



SERBIAN PARLIAMENT PROTEST

Investigating how local, regional, and European news outlets covered the event, highlighting differences in narrative framing, key themes, and political implications across various countries and media landscapes.

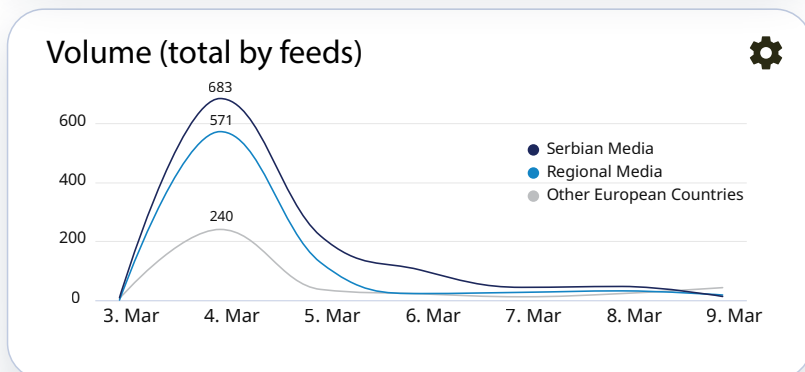
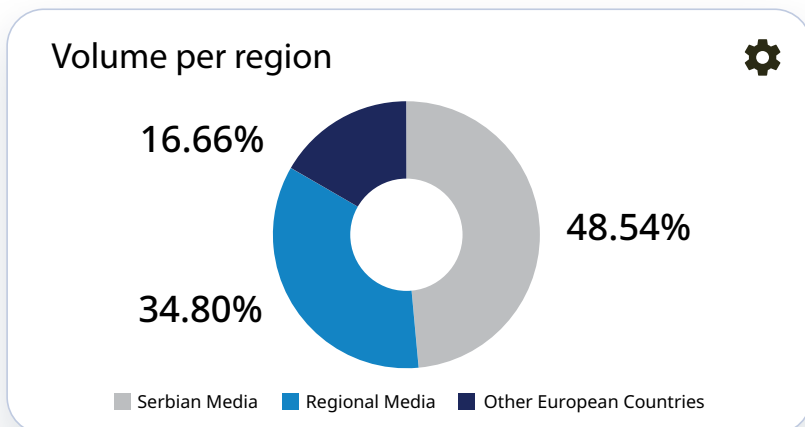
11.03.2025



Serbian Parliament Protest

In early March 2025, media attention was drawn to the disruption that occurred during the Serbian Parliament session, when opposition lawmakers used flares and smoke grenades to protest against government policies. This report examines the media coverage of the event across local, regional, and global news outlets within Europe, focusing on the distribution of coverage and the framing of the protest by various media groups.

Key Observations



48%
of the coverage was local, from Serbia

35%
of the coverage was from regional sources, like the Balkans

17%
of the coverage was from the rest of Europe

Analysis of Regional and Global Coverage

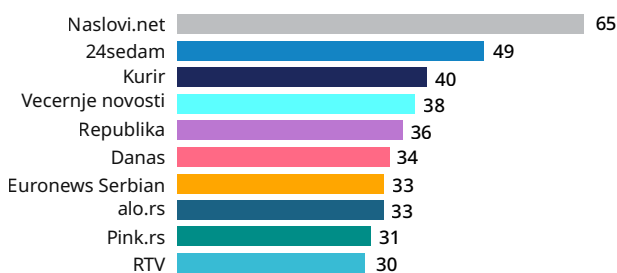
Local Coverage (Serbia - 46%)

The largest share of coverage came from local Serbian media, accounting for 46% of all content on the event. This coverage was primarily focused on the events in the Serbian Parliament on March 4th, with discussions on political opposition, government response, and security measures. Local outlets framed the incident in the context of domestic political unrest and anti-corruption protests. Several outlets known for their pro-government stance, such as 24sedam, Kurir, Republika, Pink.rs, and RTV, were among the most active in covering the event.

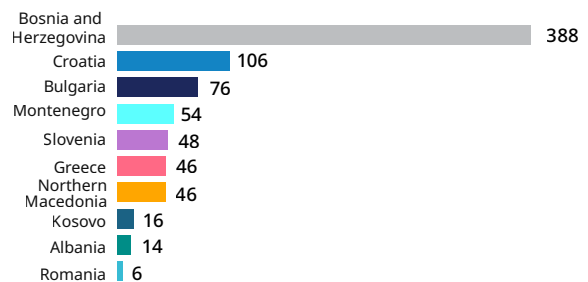
Regional - Top Source Countries (by volume)

The second-largest share of coverage came from regional Balkan media, accounting for 35% of all reporting on the event. This coverage was led by outlets in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, focusing on political tensions and potential spillover from the unrest in Serbia. Some Bulgarian media added a provocative angle, highlighting remarks by far-right MP Kostadin Kostadinov, who linked the protests to wider anti-Western trends and portrayed the unrest as part of a struggle against Western influence in Eastern Europe.

Top Sources

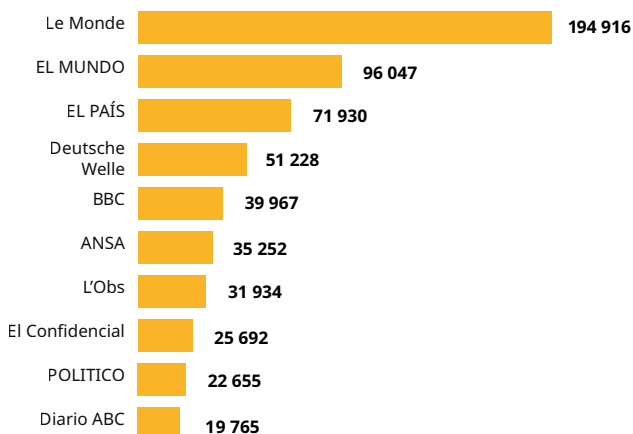


Top Source Countries



Global Coverage

Top Brand Names



Global media outlets from outside the Balkans made up 19% of the coverage. Major European news organizations such as Le Monde, El Mundo, El País, BBC, France Info, Tagesschau, and Reuters provided extensive coverage of the event, with a particular focus on the political implications of the disruption in the Serbian Parliament. Russian media, particularly News Pravda, which publishes in Serbian as well, was the most active global outlet, with a significant focus on the Serbian perspective.

Media Focus on Individuals and Language Distribution

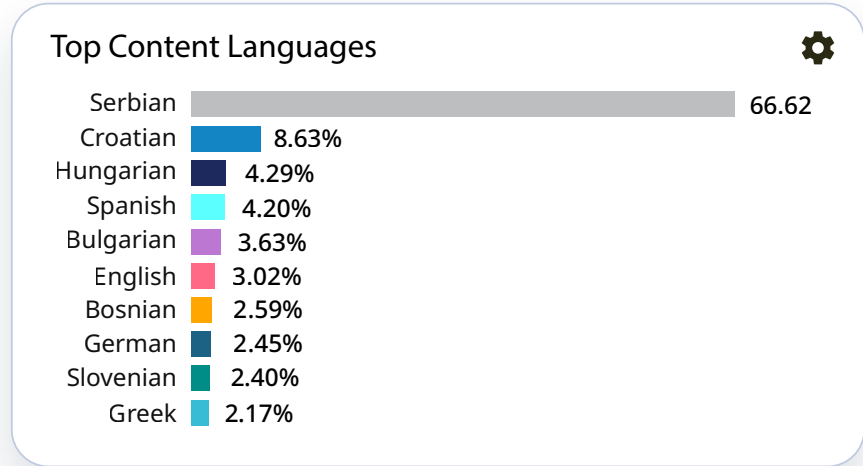
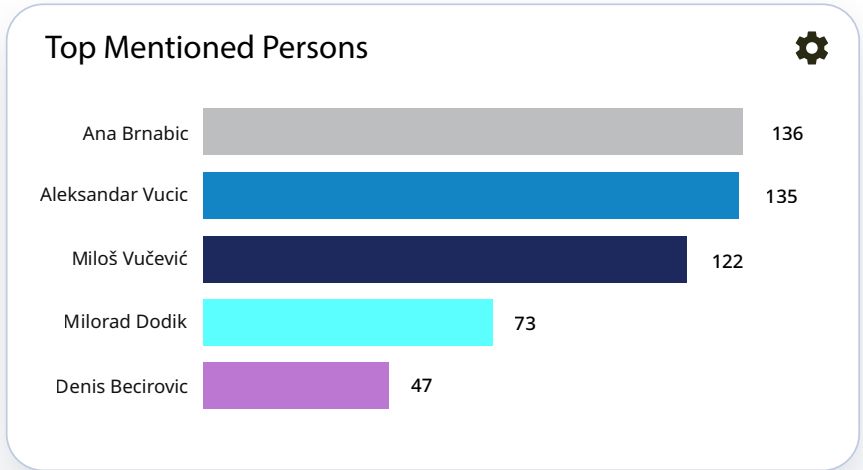


Aleksandar Vučić

President of Serbia, who was frequently framed as the central figure in the political tension that led to the protests.



Ana Brnabić: Prime Minister of Serbia, often portrayed as a key player in the government’s response to the opposition’s actions. The focus on these two political figures highlights the polarization of Serbian politics and the high-profile nature of the protest.



8% in Croatian, indicating significant regional attention from neighboring countries in the Balkans.

60% of the coverage was published in Serbian, reflecting the dominance of local media.



Geopolitical Narratives

“*When the pro-Western opposition in Serbia throws explosives at deputies and leaves them in critical condition, Brussels remains silent. When 300,000 Greeks set their own parliament on fire, the European Commission turns a blind eye. But when someone in Bulgaria throws red paint at a building, suddenly it becomes a global problem.*”



One of the most notable elements of the coverage was the Bulgarian far-right politician's comments, which gained attention in local Bulgarian media. Kostadin Konstadinov compared the protest in Serbia to other events in the Balkans, making an anti-Western statement that suggested the European Union was biased against non-Western nations.

This statement highlights the geopolitical divide within the Balkans and Eastern Europe, as some political figures use such events to promote nationalist and anti-Western sentiments.

Conclusion

The Serbian Parliament protest on March 4th, 2025, was covered by both local and international media. The local Serbian press presented the event as part of ongoing political struggles within the country, focusing on domestic responses. Regional Balkan outlets explored the broader implications of the protests within the context of the Balkans, while global European media provided more critical perspectives on the situation, particularly regarding the EU's stance on Serbia.

The Bulgarian far-right MP's comments added a controversial geopolitical angle, framing the event as part of a broader anti-Western narrative, which was widely discussed in regional and local media but criticized by international sources.

Future research could further explore the discrepancies in geopolitical framing between local, regional, and global outlets, as well as public sentiment across different media sources.

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