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**BLACKMAIL IN THE CRIMINAL LEGISLATION OF SERBIA  
IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

**Summary:** The crime of blackmail appeared relatively late in the criminal legislation of Serbia, until then it was considered a privileged form of extortion, which it actually is. This crime did not find the incrimination of its act of execution even in Dušan's code, the first codified legal text, although in several places expressions of force, theft and other elements of property crimes appear, but not even in the legislation of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Blackmail received its first normative provision in a separate article only in the legislation of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in the Criminal Code of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes from 1929, being considered a formally privileged form of extortion, and its independent incrimination in terms of its name only in the Criminal to the FNRJ Code from 1951. In positive criminal legislation, blackmail is a complex property-related, violent crime, but also a form of organized crime. In the paper, the author analyzes blackmail in the criminal legislation of Serbia through the historical legal texts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, also reviewing the incrimination of this act in the positive application of the Criminal Code, on the basis of which he draws conclusions about better and more effective solutions, as well as the importance of the historical development of this criminal act.

**Keywords:** blackmail, criminal legislation, history, 20<sup>th</sup> century, Criminal Code

Примљено: 29. 3. 2023.

Прихваћено: 12. 6. 2023.