. On an international level, Kosovo (though not a UN member) can be included in global discussions on small arms control via partner organizations, ensuring it benefits from global best practices. Lessons from other post-conflict disarmament programs (like weapons-for-development in Cambodia or buybacks in Australia for that matter) could be studied and adapted.

DESIGN AND LAYOUT BY:

Brand Vision Shpk

Contact: +383 45 559 923

Email: brandvision.rks@gmail.com

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Kroçi, Vesa

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About KCSS

Established in April 2008, the Kosovar Center for Security Studies (KCSS) is a specialized, independent, and non-governmental organization. The primary goal of KCSS is to promote the democratization of the security sector in Kosovo and to improve research and advocacy work related to security, the rule of law, and regional and international cooperation in the field of security.

KCSS aims to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Sector Reform (SSR) by supporting SSR programs through its research, events, training, advocacy, and direct policy advice.

Advancing new ideas and social science methods are also core values of the centre. Every year, KCSS publishes numerous reports, policy analysis and policy briefs on security-related issues. It also runs more than 200 public events including conferences, roundtables, and debates, lectures – in Kosovo, also in collaboration with regional and international partners.

A wide-range of activities includes research, capacity-building, awareness raising and advocacy. KCSS's work covers a wide range of topics, including but not limited to security sector reform and development; identifying and analyzing security risks related to extremism, radicalism, and organized crime; foreign policy and regional cooperation; and evaluating the rule of law in Kosovo.

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