

Kosovo police seize smuggled arms, rounds

by UPI

PRISTINA, Serbia -- Kosovo's police have seized 506 handguns and a large amount of ammunition at three sites in Serbia's mainly ethnic-Albanian province, media said Thursday. Gen. Rahman Suleymani, a department chief of the Kosovo multi-national police service, told reporters in the provincial capital of Pristina his teams arrested two suspects for arms trafficking, the Serbian news agency Beta reported. Police also confiscated more than 2,000 bullets and a number of hunting rifles. Suleymani said the arms were smuggled into Kosovo from neighboring Macedonia. Kosovo, formally part of Serbia, has been U.N.-administered territory since 1999, when NATO troops were deployed to contain Serb-ethnic Albanian armed conflicts. The United States, Russia and the European Union currently are trying to work out an agenda for a new round of talks between Serbs and ethnic-Albanians to decide on the future status of Kosovo. Leaders of ethnic-Albanians, who make 90 percent of Kosovo's 1.8 million population, insist on independence from the Serbian government in Belgrade. The Belgrade government, which represents 100,000 Serbs living in Kosovo, says the province will always be an integral part of Serbia.

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