

## **Novelist A.C. Frieden Explores Belgrade for Scenes in a New Thriller**

**BELGRADE, Serbia (Sept. 19, 2010)** – Chicago-based author A.C. Frieden is spending part of his time in Belgrade, Serbia searching for scenes for a new novel. Frieden focused his search in three parts of the capital: the east bank of the Sava River; the Kalemegdan area with its fortress; and the area west of Republic Square, including Skamania Street, Boulevard Despot Stefani and vicinity.



*Photo above: Author A.C. Frieden at the Military Museum in the Kalemegdan area of Belgrade.*

Frieden walked through an old market in search of a possible location for a chase scene. The Baljoni market began operating in the late 1930s and is named after a well-known local Jewish merchant. The market is now also called Skadarlija, named after the quaint pedestrian street just west of the market. It has over 500 stalls offering produce, meat, fish, toiletries, luggage, kitchen items and other essentials. “It’s an ideal place for either a hair-raising chase scene or an intriguing clandestine rendezvous,” said Frieden, “so I’ll decide after reviewing my notes and all the pictures.”



*Photo above: A.C. Frieden wandered through the Baljoni market (a/k/a Skadarlija market) in downtown Belgrade to gather sufficient details to include the location in a chase scene.*

Frieden walked along Terazije street and the area around the historical Hotel Balkan and Moskva Hotel, both of which were important venues in Belgrade's upper class in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and also in espionage circles of the Cold War. Frieden also searched for scenes west of there, in the Zeleni Venac neighborhood toward the Sava River. Zeleni Venac borders the neighborhood of Savamala to the south, while the northern border is the *Brankova* street. The area was first developed as a remnant of the sloping defensive trench which surrounded the Kalemegdan fortress in the 18th century. Today, the area features many small businesses, apartment blocks and a large open-air market which began operating in 1924.



**Photo above:** Chicago-based novelist A.C. Frieden walked around the Zeleni Venac neighborhood of Belgrade on the east bank of the Sava River. The area includes a mix of older apartment blocks, old or abandoned warehouses, and many small shops, and is near Branko's Bridge.

Frieden's other literary-related research in Belgrade focused on the NATO bombing in 1999, including the hidden truth behind the Chinese Embassy bombing and other espionage-related aspects of the conflict (see [Press Release 100918PR1](#) for details).

**About the author:** A.C. Frieden is a Swiss-Brazilian novelist and lawyer living in Chicago. He is currently working on several political novels and thrillers, including a sequel to his latest thriller *Tranquility Denied*, as well as various other fiction and non-fiction literary projects. For more information, visit his website at [www.acfrieden.com](http://www.acfrieden.com) and his literary travel/research blog.

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