

Serbia backs UN resolution calling for withdrawal of Russian troops

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REUTERS/Mike Segar

At the UN General Assembly in New York Serbia voted in favor of a resolution calling for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine and for "just and lasting peace."

Prior to the first anniversary of Russia's aggression against Ukraine the motion, which is not legally binding, was backed by 141 UN member states, including all the Western Balkans countries.

Seven countries voted against (Russia, Belarus, Syria, North Korea, Mali, Nicaragua, Eritrea), while China and India were among the 32 countries that abstained in the vote.

Ukraine and its allies had hoped that the resolution would be backed by at least 143 states, like in October last year, when the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning Russia's annexation of four regions of Ukraine.

The resolution adopted Thursday evening reaffirms support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and demands that Russia "immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine."

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine Serbia has backed four UN General Assembly resolutions regarding this war, and abstained once.

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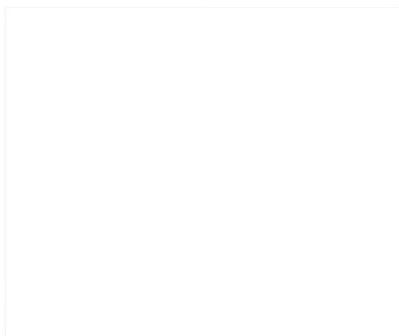
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Vucic: I don't need Wagner to tell me what to do

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Right wing organizations staged a protest against the proposed European Union plan to resolve the Kosovo issue in front of the Serbian presidency on Wednesday night, prompting President Aleksandar Vucic to say that he doesn't need a tap on the shoulder from Wagner.

Vucic said he does not know if the protesters are pro-Russian "but I do know they are anti-Serbian". "I don't need someone from (the Russian military company) Wagner to tap me on the shoulder and tell me what I can and can't do," he said.

Several hundred people gathered in front of the presidency, chanting No Surrender and Treason. One of the speakers said that anyone who signs the Franco-German plan for Kosovo will be killed. A police cordon kept the crowd away from the building but failed to stop them from tearing down an iron fence.

Vucic appeared live on the pro-regime TV Pink to say that "anyone who thinks they can topple Serbia with their brutal lies, who think they can topple a serious state with threats and a few rifles, with their connections abroad and support in cash from foreigners justifying themselves with claims of patriotism cannot defeat Serbia ever".

The protest came hours after a member of an extreme-right organization was arrested in possession of a sniper rifle on his way to Belgrade.

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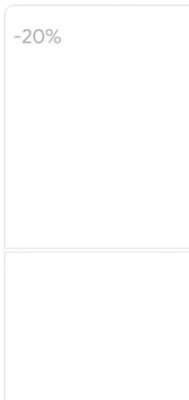
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Putin, Wagner Group Target Serbian Government as Protests Hit Capital



Aleksandar Vucic (AP)

By **Marisa Herman** | Wednesday, 15 February 2023 11:20 PM EST



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Russian President Vladimir Putin – who continues to lose allies as his invasion of Ukraine drags into a second year – is using an infamous mercenary outfit to foment discord in Serbia as President Aleksandar Vucic has become increasingly aligned with Western nations.

On Wednesday, Moscow's long reach rocked Belgrade as pro-Russian protesters and hardline Serb nationalists protested across the capital.

The protesters said they opposed the Vucic government's efforts to reduced tensions over Kovoso, a disputed territory that remains for nationalists part of Serbia's historic heartland,

Serbia sees Kosovo as a pretext used by Russia and its paramilitary Wagner Group to ramp up influence operations in an effort to undermine Vucic's government.

The Wagner Group appears closely aligned with the People's Patrol, a Serbian nationalist organization which has referred to Vucic and his party as traitors and threatened to overthrow the government.

Putin has reason to be angered by Vucic, who has moved his country closer to the EU and the United States.

Vucic voted to support several UN resolutions condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its annexation of eastern territories.

"We, from the very beginning, said that we were not able and we could not support Russia's invasion against Ukraine," Vucic told Bloomberg in January. "For us, Crimea is Ukraine, Donbas is Ukraine, [and it'll remain so.](#)"

[According to press reports](#), the Wagner Group and its proxies set up operations in Belgrade in December, including efforts to recruit mercenaries to join the Russian war effort.

The Serbian government moved to close down those efforts, but now say they see the group's hand in the current protests.

"Russia's Wagner Group and its proxies in Serbia are trying to destabilize the Serbian government," a senior Serbian security official told Newsmax.

"We need our friends and partners to understand the threats and challenges that Serbia faces from Russia. These are serious

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threats directed at the Serbian government, especially President Vucic and his personal safety."

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Vucic has stated that the Wagner Group has no business maintaining a Serbian presence let alone interfering in its

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Wednesday's protests came as Putin called Serbia an "important and... [Click Here to comment on this article](#)... able partner of Russia" in a letter to Vucic that congratulated Serbia on its statehood day on Wednesday.

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But the U.S. government believes the Kremlin is unhappy with Vucic and sees Serbia's pro-Western tilt as a serious threat to its goals in the region.

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"The cables show how U.S. officials are tracking the movements and activities of Wagner on the ground in the Central African Republic and Serbia, and the extent to which the group poses threats to local forces and officials," [Politico reported last month](#).

An estimated 200,000 Russians have fled to Serbia since the outbreak of its war with Ukraine, with many said to be young dissenters opposed to the invasion and evading Putin's mobilizations. [Contact](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Shop](#) | [RSS](#) | [Archives](#) | [Links](#) | [Careers](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) |

Intelligence agencies say the Wagner Group is being used to surveil and threaten Putin's critics living in Serbia.
Reuters reported that protesters held up signs reading "Kosovo-No Surrender" and cheered "Serbia-Russia" when ultranationalist Damjan Knezevic, who has ties to the Wagner Group, called for rioting if Belgrade caves to the Western-backed plan on Kosovo.


"You [government] are fearing riots. I swear to you, we are ready for more than that," he said.
Referring to Vucic, he told the crowd that if "state leadership fails to prevent Kosovo from joining the UN, we are asking the Russian leadership to use its veto and to give us at least a month to remove this traitor."


The threats from the pro-Russian groups come as Vucic has publicly stated that Serbia "must remain on its EU path."

With EU membership on the line, he said, "we would be lost without it, economically and politically. If we were to be alone and isolated, that is not something I would accept as a president."

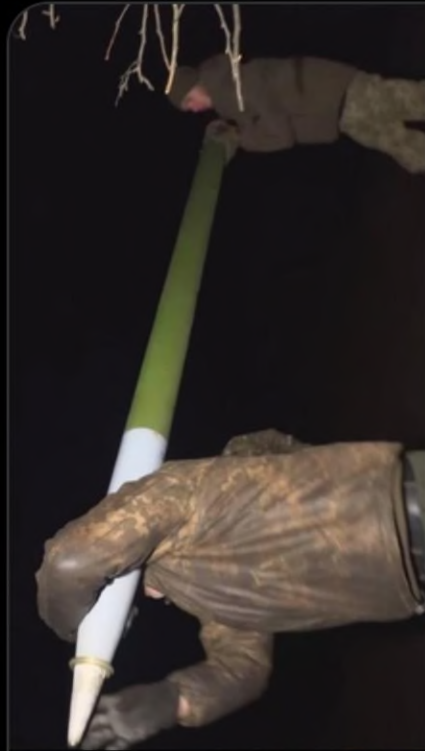
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 **Ukraine Weapons Tracker**
@UAWeapons

#Ukraine: Recently information resurfaced that Serbia sold "3500 Grad rockets" to Ukraine via a third party- we can confirm that  Grad rockets were indeed delivered to Ukraine.

More interestingly they are not standard, but ER Grad 2000- with a max range of 40km instead of ~20.



TECHNICAL DATA

Caliber	.....122 mm
Length	.....2875 mm
Total mass	.....89 kg
Mass of warhead with fuze	.....19,1 kg
Charge mass	.....20,15 kg
Motor total impulse	.....62250 Ns
Motor specific impulse	.....2280 Ns
Temperature range of use	..... - 30° C to + 50° C
Optimal angle of elevation	.....55°
Range	.....40 km
Fuze	..... upper impact mechanical with superquick and delay action
MRV-U	.....

PACKING

1 rocket in a wooden case
Case dimension.....2900 x 285 x 225 mm

4:19 PM · Feb 28, 2023 · **1.3M** Views

Moscow demanded from Belgrade an official position on the supply of weapons to Kiev

2 марта 2023, 13:08

This was stated by the official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry Maria Zakharova.

Russia has asked the Serbian side for an official position on the supply of weapons to Ukraine.

"This should be done not through the media, not through Telegram channels, not through leaks, but through the officially stated position of the Serbian side. The facts must be revealed", - the representative of the foreign ministry said in an **interview** with RBC.

Then Russia will draw conclusions, since the issue of arms supplies to the Ukrainian side is very important for bilateral relations.

Recall that parliamentary hearings have started in Serbia after the information of the Russian TV channel Mash that the Balkan republic secretly transfers weapons to the Kiev regime - 3,500 missiles for the Grad MLRS. According to Zakharova, the likely involvement of Belgrade in the supply is of deep concern.

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