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The police securing a rally against blockades in Zaječar (photo: Anđela Risantijević)

MONITORING OF THE MEDIA SCENE IN SERBIA FOR OCTOBER 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.

The text of this Monitoring Report was prepared by expert monitoring team from the “Savović” Law Office in cooperation with ANEM.

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I FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The European Parliament adopted the “Resolution on the polarization and intensified repression in Serbia one year after the tragedy in Novi Sad”, in which, among other things, it designates the authorities in Serbia as responsible for the escalation and normalization of violence and for the erosion of democratic institutions. With regard to the media and media professionals, the European Parliament strongly condemned the assault on media freedoms, smear campaigns and intimidation of the media, the misuse of Pegasus, Cellebrite and NoviSpy spyware, attacks on journalists, their arrests and the violence committed against them.¹

During October, two expert meetings on the safety of journalists at the local level were held in Niš and Novi Sad. The discussions, organized by the Association of Independent Electronic Media and the OSCE Mission to Serbia, were attended by journalists who, over the past year, experienced police repression while reporting from the field. In Novi Sad, it was noted that police officers do not pay attention to clearly displayed press markings (press vests and IDs) during interventions and that they have become significantly more aggressive in recent months toward media workers covering public gatherings.² In Niš, while exchanging experiences regarding reporting from protests and police repression, the participants assessed the current situation as unprecedented in that city.³

On the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) organized a discussion titled “Impunity is a Crime – Let’s Prevent It.” Impunity was underscored as one of the most serious issues a society may face, and one that must be resolved if it aspires to be democratic.⁴



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

II ATTACKS, THREATS AND PRESSURES

Pushed Away Because “This Is Not the Place for Questions”

After the state ceremony held in the “Jajinci” Memorial Park on the Day of Remembrance for the Innocently Killed Serbs, Jews and Roma during World War II, N1 journalist Jelena Mirković approached Miloš Vučević, President of the SNS, who attended the event as the representative of the President of the Republic of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić. The journalist attempted to ask a question, but Vučević refused, saying, “Don’t. Thank you kindly. This is not the place for questions,” after which one of his security personnel pushed her away.⁵

Obstruction of Reporting at Protests Held on 11 October

During the “Citizens Against Blockades” gatherings and the assemblies announced by the people’s councils in Novi Sad—where citizens could express their discontent at three locations in the city (Sremska Kamenica, Novo Naselje and Detelinara)—several cases of journalists being obstructed in their work were recorded.

Branka Matić, a reporter for the Storyteller portal, who wore visibly displayed press markings and an accreditation badge to which she repeatedly pointed, was reporting from Bački Petrovac when, according to the newsroom, an officer of the Gendarmerie forcibly checked her ID.⁶ This occurred during the arrest of an individual who, visibly intoxicated, had been provoking the gathered citizens. As the journalist, along with other reporters, approached to film the incident, one of the gendarmes attempted to force her to testify about what had happened.⁷ She explained that she had not seen the beginning of the incident; however, as Storyteller reported, the gendarme grabbed her arm aggressively and demanded that she hand over her ID card.⁸ The harsh tone of his address is also evident from the video published by the newsroom.⁹

At the same gathering, according to the newsroom of Mašina, police officers pushed their journalist Darija Stjepić, thereby preventing her from reporting. She, like the other journalists mentioned here, wore visible press markings and repeatedly emphasized the capacity in which she was present.¹⁰

While covering the protest in central Novi Sad, an unknown man directed threatening messages at N1 journalist Lea Apro, questioning why she was recording. When she attempted to walk away, he followed her, and at one point grabbed her arm and snatched her phone. Citizens at the scene prevented him from escaping, and he was subsequently detained by gendarmes.¹¹ The same day, according to N1, a gendarme kicked the bicycle the journalist had used to come to the protest.¹²

Dalibor Stupar, a journalist for the Beta news agency and the Autonomija portal, reported that officers of the Gendarmerie seized his mobile phone during the recording of one arrest. Stupar also wore visible press markings and informed the officers of his role at the scene. Although he did not obstruct the officers in any way, he was told to move behind the police cordon, where his phone was later returned to him.¹³

After the “Novi Pazar Against Blockades” gathering, two journalists and a cameraman from the A1 portal—the last media crew remaining on site—were detained in front of a building housing a group of young men known for involvement in protest-related incidents. Despite wearing press vests and visible press IDs, and despite the cameraman carrying full professional equipment, the police conducted a detailed search, preventing them from completing their reporting duties. One of the journalists was taken to a police station because she was not carrying her ID card. She was released shortly thereafter.¹⁴

Upon learning of the incident, the Independent Journalists’ Association of Serbia (NUNS) announced that it would report the case to the competent public prosecutor’s office and the Internal Control Sector of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.¹⁵

In Zaječar, during parallel protests—one organized by supporters of the ruling party and another by citizens opposing the gathering—police officers physically assaulted Glas Zaječara journalist Miljko Stojanović. According to his account, an officer pushed and struck him, causing him to fall to the ground. His colleague, Anđela Ristantjević, approached to protect him but was also pushed away. Stojanović stated that when he attempted to report the attack to Police Chief Igor Jeftić, Jeftić grabbed his phone, while members of the intervention unit continued hitting him and physically removing him from the scene.¹⁶

Media associations and journalists’ organizations reacted swiftly to the attacks on journalists during the 11 October protests. In addition to expressing support, they demanded immediate measures to ensure safe working conditions for media workers and called on prosecutors to promptly investigate the cases in which journalists had been attacked, threatened, or subjected to any form of pressure, and to prosecute police officers who exceeded their authority and violently obstructed journalists from performing their duties.¹⁷

A Respectable Procession of the Disrespectful

During the “Citizens Against Blockades” protest in Kraljevo, Glas Šumadije journalist Jovana Ristić was attacked by an elderly man marching with SNS supporters. As she was filming, he shouted at her: “Come pump this, you motherf...r.” When she responded, “Shame on you,” he separated from the crowd, continued insulting her, and attempted to approach her. Fellow journalists intervened first, followed by police officers who returned the aggressor to the procession.¹⁸

A Slap from the Lignite Mine

Journalist Sergej Ivanov received a threatening phone call: “...people who write lies about me, something might happen to them...”. The threat followed a Facebook post he wrote about a possible lignite mine opening near Dimitrovgrad, ahead of the public debate on the Draft Detailed Regulation Plan for the “Mazgoš” deposit. The case was reported to the competent prosecutor’s office,¹⁹ and experts publicly reacted.²⁰

Due to their investigative reporting, journalists of the FAR portal have been subjected to various forms of pressure. The Amnesty International report [“Digital Prison – Surveillance and Repression of Civil Society in Serbia”](#) presented concrete evidence that Novi Spy spyware had been installed on journalist Slaviša Milanov’s device while he was in the premises of the Ministry of Interior. (See more in the [December 2024 Media Scene Monitoring](#).) Milanov reported the case in March last year, but has yet to be called to testify. According to the prosecutor’s office, an investigation into the allegations is ongoing.

In addition, the FAR newsroom was hit by two hacking attacks in quick succession.²¹

Due to the pressures they face, journalists from FAR received support from the international network Forbidden Stories, with the aim of investigating suspicious activities of the president of the municipality of Dimitrovgrad. Their joint investigative text states that the goal is to “join forces to investigate suspicious publicly funded construction contracts.”²²



Sergej Ivanov (photo: FAR/ Stefan Pavić)

Offer Support, Get a Paint Attack

The editorial staff of the Kraljevo weekly Sidža filed a police report after unknown perpetrators threw paint at their office in early October. The day before, posters reading “Pumping out” had been plastered on their windows.²³

Editor Dragan Blagojević noted that Sidža does not cover politics; however, because they express support for students and publish announcements for protests and assemblies in Kraljevo, they have been subjected to attacks on their official Facebook page.²⁴

Online Threats Keep Coming

Journalists of the Magločistač portal have been receiving threats for years: in 2017 and again in January and August of the current year. This time, the portal received the following message via its official email: “You should NOT BE KILLED as one SNS member wrote a few months ago, you at Magločistač should be thrown out on the street and banned from reporting. I will identify every one of you in the newsroom and all of you. You have my details, I’m not a coward like you hiding behind fake profiles and stupid ‘ethics’.”

The case was reported to the competent prosecutor’s office,²⁵ and experts reacted strongly.²⁶

Journalist and aphorist Jovan Zafirović has received threats before, though he has not previously reported them to authorities or journalist associations. The latest threat stated: “Your turn will come too, Janissary... just wait.” Journalist associations reacted sharply, and Zafirović announced he would report the threat to the authorities.²⁷

The newsroom of Danas continuously receives threats. In October, a comment posted under an article on their website read: “May God destroy your seed, may all Danas employees be severely afflicted and wiped out, may you helplessly watch your sick families, may you rot inside and vanish. In Christ’s name we pray that Danas and all its terrorist employees be punished in the worst way and pay the highest price for all crimes against Serbia and the Serbian people! DEATH TO TRAITORS! GO TO HELL YOU CORRUPT SCUM, MAY A DOG F** YOUR MOTHER IN THE MOUTH AND YOUR CHILDREN BE IMPALED BY TURKS! Because you are corrupt scum and terrorist Ustashe!”²⁸

The case was reported to the Special Prosecutor’s Office for High-Tech Crime.²⁹

Journalist associations demanded swift prosecution, stressing that the impunity of attacks on media workers encourages violence and hate speech.³⁰

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) stated that a large number of threats directed at Marko Vidojković, recorded in their database of pressures and attacks on journalists and media, remain unresolved.³¹ In October, a threat was sent to him via Facebook: "When I see you, you'll get your a* kicked... But sneaky... from behind..."*. The message contained further disturbing insults and threats to his family. The case was reported to the Special Prosecutor's Office for High-Tech Crime.

Through Facebook, journalist Nenad Kulačin received a voice message in which an unknown man insulted him and threatened physical violence. Although Vidojković was not explicitly named, the context made clear that the message targeted both hosts of the "Dobar, loš, zao" podcast: "Hey, you little monkey, what are you babbling, f** your dead mother, you scum, I f*** your dead bastard, you and that monkey with the tail and beard, ... Who are you insulting, the president of the state, I f*** your dead mother, I f*** your dead bastards..."*

The case was reported to the Special Prosecutor's Office for High-Tech Crime, and experts reacted publicly.³²

In a statement for the Journalists' Association of Serbia, Marko Miletić said that the newsroom of Mašina continuously faces threats on Facebook.³³ The message "Anti-Serbian scum, the day will come when you will be liquidated", posted from the account Dusko Leskovac on Instagram, is just one among many threats reported to the Special Prosecutor's Office for High-Tech Crime.³⁴

Between 11 and 20 October, NUNS recorded six additional threats posted as comments on Mašina's Instagram account: – from user predragbelgrade: "Game is over for you Masina!", – from Bojan Marković: "Slavko Ćuruvija was also a journalist", – from Drago Predojević: "This will have to be riddled with bullets", – from Rajko Leposavić: "Ah, you won't last much longer, your days are numbered", – from rodajaautomobilaizuvoza: "You Ustashe scum, we'll soon reveal who you are", – from Tomah Milovanović, commenting on a live report from Novi Sad: "She should be locked in a basement and f***ed."³⁵

Journalist associations demanded an immediate response from state authorities.³⁶

Journalist associations also reacted to insults and threats posted by Velimir Bulatović, father of a former MP and dismissed president of the dissolved SNS City Board in Vranje, directed at journalist Veran Matić on Facebook. Bulatović's threats followed Matić's statement to JUGpress regarding the criminal proceedings initiated by Miloško Pantić against Bulatović. Matić stated that he expected a conviction, as he believed Bulatović had insulted Pantić in his posts. Bulatović responded that he had a "right to self-defense" and would not forgive Matić for spreading "lies."³⁷

The newsroom of N1, a constant target of intimidation, received threats two days in a row. Beneath a news article, an individual identifying as Bojan wrote: “We are preparing bombs for N1, because of your whining people look at us like rats. The time is coming when all Ustashe must be expelled.” The following day, a user named Jovo posted: “Picula can f** your mother, are you people insane, let’s burn down N1.”*³⁸

The threats were reported to the Special Prosecutor’s Office for High-Tech Crime,³⁹ and experts reacted strongly.⁴⁰

BIRN journalist Radmilo Marković received a direct Facebook message from the account Dušan Grujić, stating: “... I have only this to tell you — you will run into holes, you bald rat.”

Colleagues expressed support for Marković, and the message was submitted to the Special Prosecutor’s Office for High-Tech Crime.⁴¹

Through ANEM’s SOS line for reporting cases of harassment and attacks on journalists, threats were also reported against Marko Vidojković (on the Instagram page of daily Danas, from the account zorancvetkovic.cvetkovic: “You carcass, you should be killed and thrown to the dogs”)⁴², Dinko Gruhonjić (due to the content, ANEM decided not to publish the SMS message)⁴³, and Vojin Radovanović (according to ANEM, the same message was sent to at least two professors, Professor Aleksandra Krstić of the Faculty of Political Sciences, one journalist, and one political activist; the same account had previously sent a threat to Smiljana Milinkov).⁴⁴

The threats were reported to the competent prosecutor’s office. Experts demanded the immediate identification of the persons responsible for sending the messages, noting that by intimidating unrelated individuals, they sought to cause public panic.⁴⁵

Flyers and the “Color Revolution”

Flyers featuring a bloodied fist alongside photographs of journalists Marko Vidojković, Dinko Gruhonjić, Ivan Ivanović and Sanja Ignjatović Eker, depicted as alleged organizers of a “color revolution,” were found in mailboxes and public spaces across Belgrade and other cities in Serbia. Believing this to be a coordinated action, journalists’ associations and media organizations reacted promptly, demanding that the organizers be identified and prosecuted.⁴⁶

Relentless Attacks by Public Officials

Throughout October, the highest state officials continued their established practice of subjecting media workers to verbal pressure. Offensive and inflammatory statements flowed from social networks, to the parliamentary floor, to public addresses from Uzbekistan.

The President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Ana Brnabić, used the social network X to label journalists working for media outlets under the United Media corporation as “extremists advocating a violent overthrow of the government.”⁴⁷



A day later, Marijan Rističević, an MP in the parliamentary group “Aleksandar Vučić – Serbia,” used the parliamentary podium and his proposal to amend the Law on Electronic Media (submitted in February 2024)⁴⁸ to echo the remarks of the President of the National Assembly and offer his own observations on the work of media outlets within United Media. These media, Rističević stated, “create the collapse of the state and the collapse of state institutions.”⁴⁹

My proposal is to prevent that. [...] We are witnessing that this program was designed for the purpose of [...] unlawful violent action, created by an external factor, because the external factor wishes, with the help of these accomplices, to forcibly and undemocratically bring to power a cohort that would be servile, willing to make concessions and as such participate in the destruction of Republika Srpska, in recognizing Kosovo and Metohija, and in declaring the crime in Srebrenica a genocide.⁵⁰

Rističević's statements prompted a reaction from the expert public.⁵¹

ANEM and NUNS sharply condemned a statement given by Minister for Foreign Investments Darko Glišić to Pink TV, in which he described the armed attack at the tent settlement in front of the National Assembly as an expected consequence of a murderous atmosphere allegedly created with the participation of TV N1 and its journalists.⁵²

This dark media kitchen of that criminal Šolak and all those who are the creators of the color revolution has created an atmosphere in which it is completely normal to kill someone who thinks differently [...]. Over the past year they have, quite literally, drawn a target on the forehead of President Aleksandar Vučić. And this was supposed to happen to President Vučić, just like it happened to Robert Fico. They have media-recruited a person nearly identical to the person who shot Prime Minister Fico in Slovakia. But what stood in the way? What stood in the way was that small oasis of freedom located in Pionirski Park and on the plateau in front of the National Assembly. That small oasis of freedom protected the Presidency.⁵³

Ahead of the commemoration held on 1 November in Novi Sad, President of the Republic of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić, speaking from Uzbekistan where he was on an official visit, commented on the assistance that the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) had provided to its members for their safety. The assistance consisted of bulletproof vests and helmets for journalists reporting from the field.

NUNS and the war equipment they give out for free. [...] They want to see some kind of wars and conflicts — nothing will come of it. They may provoke some one-off violence, and they will all be arrested, and they can have whatever equipment they want. Since it is clear to them that no one else will cause violence except them, they know very well that they have always been the ones to cause it. None of us fired at any of them — they were the ones who fired to kill a man, and they came to a lawfully registered gathering, lawfully held unlike their unlawful assemblies, shot a man, and I won't even talk about what they did to the police and all the lies about sonic weapons, the dead 16-year-old boy in Valjevo, all the lies about the beaten female student at the police station and everything else. So, we have far bigger problems than these petty, tiresome tricks, and I don't have time to bother with that.⁵⁴

In support of their colleagues, the Association of Independent Electronic Media reacted as well.⁵⁵ The statement was also condemned by the European and International Federations of Journalists (EFJ–IFJ), which described it as a deliberate and dangerous attempt to discredit the support NUNS provides to journalists who face numerous threats and attacks while reporting from the field. According to EFJ–IFJ, President Vučić's statement — “No one will incite violence except journalists who are being given helmets by media associations” — crossed yet another red line and stands in direct contradiction with the rule of law. They therefore called for an urgent and concrete reaction from the European Commission.⁵⁶



Office of Reporters Without Borders in Paris
(photo: ANEM/ Veran Matić)

The statement of the President of Serbia — whom Reporters Without Borders (RSF) placed on its list of 34 “predators of press freedom”⁵⁷ — was also addressed by Pavol Salaj, director of the RSF bureau in Prague. In a statement for ANEM, Salaj said that RSF had recorded a record number of attacks on journalists during the protests held since 1 November 2024. RSF, he stressed, is proud to assist NUNS in distributing equipment to Serbian journalists. Salaj also appealed to the international community to mobilize so that justice is served for crimes committed against journalists and so that they can report from protests safely. Regarding the assistance needed by journalists in Serbia, he said it must be financial, diplomatic, and political.⁵⁸

The expert public also strongly condemned the public address by Darko Stanojević, a member of the City Board of the Socialist Party of Serbia and head of one of the departments of the Vranje Health Center, directed at Mihajlo Stojković, editor of the InfoVranjske portal. Via social networks, hurling insults at both Stojković and his family, Stanojević wrote: “Teletubby resembles a pig because of the bulging eyes and big belly, and his character is like that of an unruly goat.”⁵⁹

Shortly after Stojković published the text “The leaked messages – Darko Stanojević calling for a (counter) rally: ‘So that I am not the one who hates,’” Stanojević’s post was deleted.⁶⁰

In a statement for UNS, Stojković said that the police, to whom he turned, immediately referred him to filing a private lawsuit. For the first time in eight years, he noted, he had received such advice that was not connected to the contact point for journalists.⁶¹

III MONITORING OF THE LAW-MAKING PROCESS

During October, no significant developments were recorded regarding the process of adopting new laws.

IV IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING REGULATIONS

Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media (REM)

At the beginning of October, the OSCE presented its expert analysis, which the President of the National Assembly, Ana Brnabić, had announced back in August as “excellent support.” The analysis addressed issues that had arisen in the process of finalizing the list of nominators and candidates in two categories that remained unaligned because civil sector representatives and members of the Parliamentary Committee on Culture and Information did not share the same view on which nominators and candidates fulfilled the statutory requirements.⁶² It turned out that the arguments provided by the OSCE largely coincided with the arguments advanced by civil society representatives⁶³ during heated discussions with members of the Committee on Culture and Information.

In mid-October, the Committee on Culture and Information of Serbian National Assembly adopted the list of candidates and authorized nominators for the election of REM Council members in the remaining two categories: the category of associations of composers and film, stage, and dramatic artists, and the category of associations for child protection.⁶⁴ This was followed by the phase of harmonizing candidates. When it came time to harmonize candidates proposed by national minority councils as authorized nominators, the expert service of the Committee — contrary to the applicable rules — allowed voting by minority councils that had not previously voted and were not on the list of authorized nominators. This decision triggered a strong reaction from civil society representatives. The position of Civic Initiatives was:

Today’s decision of the Expert Service of the National Assembly represents an open violation of the Law on Electronic Media. By including nine new nominators in the vote on candidates for the REM Council, the expert service acted contrary to the report of the Committee published on 14 October 2025, thereby seriously violating the law and undermining the credibility of the process. [...] It is entirely unlawful to include nominators who did not propose any candidates at this stage of the process. We demand that these illegitimate ballots be annulled and that the candidates who received the highest number of votes from legitimate nominators — Muhedin Fijuljanin and Lumturija Ameti — be declared as having passed.⁶⁵

Candidates for the REM Council demanded in an open letter that the election process be returned to the legal framework.⁶⁶

Authorized nominators also submitted a request to the President of the National Assembly and the Committee on Culture and Information that the accurate results be published, taking into account the votes of the three legitimate authorized nominators in the national minority councils category.⁶⁷

Organizations including the Slavko Ćuruvija Foundation, NUNS, the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina, and CRTA supplemented the criminal complaint they had filed against Dana Gak, Secretary of the Committee on Culture and Information, because the public competition for new REM Council members was not announced within the statutory deadline. The initial complaint was filed with the Higher Public Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime in November 2024 and supplemented in 2025. The new supplement was submitted because there are grounds for suspicion that Gak, by abusing her official position, influenced the outcome of the selection procedure by allowing the participation of unauthorized nominators⁶⁸ at the key stage — when national minority councils were determining their joint proposal.

Project co-financing

The Association of Independent Electronic Media published a list of organizations that received the highest amounts of funding (more than 10 million dinars) in project-based co-financing competitions for media content in Serbia for 2025. Out of twenty-six companies, the three that received the most funding were: Zona Plus from Niš, publisher of the TV station of the same name, receiving a total of 41,160,000 dinars from various issuing bodies; Kopernikus Cable Network with 31,490,000 dinars; and Radio Television Novi Pazar with 31,300,000 dinars.⁶⁹

V SLAPP LAWSUITS AGAINST JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA

Predrag Koluvija vs. BIRN and editor-in-chief Milorad Ivanović – proceedings concluded with final effect

At the beginning of October, the investigative portal BIRN informed the public that the Belgrade Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the Higher Court in Belgrade, thereby concluding with final effect the civil procedure initiated by Predrag Koluvija — owner of the Jovanjica company, charged with organizing a criminal group for the illegal production and distribution of narcotics — against BIRN and its editor-in-chief Milorad Ivanović. The lawsuit concerned the article “Trial continues: Before Jovanjica, Koluvija was already in the marijuana business.”⁷⁰

In May of this year, the Higher Court issued a first-instance ruling deeming the lawsuit, filed by Koluvija in early 2023, withdrawn. The decision was made because the plaintiff and his lawyer failed to appear at the scheduled hearing. Koluvija appealed, but the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal as unfounded.⁷¹

In the lawsuit — which alleged that the headline and the article contained false information suggesting he had previously been involved in marijuana-related business — Koluvija sought 200,000 dinars in compensation for non-material damages.⁷²

BIRN’s editorial team assessed the lawsuit as containing all the elements of a SLAPP suit, noting that the article merely reported information presented during the main hearing by the public prosecutor, Koluvija himself, and his defense attorneys.⁷³



“Judge the Judges” database (KRIK) and the criminal case against Bojana Jovanović and Jelena Radivojević

The investigative portal KRIK announced that Judge Dušanka Đorđević of the Court of Appeal in Belgrade and her husband, an attorney, had filed another criminal complaint regarding information published in the [“Judge the Judges”](#) database, maintained by KRIK journalists since 2020. The complaint was filed against Bojana Jovanović, the editor of KRIK and of the database, and Jelena Radivojević, the author of the judge’s profile. The plaintiffs had already filed two lawsuits — one criminal and one civil⁷⁴ — both classified as SLAPP cases by the CASE coalition (Coalition Against SLAPP Lawsuits in Europe)⁷⁵. (More on these lawsuits can be found in the [Media Monitoring Report for May](#).)

In the new criminal complaint, filed for alleged unauthorized collection of personal data, the plaintiffs requested a 10-month prison sentence for Jovanović and Radivojević, as well as a security measure prohibiting them from practicing journalism for two years.

The plaintiffs argue that they filed the new complaint after allegedly learning from the defendants’ statements that Jovanović was the editor of the database and Radivojević the profile author. KRIK’s editorial team disputes this, noting that Jovanović’s name is clearly listed as editor and that Radivojević communicated directly with the plaintiff while preparing the profile.⁷⁶ The plaintiffs requested that this new case be joined with the ongoing criminal proceedings against Stevan Dojčinović and Bojana Pavlović. Since both cases share the same factual basis, the proceedings have been merged.

The National Anti-SLAPP Working Group responded to this latest lawsuit:

We emphasize that this lawsuit is yet another classic example of a SLAPP case — one that does not aim to achieve justice, but to exert pressure on journalists, financially exhaust them, and intimidate them so they abandon topics of public interest. [...] It is particularly alarming that such a lawsuit is filed by a judge who holds a public office — a person who should be a guarantor of the rule of law, not someone who abuses the judicial system to target journalists. Such conduct seriously compromises the integrity of the judiciary and undermines public trust in the courts. Holders of such positions are required to tolerate critical opinions regarding their work or related to their official functions, regardless of whether they feel personally offended by the publication of such information or opinions.⁷⁷

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- 1 [ZAJEDNIČKI PRIJEDLOG REZOLUCIJE o polarizaciji i pojačanoj represiji u Srbiji godinu dana nakon tragedije u Novom Sadu | RC-B10-0459/2025 | Europski parlament](#)
- 2 [„Policija sve brutalnija prema predstavnicima medijima: Održan razgovor o bezbednosti novinara u Novom Sadu”](#), text published on October 20, 2025 on SafeJournalists website.
- 3 [„Veran Matić: Najozbiljniji slučajevi napada na novinare se ne procesuiraju”](#), text published on October 27, 2025 on SafeJournalists website.
- 4 [„Nekažnjivost zločina nad novinarima u Srbiji gotovo stoprocentna”](#), text published on October 31, 2025 on ANEM website.
- 5 [„\(VIDEO\) Obezbeđenje Miloša Vučevića odgurnulo novinarku N1 kada je pokušala da mu postavi pitanje”](#), video published on October 5, 2025 on N1 website.
- 6 [Stvarni napadi na novinare, Brankica Matić, Novi Sad, 11. 10. 2025. godine](#) an excerpt from the Safe-Journalists Network's database documenting attacks on journalists.
- 7 [„Žandarmerija legitimisala novinarku Storytelleru tokom skupa u Novom Sadu”](#), Storyteller statement published on October 11, 2025 on the portal website.
- 8 Same.
- 9 Author of the video is Darija Stjepić, journalist of Mašina portal.
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