



BEZBEDNI NOVINARI

**SIGURNA
L!NIJA**
0800 100 115

Dejan Anastasijević
**KO MI JE STAVIO
BOMBE NA
PROZOR**
I DRUGI ODABRANI
TEKSTOVI



Dejan Anastasijević, Slavko Ćuruvija and Dada Vujašinović (photo: ANEM collage / Slavko Ćuruvija Fondacija / Peđa Mitić / private archives)

MONITORING OF THE MEDIA SCENE IN SERBIA FOR APRIL 2025

INTRODUCTION

The monitoring of the media scene is conducted to continuously track events and processes affecting media freedom in the Republic of Serbia. This monitoring focuses on freedom of expression; monitoring the implementation of existing regulations; the adoption of new regulations, as well as amendments to current ones, both in the media field and other areas that directly or indirectly impact media freedom; and the analysis of lawsuits considered by experts to be SLAPP suits (strategic lawsuits against public participation) targeting journalists and media outlets.

Publicly available data, information obtained from journalists, editors, and other media professionals, journalistic associations, and media organizations, as well as from governmental and non-governmental bodies, are used for monitoring.

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I. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

April is a month filled with somber reminders of the ultimate price that journalists in Serbia have paid for decades—their lives.

This month marked thirty-one years since the death of Dada Vujasinović. The circumstances surrounding her death remain unresolved to this day. Last year, the statute of limitations for prosecuting the crime of murder expired completely.¹

Eighteen years ago, an attempt was made on the life of journalist Dejan Anastasijević, when a bomb exploded beneath the window of his apartment. The case remains unsolved.²

Journalist Slavko Ćuruvija was murdered twenty-six years ago. On the anniversary of his death, a hearing was scheduled in the case brought by three of the accused—subsequently acquitted—against the foundation bearing his name. The hearing was postponed, and once again, people stood in front of the courthouse, left without answers.

That same year, twenty-six years ago, during the bombing of the RTS (Radio Television of Serbia) building, sixteen employees lost their lives.³

Reporters Without Borders has called on the European Parliament to demand that the European Commission firmly denounce the damage inflicted by Serbian authorities on media freedom. Pavol Szalai, Head of the EU and Balkans Desk at Reporters Without Borders, stated that the Serbian government, through its continuous undermining of safety and independence, has brought the media to the brink of existence. In his view, EU member states and institutions must not remain passive in the face of the systematic erosion of the right to reliable information.⁴

At a press conference held during the visit of representatives of international associations and organizations within the Media Freedom Rapid Response (MFRR) consortium⁵, the European Union was urged to publicly condemn the attacks on journalists and media outlets in Serbia. The MFRR also called for negotiations on Chapter 23 to be frozen until threats, pressure, and repression against journalists come to an end. The Serbian authorities—particularly the president—were called upon to stop attacks on journalists, who are especially vulnerable when reporting from protests. The urgent need to cease the use of spyware was also emphasized.⁶

Representatives of the MFRR visited Serbia from April 7 to 9, 2025, with the goal of gathering information on media freedoms, pressures on independent journalists, and threats to their safety by the authorities.

More than one hundred organizations, activist groups, and political parties—joined by family members of the detained activists—sent a letter to European institutions, calling for swift action in response to the political persecution of Novi Sad-based activists from the STAV group and the Movement of Free Citizens. These individuals were detained following the release of an audio recording of a wiretapped conversation, just one day before the “15 for 15” protest.⁷ Those deprived of liberty were: Lazar Dinić, Lado Jovović, Marija Vasić, Davor Stefanović, Srđan Đurić, and Mladen Cvijetić. (For more information, see the [Monitoring of the Media Scene in Serbia – February 2025](#).) The Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Novi Sad has charged them with the criminal offense of Preparation of acts against the constitutional order and security of Serbia, in connection with the crimes of Attack on the constitutional order and Incitement to violent change of the constitutional order.⁸

Following the most recent decision to extend detention by another 30 days (issued on May 13), activist and high school sociology teacher Marija Vasić began a hunger and thirst strike.⁹ Due to her deteriorating health, she was transferred from the District Prison in Novi Sad to the hospital at the Central Prison in Belgrade.¹⁰

According to media reports, activist Davor Stefanović suffered a double nasal fracture while in detention. The Directorate for the Execution of Criminal Sanctions stated that the injury was inflicted by another detainee.¹¹

At the time of writing this Monitoring Report, more than two months after their arrest, Marija Vasić, Lado Jovović, and Lazar Dinić have been released from detention and placed under house arrest with electronic monitoring. Meanwhile, detention was extended by another 30 days for activists Mladen Cvijetić, Srđan Đurić, and Davor Stefanović (the appeal period is currently ongoing).¹² Expressing justified dissatisfaction with the authorities’ stance, citizens have been organizing blockades of the courthouse and prosecutor’s office buildings in Novi Sad.¹³

In April, the Higher Court in Belgrade extended the detention of Srđan Žunić, activist and founder of the movement “United People of Serbia.” He is charged with the criminal offense of Obstruction of an Official in the Performance of Official Duties (Article 23 of the Law on Public Order and Peace).¹⁴

While in detention, Žunić initiated a hunger strike. At the time of writing this report, after spending fifty-four days in detention, the ruling ordering his detention was overturned. The Court of Appeal found that the factual description of the actions attributed to him in the indictment by the Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Belgrade does not meet the legal definition of the offense of Obstruction of an Official in the Performance of Official Duties.¹⁵

Journalist associations, members of the Permanent Working Group for the Safety of Journalists, and representatives of the Public Prosecutor's Office held a meeting at the premises of the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) in Novi Sad. The meeting addressed issues identified in cases involving threats to journalists' safety and physical attacks against them—specifically, the case of the attack on journalists from IN Medija in Inđija and the assault on cameraman Mirko Todorović. Zoran Strika, editor at Radio 021, shared his personal experience of being physically attacked while reporting on the departure of SNS activists to the most recent rally held by the ruling party in Belgrade.¹⁶

During the meeting, proposals were put forward for legislative amendments aimed at better protecting the physical integrity of media professionals.



Meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Safety of Journalists in Novi Sad (photo: OEBS/M. Janković)



RTS blockade (photo: V. Matić)

RTS Blockade

On May 14, students called on the public to join the blockade of the RTS (Radio Television of Serbia) buildings in Takovska Street, Aberdareva Street, and on Košutnjak. Through their official social media accounts, they announced that the protest would last “until a new public call for REM is issued, or until RTS is shut down.”¹⁷ They also addressed the Parliamentary Committee on Culture and Information, demanding that the selection process for REM Council members be repeated and conducted in a transparent manner.¹⁸

The blockade of RTS lasted fourteen days and ended after the Committee on Culture and Information decided to annul the previous public call and issue a new one for the selection of REM Council members.¹⁹

Snježana Milivojević, full professor of Public Opinion and Media Studies at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade, stated that students had successfully identified all the key problematic areas related to the media. She interpreted the demand to shut down RTS as an expression of the need for a symbolic break with the past. Regarding the new public call for the selection of REM Council members—one that would be conducted transparently and in accordance with the law—she said it was a task that simply must be done.²⁰

Branko Stanković, author of the show *Kvadratura kruga*, which airs on RTS, and a known supporter of student protests, commented on colleagues “breaking through” the blockade by saying: “I cannot enter my workplace through kebab shops and rat tunnels.”²¹

RTS characterized the blockade as undue pressure and demanded that students and citizens end it immediately.²² When that did not happen, on the second day of the blockade, police were tasked with escorting fifteen employees into the RTS building.²³ In the days that followed, RTS began modifying its programming and broadcasting from studios whose locations were not (at the time) publicly disclosed.²⁴

Accusing unknown individuals (NN) of the criminal offense of Obstruction of Printing and Distribution of Printed Matter and Program Broadcasting (Article 149, Paragraph 2 of the Criminal Code)²⁵, Radio Television of Serbia filed a criminal complaint. A second complaint was also filed against unknown individuals, this time related to several “wanted posters” featuring the photo of an RTS editor, the corresponding article of law under which they were “wanted,” and a promise of a reward in the form of free media for the “finder.” This complaint alleged the criminal offense of Endangering Safety (Article 138, Paragraph 2) in concurrence with Stalking (Article 138a, Paragraph 2).²⁶ Journalist associations expressed concern and condemned the public dissemination of personal information about journalists.²⁷

More than fifty journalists from RTS held an assembly in the public broadcaster’s parking lot on April 16. According to a statement by the Independent Journalists’ Association of Serbia (NUNS), just a few hours after the meeting ended, five of the employees were summoned for questioning. Some of them are part of an informal group called “Naš pRoTeSt” (“Our pRoTeSt”), made up of RTS employees who are demanding greater professional accountability and freedom of expression from the public broadcaster.²⁸



RTS blockade (photo: V. Matić)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) called on the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the National Assembly to explain to the public why the Security Information Agency (BIA) had summoned RTS journalists for questioning.²⁹

Members of the “Naš pRoTeSt” group demanded the resignation of those responsible for insulting students on RTS programming. They called on Nenad Lj. Stefanović, the editor-in-chief of the news program, and his deputies Gorislav Papić and Zoran Stanojević to disclose the name of the author of a segment in which the students participating in the blockade were compared to Nazis (the segment aired on April 16).³⁰ The group submitted a petition to the Parliamentary Committee on Culture and Information, signed by over 23,000 citizens, demanding that a public competition be launched to select new members of the REM Council.³¹

During the RTS blockade, Euronews Serbia published a statement alleging that RTS journalists had been working “in a ghetto” for over seventy hours, that they were being “herded into camps,” and subjected to “unprecedented torture, abuse, and both physical and psychological violence.”³² As the statement was unsigned, it was quickly disavowed by more than eighty journalists from that very newsroom. Strongly denouncing the use of terms such as “ghetto” and “camps” as entirely inappropriate, the journalists emphasized their commitment to “a culture and ethics of public discourse, refraining from hate speech, aggressive rhetoric, or any language that might incite discrimination or violence.”³³ Their rejection of the statement was supported by the professional public.³⁴



RTS blockade (photo: V. Matić)

II ATTACKS, THREATS, AND PRESSURE

First-instance verdict in the case of threats against Kurir journalist Jelena S. Spasić

Due to threats made against Kurir journalist Jelena Spasić, the Higher Court in Belgrade sentenced Saša Mirović to seven months in prison. Mirović has the right to appeal the verdict.

Spasić received threatening messages after publishing several articles about the challenges faced by children and adults living with diabetes. (More on this case can be found in the Media Scene Monitoring reports for [September](#) and [October](#) 2024, as well as [January](#) 2025.)

Case of the attack on Radar journalist Vuk Cvijić

Vuk Cvijić filed an objection to a decision in which the prosecution stated that Milan Lađević, one of the co-owners and publishers of the pro-government tabloids Srpski telegraf and [Republika.rs](#), despite having struck and pushed the journalist, had not committed a criminal offense that would warrant prosecution ex officio.

The objection challenges the prosecution's claim that the incident did not disturb public peace (among witnesses, Cvijić's colleagues, and the broader public) and argues that the prosecution failed to investigate whether Lađević may have committed other offenses beyond the primary charge of violent behavior.

(More on the attack on Vuk Cvijić can be found in the Media Scene Monitoring reports for [May](#) and [June](#) 2024 and [March](#) 2025.)

Obstruction of reporting by the N1 Television news crew

The reporting team of N1 Television was prevented from covering the movement of a group that set off on foot from Novi Sad to Belgrade to attend a rally called by the President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić. Police officers informed the journalists that they could not continue reporting, citing a lack of sufficient Ministry of Interior personnel to ensure their safety.

Supporters of the Serbian Progressive Party who gathered to welcome the marchers, as well as participants in the procession, called the N1 news crew Ustaše and traitors. Some approached reporter Sanja Kosović aggressively, insulted her, and prevented her from taking photos. Among those gathered was the president of the municipality of Stara Pazova, Đorđe Radinović.³⁵

Although the N1 team had been covering student protest marches for months, the journalist stated that they had never before been asked to stop reporting.³⁶

In addition to the N1 crew, journalists from Al Jazeera were also subjected to pressure. The professional community responded to the incidents.³⁷

Case of Dejan Ilić, columnist for the Peščanik website

Due to his response to a question from a TV Nova journalist regarding the idea of a transitional government, Dejan Ilić was summoned by the police. Concluding that there were grounds to suspect he had committed the criminal offense of Causing panic and disorder, the prosecution ordered that Ilić be detained for 48 hours. The portion of his statement that allegedly caused panic was:

“You have a choice: either you open the door for those people to retreat—opening the door being the transitional government—or you accept that there will be blood in the streets, that we will lose an unknown number of lives and we don’t know whose lives, in order to free ourselves from them.”

The second part of Ilić’s statement, which the prosecution did not take into account, reads:

“And now you have a choice: are you ready to sacrifice lives, or are you going to deal with the situation by agreeing to sit in a government that includes some of them? They’ll be in the government but will have no power. That’s what matters. The issue is not whether they’re in the government or not, but whether they can actually do anything. And if this is a way to save lives, to avoid bloodshed, I have no doubt that we should pursue a transitional government. So if that’s the strongest argument against a transitional government, it doesn’t hold. Although it may seem convincing at first glance, it easily collapses, because this is truly a matter of choosing between lives and a compromise that, in fact, brings nothing to the other side.”³⁸

After giving his statement, the detention order against Ilić was revoked. The Ministry of the Interior announced that a criminal complaint for Causing panic and disorder would be filed against him.³⁹

The professional community expressed solidarity with Dejan Ilić and deep concern over his detention at the police station.⁴⁰

Case of the attack on Zoran Strika, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Radio 021 portal

The attack on Zoran Strika occurred while he was reporting on the departure of citizens from Novi Sad to attend a rally for Aleksandar Vučić in Belgrade. The journalist filmed two men assaulting a young man who was also recording the event. The assailants knocked the man to the ground and began kicking him. They took his phone and threw it into the Danube. The young man sustained head injuries.⁴¹

One of the attackers noticed Strika filming the incident and charged at him, grabbing his arm and neck in an attempt to seize his phone. While resisting the attacker, Strika called out to Ognjen Dopuđ, Director of the Provincial Fund for European Affairs and Development, who was nearby, and asked him to intervene. Dopuđ did not respond. Strika nevertheless managed to fend off the attacker and keep his phone.⁴²

Strika and the injured young man moved to safety. Using his mobile phone, the journalist called the police. While they were waiting for the police to arrive, three hooded men approached them. One of them came up to the injured man, who was at that moment speaking to his wife using Strika's phone, grabbed the device, and threw it into the Danube.⁴³

The domestic professional community condemned the attack and called for the identification and prosecution of the perpetrators.⁴⁴

Attack on the KTV crew during the “We Won’t Give Up Serbia” rally

While reporting from the “We Won’t Give Up Serbia” gathering, organized at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Serbia to mark the founding of the “Movement for the People and the State,” a five-member KTV news crew—Nemanja Šarović, leader of the “Love, Faith, Hope” movement and KTV reporter, cameraman Siniša Nikšić, two technicians, and KTV owner Danijel Radić—was surrounded and then physically attacked by sympathizers of the Serbian Progressive Party. Before the attack, individuals dressed in security uniforms hurled numerous insults at them. One unidentified person hit Šarović with a bottle, while another charged at the TV camera, damaging it so severely that it lost signal.

Šarović stated that their crew was attacked by: the Director of City Sanitation Marko Popadić, the mayors of Kruševac and Čuprija, the Director of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund Relja Ognjenović, and other party and state officials.⁴⁵

At the Emergency Center, members of the KTV crew were diagnosed with minor and more serious bodily injuries. Šarović sustained contusions to the left cheekbone, right ear, and jaw joint; technician Milorad Malešev had three teeth knocked out; and KTV owner Danijel Radić, cameraman Siniša Nikšić, and the second technician suffered minor injuries.⁴⁶

Journalist associations condemned the attack.⁴⁷

The case was recorded on the [Mapping Media Freedom](#) platform, which tracks media freedom violations across Europe.

The news agency Beta contacted the Higher Public Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade to ask whether it would take action to identify and prosecute the attackers of the KTV crew. The response was that the incident did not constitute a criminal offense under their jurisdiction. The journalists were referred to the First Basic Public Prosecutor's Office (because the incident occurred in its jurisdiction), the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Misdemeanor Court in Belgrade.⁴⁸

The First Basic Public Prosecutor's Office summoned Nemanja Šarović to give a statement in the capacity of a citizen. Šarović informed the public that the said prosecutor's office does not consider itself competent in this case, and that he does not wish to “participate in a farce,” but rather demands that the attackers be “apprehended, questioned, and detained.”⁴⁹

Al Jazeera News Crew Prohibited from Filming the “We Won’t Give Up Serbia” Rally

While members of the Al Jazeera news crew — reporter Katarina Vojnović, a camera-woman, and a satellite operator — were filming the “We Won’t Give Up Serbia” rally from the terrace of a privately owned apartment, two plainclothes police officers entered the apartment and prohibited them from continuing to film. The reporter stated that the officers showed their badges and asked them to present their press IDs and personal identification cards. After “checking with their superiors,” the officers confirmed that they could not film the rally from that location and were only allowed to film from the street. When the journalists asked who could grant them permission to film, the officers responded that the rally organizer was responsible for issuing such permissions, but they did not know who that was.⁵⁰

Threats Directed at Editor and Journalist of Niška Inicijativa, Srđan Nonić

A group of masked men, acting as (unofficial) security for a convoy of buses heading to the “We Won’t Give Up Serbia” rally, issued multiple threats, insults, and profanities toward a citizen who tried to film them, police officers present at the scene, and Srđan Nonić, editor and journalist of the Niška Inicijativa outlet.

The group also attacked a nearby vehicle, damaging it in the process. After two additional police vehicles arrived on the scene, the attackers dispersed.

The incident was reported to the relevant authorities.⁵¹

Attack on Istinomer Journalist

While filming tents that had been set up the night before in front of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia by individuals of unclear affiliation, an Istinomer journalist was attacked by an unidentified man. The attacker was among those occupying and surrounding the tents.

Despite wearing clearly visible press identification and stating she was a journalist, the attacker struck her hand, knocking the phone out of it. The journalist immediately sought help from a nearby police officer, but assistance was not provided. The officer did not record the incident and simply told her to be cautious around the crowd, as “they behave the same way toward the police.”⁵²

Journalist associations demanded the immediate identification and prosecution of the attacker.⁵³

Threats and Pressure Directed at Žig Info Editor and Journalist Željko Matorčević

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) called for an end to the pressure being exerted on journalist Željko Matorčević, who, according to NUNS, has been targeted on social media by political activist Dragoljub Krstić. Additionally, Saša Mijailović, a councilor from the ruling coalition in Grocka, has been threatening Matorčević through messages, saying he will release an allegedly inappropriate video of him.⁵⁴

Krstić posted a maliciously edited photograph on his Facebook profile showing Matorčević injured in a hospital, where he had been admitted following a previous physical attack.

That assault remains unresolved to this day.

In a statement to the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), Matorčević explained that the doctored photo was published after the Žig Info portal released an article about a court hearing which Dragoljub Krstić failed to attend. According to Matorčević, Saša Mijailović demanded that Žig Info remove an article about individuals who had participated in the "15 for 15" protest held in Pionirski Park. In return, Mijailović allegedly promised not to publish a compromising video he claimed to possess.⁵⁵

Matorčević has filed a criminal complaint against both Dragoljub Krstić and Saša Mijailović.

Journalists working for Žig Info are continuously exposed to pressure. Milan Jovanović's house was set on fire, and Matorčević sustained serious bodily injuries.

More information on the pressure faced by the Žig Info editorial team can be found in the [Media Scene Monitoring Report for Serbia – February 2023](#).



Željko Matorčević in the hospital
(foto: J. Dobrilović)

Insajder TV News Crew Barred from Reporting in Pionirski Park

Unknown men prevented journalist Irena Stević from entering Pionirski Park to carry out her reporting duties. The Insajder TV crew went to the park to seek answers to questions they had posed to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MUP), which the Ministry had failed to answer. The questions were as follows:

- Was the rally in front of the National Assembly of Serbia officially registered, and if so, by whom?
- Who authorized the setting up of tents in front of the Assembly?
- Who registered the “We Won’t Give Up Serbia” rally?
- Who registered the camp in Pionirski Park?
- Did the registration specify the duration of these gatherings?⁵⁶

The police officers present at the scene could not identify the individuals who had denied Stević entry to the park, even though the entrance was — by their own account — open to the public.⁵⁷

The Journalists’ Association of Serbia (UNS) expressed concern over the frequent obstruction and attacks on journalists. UNS particularly highlighted the alarming trend of police officers failing to react, even when they witness such incidents.⁵⁸

Threats Continue Unabated

Journalists and the headquarters of TV N1 received threats through the social media platform X and their official email address.⁵⁹

Žarko Bogosavljević, a journalist for the portal Razglas-news, who was wearing a vest clearly marked “PRESS,” was among students and citizens gathered in front of the Faculty of Sport and Physical Education to prevent Dean Patrik Drid from unblocking the faculty. The police used force indiscriminately against the group. The journalist told the Independent Journalists’ Association of Serbia that it was unclear why the police took such action.⁶⁰

The President of the National Assembly of Serbia, Ana Brnabić, accused the FoNet news agency of inciting an assassination attempt on the President of the Republic of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, by allegedly broadcasting a statement from attorney Božo Prelević. However, FoNet has clearly stated that it did not publish such a statement, and attorney Prelević has confirmed that he never made such a claim.⁶¹

Nebojša Jovanović, a journalist for TV Nova S, was preparing a report on citizens from Čačak traveling to the SNS rally in Belgrade. While aggressively trying to prevent the filming of a public event, the President of the Čačak Municipal Assembly, Igor Trifunović, apparently incited one of the attendees to damage the camera, physically attack the cameraman, and seize and throw the microphone to the ground. In this case as well, the police failed to respond promptly.

IV MONITORING THE PROCESS OF ADOPTING NEW LAWS

No significant developments regarding the process of adopting new legislation were recorded in April.

V IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING REGULATIONS

Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media

The Constitutional Court rejected an initiative to launch proceedings for the assessment of the constitutionality of Article 126, paragraph 1 of the Law on Electronic Media (LEM), submitted by members of the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media (REM) Council who had been appointed under the previous version of the law.

Article 126, paragraph 1 stipulates that members of the Council appointed under the previous law shall continue to perform their function for up to one year following the entry into force of the new law.⁶²

In its ruling, the Constitutional Court stated that the legislator had not introduced a new reason for termination of Council members' mandates, but had instead regulated a transitional period intended to allow the selection of new Council members before the expiration of the current mandates. The aim is to ensure continuity in the Council's work during the interim.

On April 28, the Committee on Culture and Information of the National Assembly of Serbia announced a new call for applications for REM Council members.

Project-Based Co-Financing

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM), and the Local Press Association continued to demand an explanation from the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications regarding irregularities in the operation of the Unified Information System. In a joint statement, the associations declared:

"UNS, ANEM, and PU Lokal Pres have identified numerous irregularities in the functioning of this platform and emphasize that such occurrences are unacceptable, constitute violations of the law, and seriously undermine the trust of journalists and media outlets in an already weakened system of project-based media co-financing."⁶³

Due to the manner in which funds were allocated, the Journalists' Association of Serbia, together with its regional chapter — the Association of Journalists of Kosovo and Metohija — requested the annulment of the Ministry's call for co-financing media content production projects for electronic media in Kosovo and Metohija. They pointed out that projects submitted by two media outlets from Kosovo and Metohija, which have been successfully operating since 2000, were rejected, while (substantial) funding was awarded to organizations unfamiliar to the local media community.⁶⁴

The Journalists' Association of Serbia also strongly protested the decision of the Municipality of Čuprija to exclude from the public call all media whose founders are civil society organizations. Consequently, UNS demanded the annulment of the call.⁶⁵ Following UNS's intervention, the application of Glas Pomoravlja Info — previously rejected on the grounds that associations of citizens were not eligible — was reinstated into the competition process.⁶⁶



VI SLAPP Lawsuits Targeting Journalists and Media

In 2021, the company Mondo Inc d.o.o., publisher of the daily newspaper Kurir, filed a lawsuit against the Association “Crime and Corruption Reporting Network” (KRIK), publisher of the KRIK portal, the Slavko Ćuruvija Foundation, publisher of the portal Cenzolovka, the company Dan Graf d.o.o. Belgrade, publisher of the daily Danas, and the Association “Center for Intercultural Communication.” In the lawsuit and during the proceedings, the plaintiff claimed that the defendants were in a competitive relationship with it and that, by publishing articles about the reporting practices of the daily Kurir, they had engaged in acts of unfair competition. The lawsuit sought compensation for non-material damages in the amount of 11,000,000 RSD (approx. 94,000 EUR).

The lawsuit was filed after KRIK’s portal Raskrikavanje published an analysis titled [„Na naslovnicama pet novina blizu 1.200 lažnih i neutemeljenih vesti u 2020. godini”](#). (“Nearly 1,200 Fake and Unfounded News Stories on the Front Pages of Five Newspapers in 2020.”) The article stated that Kurir had published more than 100 fake, unfounded, or manipulative headlines on its front pages during 2020. The other media outlets were sued for republishing the analysis.⁶⁷



KRIK journalists outside the courtroom
(photo: V. Matić)

The claim was dismissed. The court ruled that the current Law on Trade does not apply to the provision of services that are regulated by a special law, and the provision of public information services is governed by a different law — the Law on Public Information and Media.

The Commercial Appellate Court stated in its ruling:

In this particular case, the plaintiff requested a finding that the defendants, by publishing certain articles in the media they publish, had engaged in acts of unfair competition. This claim was decided in the first-instance judgment. However, the matter could not be adjudicated under the Law on Public Information and Media, as that law does not recognize or regulate the concept of unfair competition. Instead, it provides a different type of legal protection, for which the commercial court lacks jurisdiction...



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- 1 [„Slučaj koji je dočekaao zastarelost - 31 godina od smrti novinarke „Duge“ Dade Vujasinović”](#), text published on April 8, 2025 at UNS site.
- 2 [„Ko mi je stavio bombe na prozor?”](#), author: Dejan Anastasijević, text published on October 17, 2007 at portal Vreme.
- 3 [„Stevanović: Godišnjica ubistva Slavka Ćuruvije u atmosferi koja podseća na 1999. godine”](#), text published on April 11, 2025 at Cenzolovka site.
- 4 [„As the noose tightens around Serbia’s journalists, the European Union can no longer look away”](#), text published on April 4, 2025 at Reporters Without Borders site
- 5 These organizations are: European Federation of Journalists, the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom, Article 19 Europe, Free Press Unlimited, the International Press Institute, and OBC Transueuropa.
- 6 [„UNS vesti :: MFRR: Zahtevamo da EU javno osudi sve napade na novinare i medije u Srbiji, a da policija i tužilaštvo hitno sprovedu istrage povodom ovih slučajeva”](#), statement published on April 9, 2025 at UNS site.
- 7 [„Više od 100 organizacija zatražilo od institucija EU hitnu reakciju na politički progon aktivista - Autonomija”](#), text published on April 2, 2025 at Autonomija site.
- 8 [Saopštenje za javnost](#), statement released on May 12, 2025 at Higher Prosecutors Office Novi Sad site.
- 9 [„Na dva meseca pritvaranja govore članovi porodica i prijatelji aktivista iz Novog Sada”](#), text published on May 16, 2025 at RSE site.
- 10 [„Slučaj Marije Vasić: Porodica kaže da ne zna u kakvom je stanju, a iz Centralnog zatvora stižu kritike medija”](#), author: Maja Nikolić, text published on May 19, 2025 at N1 site.
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