

Media Environment

Three media outlets write to President Nikolic – Dusan Masic: 15 proposals for President Nikolic – Blic publishes questions for Nikolic and Tadic – Assembly of NUNS again refuses UNS proposal on merging of two associations – Pedja Obradovic: Bad situation in the local media – The situation in the media keeps worsening, says NUNS – It was not Blic that was "breaking Tadic's legs": instead, the politicians broke the spine of the media, says Vukasin Obradovic – Veran Matic is a new member of the managing board of the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia? - RRA calls for nominations for the position of the member of the programme board of RTV – Dodik and his PR department attack the correspondent of Beta – Beta rejects accusations – E-Novine cut off from the electric grid – NUNS, UNS and journalistic trade unions protest – Three top executives of the Basketball Club Partizan threaten journalists – Kimi's lawyer accuses Brankica Stankovic – The Court of Appeals confirms rejection of charges against the former editor of Dnevnik – NUNS and UNS organize protest – Kurir publishes response of URS in an inappropriate manner – Milan Pantic was killed 11 years ago – UNS and NUNS repeat their demand for efficient investigation – Veran Matic demands from the commissioner for human rights of the Council of Europe that international investigators be included in investigations of murders of journalists in Serbia – Association of Hungarian journalists outside Hungary demands an integrated media strategy

Professionalism in the Media

ANEM organizes a round table on the relationship between the media and the judiciary – Slobodan Jovanovic: Montenegro is presented in negative light in Serbian media – UNS demands that the journalistic code of conduct not be violated during family tragedies – UNS demands that the right to publication of response be adhered to – Results of investigative journalism regarding transparency of local self-governments are presented – Workshop is held in Vrsac on cooperation between the media and the police – Several journalistic awards are presented – New training courses are organized – Circulation of Magyar Szo is now available, says ABC Serbia – Tanja Jordovic, the editor of the news programme, leaves TV Pink after 12 years – Goran Gmitric is the new editor – Danas, Beta celebrate anniversaries – US Ambassador makes a statement on Danas – Journalists Vladimir Jankovic and Marija Ristic Andrejevic pass away – TV Velika Kikinda publishes a book authored by the late correspondent of Danas from Kikinda

Media Economy

Svetlost from Sumadija sells its business premises – Warlick: In the last 15 years, USA has invested 40 million dollars in the development of independent Serbian media – RRA is not aware whether TV B92 and TV Prva have the same owner

Media Institutions & Activities

RRA to initiate proceedings against TV B92 and TV Prva because of airing of an inappropriate advertisement produced by the National Lottery of Serbia – New draft Law on Electronic Media proposes a new procedure for election of members of the Council of RRA – RRA delivers to the Anti-Corruption Agency a report on monitoring of broadcasters during the election campaign

Media Innovations

National Geographic Serbia redesigns its website – ABC Serbia is a new member of I-Com – Grand Production continues cooperation with TV Pink

The media situation in Serbia

Representatives of employees of TV Avala and newspapers *Ekonomist* and *Pravda*, as well as the Journalists' Union of Serbia, delivered yesterday a letter to the president of Serbia, Tomislav Nikolic, demanding that he meet them so that they could inform him about the difficult situation in the media.

(Beta, Pregled, Politika, 08.06.2012)

Dusan Masic, a representative of BBC World Service, offered the following proposals to President Tomislav Nikolic:

1. All pirate radio stations that are currently broadcasting their programme, including even on the national (regional) level, should be closed down, their equipment confiscated and criminal charges brought against their owners.
2. The media should be allowed to pay the VAT after they receive the money from invoices.
3. Public companies should be privatized or placed under the auspices of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS). Studio B could be the first on this list.
4. RTS income should be separated into income from the TV fee and income from advertisements. The income from the TV fee must not be used for purchase of commercial programmes.
5. The Broadcasting Law should be amended (or clarified), allowing commercial radio stations 12 minutes of advertisements per hour (instead of only six, as currently interpreted).
6. New negotiations should be launched about collection of royalties and implementation of the model from Bosnia and Herzegovina.
7. Broadcasting licenses should be taken away from all media outlets whose owners have not paid salaries and pension contributions to their employees for more than three months.
8. A new strategy of allocation of broadcasting frequencies should be implemented, which would achieve reduction in the number of radio and TV stations by at least 50 percent, allowing the remaining surviving stations to operate normally.
9. A new fund should be created using the money collected from TV fees (3% for radio and 3% for TV), which would be intended for local projects and allocated by the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) (similarly to Croatia).
10. The TV fee should be collected via cable providers (60% of Serbian population uses cable services and the users would not risk losing all their programmes and internet access if they fail to pay the TV fee).
11. RTS should be transformed and regional centers formed.
12. Foreign media companies should be allowed to own radio and TV stations in Serbia, as well as to own several stations on all levels if the total audience share of their stations does not exceed 40 percent.
13. Stations should be allowed to form networks (in the programme-related and business sense) provided that they retain the lowest allowed number of employees in each local station.
14. The criteria of the media's contribution to society should be introduced (What will they do for the local community?) and considered in the process of allocation of frequencies (similarly to the situation in the USA).
15. The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) should be transformed into an independent regulatory body that would do its job (which would be a good start).

(RAB Srbija Newsletter, 11.06.2012)

Tamara Spaic writes in the daily newspaper *Blic*: "What is common for both the former and the current president of Serbia? Their relationship towards *Blic*. Both of them do not want to answer to our journalists' questions and they divide journalists into two categories. The situation reminds us of the nineties and the rule of Milosevic, when presidents, prime ministers and party officials were hostile and unavailable to *Blic*. The politicians' attitude is perhaps best evidenced by the fact that they are not even trying to hide that they are unsatisfied with the media's reporting. The questions asked by *Blic* were as follows. Questions for Boris Tadic: Who are the financiers behind his political party? Why have the state institutions not been freed from the influence of political parties? Why has the policy towards Kosovo been inconsistent? Have you usurped the authority belonging to the prime minister, which is constitutionally separated from the authority of the president? Have the disputed 24 privatizations been investigated, as warned by the EU? Questions for Tomislav Nikolic: How did you finance your election campaign and who paid the visit of the very expensive lobbyist Rudolph Giuliani from New York? How did you pass your exams while you were busy launching your own political party and organizing public events? Have you regretted your public statements about Zoran Djindjic and Slavko Curuvija?

(Blic, 13.06.2012)

Participants of the Annual Assembly of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) have refused the offer made by the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) to merge the two associations and divide the

ownership over the Journalists' Building in Belgrade differently from the verdict made by the Court of Appeals. The participants of the Annual Assembly have confirmed the decision of the Electoral Assembly of 2010 to reject the merging of NUNS with UNS. The team of legal representatives of NUNS continues to work on implementation of the legally binding verdict of the Court of Appeals.

(Danas, Kurir, Politika, Blic, Alo!, UNS, 18.06.2012)

Opinions about the media situation in Serbia

Pedja Obradovic, a journalist and editor with RTV B92, said during the presentation of the project "Better Transparency in Local Self-Governments: Citizens' Rights and Obligations of the State" that did not believe that there was a genuine need or interest of local self-governments to improve their relations with the local media. "Some of the media are financed from local budgets, and therefore subordinated to and practically dependent on the local self-governments. The media which are not financed from local budgets are not interesting to local self-governments and are perceived by them as enemies; their financial position is difficult and the decrease in their professional standards and influence has been evident. Local self-governments view the communication with the public only in terms of marketing, while local public service broadcasters, i.e. the media that should act in that way, are being used as a platform to promote the ruling 'political elite'", said Obradovic.

(Danas – special supplement, NUNS, 19.06.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) says that the social, economic, and professional position of the media and media professionals has additionally worsened during the last year. At the presentation of the report on activities of the Association, the president of NUNS, Vukasin Obradovic, emphasized that in 2011 and the first half of 2012 drastic restrictions in the media industry had continued.

(NUNS, Politika, Alo!, 17.06.2012)

The picture of Serbia in 2012 after the recent elections is characterized by ruined institutions, impoverished citizens, underestimated media and arrogant politicians who take offense to questions they do not like and who have their "favored" journalists, while at the same time they act rudely and disrespectfully towards "other" journalists, says an article published in the daily newspaper *Blic*, adding that intellectuals have been accused of causing political defeat, while the media has been condemned for their critical reporting. The president of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), Vukasin Obradovic, gave yesterday to *Blic* a comment on the former president's statement, who said that *Blic* was "breaking his legs" during the last four years. "If anyone has been breaking someone's legs in the last four years, that was certainly the government, whose arrogance and sense of impunity has actually broken the spine of most of the media outlets in Serbia. This kind of attitude towards the public has eventually resulted in unintended consequences against some individuals but, evidently, lessons have not been taken and the old practice is being continued, exemplified in the principle: 'everything that is opposed to our (virtual) reality is opposed to us'", said Obradovic.

(Blic, 14.06.2012)

The state and the media

The editor-in-chief of TV B92, Veran Matic, is supposed to be elected today as a new member of the Managing Board of the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia (PKS), reports the daily newspaper *Informer*. According to the newspaper's sources, Matic was first seen as the vice president of the Managing Board, but the idea has been dropped after negative reaction from some of the domestic businessmen. Milan Knezevic, a businessman, says: "I am at a loss to explain what kind of a business success has been achieved by Veran Matic that would make him eligible for membership in the Managing Board. He should be a member of a journalistic association, not the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia. On the other hand, I understand the position of PKS, since it has only a representative and nominal role – perhaps they wish to improve their presence in the media".

(Informer, 14.06.2012)

Public service broadcasters

The Republic Broadcasting Agency has published a [public invitation for nomination of candidates for membership in the Programme Board of the Public service Broadcaster of Vojvodina](#).

(RRA, 20.06.2012)

Threats, attacks and legal proceedings against journalists; media-related trials

The president of the Republic of Srpska, Milorad Dodik, accused yesterday the correspondent of the news agency Beta from Banjaluka, Ljiljana Kovacevic, of belonging to an organized group that abuses the journalistic profession, intending to "destroy" him and "criminalize" the president of the RS and his associates, reports Beta. Dodik's new accusations against the Beta correspondent followed his strong verbal attack on Ljiljana Kovacevic on Saturday, June 2, when he tried to remove her from the press conference in the presidential building, claiming that she was reporting false information.

(Politika, Dnevnik, 08.06.2012)

News agency Beta rejects the accusations made against Beta and its correspondent from Banjaluka, Ljiljana Kovacevic, by the Public Relations Office of the President of the Republic of Srpska, Milorad Dodik, and considers them an unacceptable attack against the freedom of information. Beta is shocked with the wording and gravity of untrue charges made by Dodik's Public Relations Office and again demands that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia protect it from the unfounded attacks coming from the president of the Republic of Srpska and his administration.

(Beta, Politika, 09.06.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) strongly protests the cutting off of electrical power to the editorial office of *E-Novine* and considers this act committed by the Electrical Power Company of Serbia unacceptable. "*E-Novine* operates in a very difficult economic conditions, just like most of the media outlets in Serbia", says NUNS.

(Beta, Politika, 20.06.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) condemns the cutting off of the editorial office of *E-Novine* from the power grid. UNS is concerned with the possible disappearance of one of the rare differing voices in an already impoverished and insufficiently diversified media scene of Serbia. UNS calls on its colleagues and the public to express their solidarity with and offer their assistance to *E-Novine*. UNS calls on the Electrical Power Company of Serbia to allow the owner of the web portal to pay the debt in installments, which would allow it to continue its operations.

(UNS, 19.06.2012)

The Journalists' Union of Serbia (SNS) protested today against the cutting off of electrical power to the editorial office of *E-Novine* and pointed out that such act constitutes a form of pressure on the media.

(NUNS, 20.06.2012)

Predrag Danilovic is unrivaled in the basketball scene with regard to his arrogant behavior, reports the daily newspaper *Blic*. Publication of one of well-guarded secrets of the Basketball Club "Partizan" by *Blic* was followed by threats and insults against the newspaper's journalist who wrote the article. A well-known businessman, Milija Babovic, also insulted a journalist of the daily newspaper *Informer* for reporting on him as the power behind the scenes in the Football Club "Partizan".

(Beta, 18.06.2012 *Informer*, 19.06.2012, *Blic*, UNS, 20.06.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) condemns the latest threats made against the sports journalists of daily newspapers *Blic* and *Informer* by Predrag Danilovic, Milija Babovic, and Vladimir Jovanovic. UNS warns sport officials that it is illegal to prevent journalists from doing their work or to exert pressure on them, and that threats against journalists are punishable by 1-8 years of imprisonment. UNS demands that the authorities act in accordance with law.

(UNS, Alo!, 18.06.2012, *Vecernje Novosti*, *Blic*, 19.06.2012)

Milos Radisavljevic Kimi, the leader of "Alcatraz", a group of fans of the football club "Partizan", who was sentenced to spend 16 months in prison because of endangering the security of the journalist of TV B92, Brankica Stankovic, demands that he be sent to the prison "Padinska Skela". Kimi's legal representative, Ilija Drazic, announced his intention to appeal to the higher court immediately after receiving the verdict. "This has not been the first time that TV B92 has written criminal charges and passed verdicts. If B92 points their finger at you, forget about your right to defend yourself from charges. On the other hand, Brankica Stankovic has not been convicted of anything, despite the fact that several criminal charges have been filed against her for revealing of official secrets and commenting on non-legally enforceable verdicts", said the lawyer.

(*Informer*, 14.06.2012 i 15.06.2012, *Press*, *Kurir*, *Vecernje Novosti*, 14.06.2012)

A former editor of the newspaper *Dnevnik* was represented during the legal process before the Court of Appeals in Novi Sad by the free legal team from the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS). The Court of Appeals has confirmed the first-instance verdict passed by the Primary Court rejecting a civil lawsuit for libel filed against Petar Petrovic, a former editor-in-chief of the daily newspaper *Dnevnik*.
(NUNS, 14.06.2012)

After publication of an article entitled "European Average or a Bad Solution" in the daily newspaper *Danas*, which examined the irregularities and abuses in the department of hemodialysis of the Health Center "Studenica" in Kraljevo, the former director of the Health Center has filed criminal charges against a journalist with the daily newspaper *Danas*, accusing him of spreading false information. Ten days ago, the journalist made an official statement in the Police Administration of Kraljevo.
(Danas, 12.06.2012)

The leader of the United Regions of Serbia (URS), Mladjan Dinkic, sent an SMS to the director of the daily newspaper *Kurir* telling him that he would suffer the same fate as his father, who had spent two years in prison, reports *Kurir*.
(Kurir, 09.06.2012 i 10.06.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) considers that yesterday's reaction of the president of the United Regions of Serbia (URS), Mladjan Dinkic, to an article published in the daily newspaper *Kurir*, constituted "inappropriate behavior and pressure on the media". In its press statement, NUNS reminds that "domestic and international standards demand that state officials inform the public about all aspects of expenditure of money from the national budget".
(Fonet, Beta, NUNS, 08.06.2012, Politika, 09.06.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) warns Mladjan Dinkic that the struggle for freedom of the media in Serbia is incompatible with behind-the-scenes threats similar to his SMS message sent to the publisher of the daily newspaper *Kurir*, Aleksandar Rodic. The SMS said that Rodic was going to "suffer the same fate as his father" and that Dinkic intended to fight against him "to the end" and "for truth". UNS reminds Mladjan Dinkic that, so far, his manner of fighting against *Kurir* three years ago has resulted in the adoption of the draconian and unconstitutional media law which has inflicted enormous damage on the freedom of the press in Serbia.
(UNS, Beta, Politika, Vecernje Novosti, 09.06.2012)

In a letter sent to the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), the political party United Regions of Serbia (URS) says that the daily newspaper *Kurir* violated their right to publication of a response. NUNS reminds that interpretation of the Law on Public Information is in the hands of courts, but considers that *Kurir* is obliged to adhere to legal and professional standards which specify the right to publication of a response or correction.
(NUNS, 14.06.2012)

Investigations of murders of journalists

In the city of Jagodina, a memorial event was held to mark 11 years since the murder of the journalist with the daily newspaper *Vecernje Novosti*, Milan Pantic. Participants of the event said that Serbia would not be a democratic country until the murderers of journalists were identified. Representatives of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) and the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) repeated their demand that the authorities identify and punish the murderers and organizers of the murders of Milan Pantic, Slavko Curuvija and Dada Vujasinovic, otherwise "Serbia will remain a country where journalists are murdered with impunity".
(Beta, Tanjug, Politika, Danas, Alo!, Pregled, Vecernje Novosti, Dnevnik, Press, Blic, UNS, NUNS, Informer, 12.06.2012)

Due to the belief of the public that the truth about the murders of journalists Slavko Curuvija, Dada Vujasinovic and Milan Pantic, as well as the attempt at life of Dejan Anastasijevic, is being covered up, the president of the B92 Foundation, Veran Matic, has launched an initiative with the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe to involve international investigators with the investigation. He says that such a step would create conditions for unbiased investigation of all circumstances under which the journalists were killed, and that it would also establish whether there has been any sabotaging of the investigation.
(Press, 18.06.2012)

The minority media

Associations of Hungarian journalists outside the borders of Hungary support preparation of an integrated media strategy. Their statement announced that the preparation of such a strategic document would begin immediately and that the first step would be to create Hungarian Media Collection of the Carpathian Basin, which would also serve as a basis for an integrated Hungarian media catalog. The integrated media strategy is necessary to ensure closer mutual ties between different parts of the Hungarian nations, increased national self-awareness, preservation of the native language and culture, and prevention of disputes within the Hungarian national body. It is also emphasized that such a media strategy, which would systematically cover the existing media, would "ensure better, more truthful, vital, economical and efficient media network intended for the members of the Hungarian nation elsewhere around the world".

(Magyar Szo, NDNV, 18.06.2012)

Professional standards

Courts and prosecutor's offices should find a balance between the confidentiality of legal proceedings and the public's right to be informed about such proceedings, while journalists who report on judicial processes should be more responsible and better informed – this is the conclusion reached by the members of the round table organized by the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM). Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Protection of Personal Data Rodoljub Sabic is of the opinion that governmental or judicial bodies are delivering exclusive information to some newspapers in Serbia. The commissioner pointed out that in a traditional society, which lack confidence in institutions, it was unacceptable to forbid the public to comment on anyone's work, including the judiciary.

(Politika, 16.06.2012)

Slobodan Jovanovic writes in the daily newspaper *Danas*: "As a Montenegrin and a loyal citizen of Serbia, I would like to know why every information from Montenegro is being reported on in Serbia one-sidedly, usually with emphasis on a negative context. Also, why is information from Montenegro and about Montenegro being reported very selectively in Serbia? I could fill half of the *Danas* newspaper with positive statements of numerous European and international officials about Montenegro which have not been mentioned in Serbia."

(Danas, 12.06.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) calls on journalists and editors to adhere to the provisions of the Journalistic Code of Conduct of Serbia. UNS has received a complaint stating that journalists of a daily newspaper rudely disturbed the family of one of the victims while reporting on the death of students of the army academy in Serbia, despite being asked not to do that.

(UNS, 19.06.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) reminds the media that they are obliged to act in accordance with the Law on Public Information and honor the right to publication of a response. At the same time, the media are under obligation not to comment about the content of the response or correction in the same article. UNS considers that the daily newspaper *Kurir* did not adhere to the provisions of the Law on Public Information when it published its own statement together with the response of Mladjan Dinkic, instead of publishing it without any comments.

(UNS, 14.06.2012)

Results achieved by four local media outlets within the project "Better Transparency in Local Self-Governments: Citizens' Rights and Obligations of the State" were presented in the Belgrade Media Center. The research was realized in Kikinda, Nis, Cacak and Krusevac as a part of the project implemented by the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Center for Investigative Journalism of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the aim to improve the transparency of the activities of the local self-government. Additional information is available here

www.webtv.rs/media/mc/goplay.asp?oid=43266

(NUNS, RTV B92, 20.06.2012)

Awards, training courses and public contests

The media and state authorities have to work together on promoting equality and improving the awareness of citizens – this is the main message from the workshop attended by representatives of the police and the media from all parts of Serbia that took place in Vrsac. The workshop was organized by the commissioner for protection of equality of the Republic of Serbia. The media and the police have to cooperate in their fight against discrimination. The police should understand that the media need timely and correct information, while journalists should have in mind that the police cannot always satisfy their demands, in the interest of investigation.

(Politika, 18.06.2012)

A second series of seminars dedicated to additional education of journalists from Media Association member who report on economy has been completed. The seminars were organized by the Media Association with assistance from the OSCE Mission to Serbia and IREX.

(Dnevnik, Vecernje Novosti, 15.06.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), with support from IREX, organizes the Media Training for students and young journalists that will take place in the NUNS premises on June 23-24, 2012. Additional information is available from Tamara Filipovic, tel: 011/3343 255, e-mail: tamara.filipovic@nuns.rs.
(NUNS, MC, 19.06.2012)

The "Stanislav Marinkovic" Award, given by the daily newspaper *Danas* for journalistic courage and special achievement in investigative and analytic journalism, has been presented to a journalist with TV B92, Ljubica Gojic.
(Danas, 09.06.2012)

The "Milan Pantic" Award for Journalistic Courage, which has been awarded by the company "Novosti" for 11 years, was given to Andrija Igic, the correspondent of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) from Pristina.
(Politika, Vecernje Novosti, 08.06.2012)

A writer from Novi Sad and a member of the Council of the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV), Laslo Vegel, is the recipient of this year's award "Konstantin Obradovic" for advancement of the culture of human rights.
(Beta, NDNV, 20.06.2012)

The media audience

After the completed initial revision, members have been offered the data about circulation of the daily newspaper in Hungarian Language – Magyar Szó. The data covers the period since September 2011 and in the future will be published each month.
(ABC Newsletter, 19.06.2012)

Media transfers

After 12 years, the editor-in-chief of the news programme of TV Pink, Tanja Jordovic, left the company. Experienced journalists and editor Goran Gmitric is the new editor-in-chief of the news programme of TV Pink. He has worked for TV Pink since 2005, first as an editor, and later as the deputy editor-in-chief of the news programme. He had also worked as the media advisor of the Minister for Kosovo and Metohija of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.
(Politika, Blic, Vecernje Novosti, Informer, Alo!, 08.06.2012)

Anniversaries

The news agency Beta celebrated yesterday the 18 years since its inception by giving an award to the journalists of the year and by giving letters of thanks to employees who have been employed by Beta for more than 10 years. Slavica Radulovic, a correspondent from Kosovska Mitrovica, is a recipient of the Journalist of the Year Award for her extraordinary reporting on the crisis in North Kosovo.
(Press, 15.06.2012)

The daily newspaper *Danas* celebrated its 15th birthday by organizing an event with its readers and passers-by in downtown Belgrade.
(Danas, 11.06.2012)

Mary Warlick made a statement on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the daily newspaper *Danas*: "Bravely and despite the strong resistance of the then government, *Danas* played a crucial role in informing and encouraging citizens to express their democratic spirit, which has been reawakened in 2000. Achievements of the daily newspaper *Danas* have been recognized and awarded. We remember that in May 2002, *Danas* received the most prestigious award entitled "Free Media Pioneer", given by the International Press Institute located in Vienna. The American Freedom Forum, which is an independent international foundation dedicated to the freedom of the press and freedom of speech, is one of the sponsors of the Award. We congratulate *Danas* on 15 successful years and wish it success in the future!"
(Danas, 09.06.2012)

In Memoriam

A journalist and a member of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), Vladimir Jankovic, passed away at the age of 82. He began his journalistic career in 1955 in the magazine *Nasa Rec*, where he later became the editor-in-chief.
(UNS, Beta, Politika, 20.06.2012)

After a long and serious illness, a long-time journalist with TV Belami in Nis, Marija Ristic Andrejevic, passed away at the age of 49. She was a journalist whose work confirmed the old journalistic saying – "the news is what someone is trying to hide, everything else is only marketing."
(Danas, 16.06.2012)

On the occasion of the 15th birthday of VK Radio from Kikinda, a promotion of the book "The Memory of Sinisa Jakonic" was held in the Cultural Center of Banat. Sinisa Jakonic worked as a correspondent for the daily newspaper *Danas* between 1999 and 2006. He passed away last year. Sinisa Jakonic cooperated with numerous magazines, and in 2002 he published the documentary-historical-autobiographical book "Crimes of Milosevic's Secret Police". He cooperated with RTV VK since the founding of the media company.
(Danas, 13.06.2012)

Media business operations

The sale of a part of the business premises of "Svetlost" from Sumadija, scheduled for June 21 in accordance with the decision adopted by the Commercial Court in Kragujevac after activation of a mortgage, has been perceived by the public as the beginning of the end for the weekly magazine published in 1935. The Commercial Court made the decision after the printing company "Family Press", which is the owner of the debt in the amount of 7.2 million dinars owed by *Svetlost*, had activated the mortgage which includes 15 offices in the commercial building.
(Danas, 12.06.2012)

Taking into account the important role of the independent media in Serbia, the USA has spent more than 40 million dollars in the last 15 years on assistance to independent Serbian media organizations, said the US Ambassador to Belgrade Mary Warlick. "Thanks to our programmes, journalists have received equipment, knowledge and skills which allow them to offer credible and unbiased information to citizens of Serbia. At the same time, we encourage the media to operate in a professional manner and achieve sustainability in the market where competition is growing", added Ms. Warlick.
(Danas, 09.06.2012)

Privatization and the state-owned media

Rumors and never-proven suspicions that TV B92 and TV Prva have the same owner – the Greek company Antenna – have been additionally increased recently because of the unusual cooperation of the two TV companies with regard to broadcasting of the Roland Garros tennis tournament, reports the daily newspaper *Informer*. The first six rounds were aired by B92, while semifinals and finals were aired by TV Prva. This kind of cooperation between two competing TV companies is certainly not common practice. The public had previously speculated that the ownership structure of B92 was "faked" i.e. that Greek businessman Theodore Kyriakou had bought this TV station as well. Goran Karadzic from the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) said to *Informer* that the RRA had previously investigated whether TV B92 and TV Prva had the same owner, which would be in violation of the law, but that official documentation did not show any specific connection between these two TV stations.
(Informer, 12.06.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS)

During the previous year, in the period between two assemblies of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), the social, economic and professional position of the media and media professionals has worsened even further. Drastic restrictions in the media industry in 2011 and the first half of 2012 have continued.

(NUNS, 13.06.2012)

The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA)

The Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) has decided to initiate proceedings against broadcasters who aired the video produced by the National Lottery of Serbia "Sportingbets.rs" which advertised sport bets.

(RRA, 13.06.2012)

TV B92 and TV Prva might be fined with 300,000-3,000,000 dinars because of airing of a commercial produced by the National Lottery of Serbia which alluded to group sex. The proceedings initiated against them by the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) will be completed next week.

(Informer, 08.06.2012, 14.06.2012 i 15.06.2012)

The draft Law on the Electronic Media specifies a new procedure for election of the members of the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) and renaming of the RRA into the Agency for the Electronic Media. According to the document, the election of the members of the Council would be performed by the National Parliament of Serbia, at the proposal of relevant committees of the parliaments of the Republic and the Province, the Conference of Universities, and the councils of national minorities.

(Vecernje Novosti, Blic, 08.06.2012)

The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) announced that it had delivered to the Anti-Corruption Agency a complete report on monitoring of the broadcasters' activities during the election campaign.

(Tanjug, Politika, 08.06.2012)

The National Geographic Serbia magazine now has a redesigned website at the new address: nationalgeographic.rs. Apart from the content that is available in the print edition, the new website offers video content, photo archives and interactive content.

(ASMEDI newsletter, Jun 2012)

ABC Serbia has joined I-COM (International Conference on Online Media Measurements). I-COM is an international forum for research on measurement in the sphere of digital advertising.

(ABC Newsletter, 19.06.2012)

The music production company "Grand Production" has no intention to leave TV Pink. Instead, the company plans to launch a satellite channel in cooperation with TV Pink that would be offered together with 16 other Pink channels. All "Grand Production" programmes will continue to be broadcast on Zeljko Mitrovic's television.

(Vecernje Novosti, E kapija, 20.06.2012)

- Abbreviations - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-abbreviations.2317.html#104230
- Sections - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-abbreviations-and-sections.2317.html
- Archive - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-archive.2381.html
- Media News Bulletin home - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin.2298.html

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Media News Bulletin is a short account of media reports on the situation in the media. It has been created with the aim to register the information about the media published in the previous 14 days in Serbia, shortened to reflect the basic message of media reports and grouped in thematic subsections. The editors convey the news without changing the essential meaning of media reports on the media. For the readers interested in the complete published article, its source and date of publishing are given.

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