



## Media Environment

Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) to pay for 8 hours a day of cable TV programme for election campaign – Owners of 18 out of 30 media outlets are unknown – OSCE says journalism in Southeast Europe in crisis; Sarajevo Declaration is adopted – Veljanovski: No significant reactions to two serious media documents – The media ignore incident caused by politician, claims Vucic – SEEMO is concerned about intense pressure on the media in Serbia – ANEM: media situation shows no improvement in September – Attacks on journalists and the media escalate during last two weeks: Zrenjanin, Novi Pazar, Bajina Basta, Beograd, Jagodina, Aleksandrovac, Kursumlija, Novi Sad – Owner of illegal station Bos is arrested – Journalists wait in vain for Ivica Dacic for almost two hours – Journalists, media associations and civil society angered by announcement of secret trial of journalists from Novi Sad – Protest is joined by Commissioner for Information of Public Importance, Ombudsman, European and international journalistic associations, individual political parties and numerous journalists who have signed the petition against secret trials – Indictments against journalists are delivered – Indicted journalist sends complaint against indictment to court – The state does not want to dismiss the indictment – Media Strategy of Vojvodina Hungarians is adopted

## Professionalism in the Media

Hate speech on the Internet should be treated same as hate speech in traditional media, says Teofil Pancic – Journalists have to adhere to professional rules, says Minister of Culture – Journalists and the media from Serbia win numerous domestic and international journalistic awards in the last two weeks – Second Press Media Summit to be held in Belgrade in November – President of Vojvodina Government visits the Media Association – Iraqi journalists visit UNS – Anniversary of *Vecernje Novosti* and *Alo!* newspapers – Press Council gets 7 new members and a new visual identity – Ferenc Deak dies

## Media Economy

*Nacionalni Gradjanski* and *Panorama* newspapers close down – Five months without salaries in TV Avala? - 500,000-1,000,000 euro estimated investment in advertising on Serbian media – *Blic* campaign – Strikes and negotiations continue in the case of *Dnevnik* – Serbia will adhere to all obligations resulting from Media Strategy, including ending direct financing of media outlets from the budget as of January 1, says Secretary for the Media – Request submitted by VAC is denied – No offer from Beko to purchase the remaining stocks of *Novosti*; Beko has not sold his ownership share despite legal requirements – ASMEDI announces campaign for expansion of advertising in the print media

## Media Institutions & Activities

NUNS launches several socially responsible projects – NUNS is concerned about possible abuses of the media during election campaign – UNS condemns frequent attacks on RTV Prima – UNS initiates signing of petition against secret trials of journalists – TV VK still remains outside the cable system; RATEL and RRA powerless for now – RATEL takes more aggressive aim at illegal broadcasters – SEEMO organizes event in Tirana against hate speech in countries of Eastern Europe – Drago Hedl wins this year's SEEMO award

## Media Innovations

Media Center offers wide range of services – New media outlets dedicated to fashion and gastronomy – After closure of *Nacionalni Gradjanski*, the same publisher launches a new weekly magazine

### The media situation in Serbia

In the following period, the citizens of Serbia will have a chance to watch on one of the three channels of TV Kopernikus what will amount to a TV programme created by the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS). One year before the parliamentary elections in Serbia, a member of the main board of the party, Zoran Basanovic, purchased eight hours of the cable TV station's daily programme. Other Serbian political parties, including the largest ones, are negotiating with the broadcaster about the purchase of its programme, claims the station's owner. A member of the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), Goran Karadzic, says that some of the Serbian cable stations have not yet received broadcasting licenses – TV Kopernikus among them. "They can continue selling their air time until the end of the license issuance procedure. I still do not have any information about whether the station will be allowed to continue broadcasting its programme", says Karadzic.

(Blic, Beta, Tanjug, NUNS, UNS, B92, ANEM, 21.10.2011)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) is concerned about media reports claiming that certain political parties intend to lease prime time hours of daily programme during the election campaign, and that some parties have already done that. "This form of 'cooperation' between the media and political parties is contrary to the fundamental principles of journalism and will result in biased and partisan informing of citizens", says NUNS.

(Beta, Tanjug, NUNS, UNS, B92, Blic, 21.10.2011)

TV Kopernikus, a cable broadcaster, has been placed under full-time monitoring by the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) because of media reports that the station is negotiating with representatives of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) about the purchase of eight hours of its daily programme.

(Danas, 22.10.2011)

Out of 30 most significant media outlets in Serbia – comprising of 12 daily newspapers, seven weekly magazines, six TV stations and five radio stations with national coverage – the Anti-Corruption council identified no less than 18 media outlets whose actual owners were not known in the period between 2008 and 2010. Their report said that off-shore companies were among the owners of eight media outlets while local politicians and businessmen participated in ownership of five media outlets. Journalists were among the owners of two newspapers. Foreign and state capital were a part of the ownership structure of four and three media outlets, respectively.

(Danas, 22.10.2011)

### Current assessments of the media situation in Serbia

Journalism in the Southeast Europe is in a serious crisis – this is the conclusion reached by the participants of the first conference about the media in the Southeast Europe organized by OSCE. The media in the region is characterized by a paradox – the more closely the countries of the Western Balkans are integrated with Europe, the more threatened is the freedom of the media and the integrity of journalism.

(Beta, B92, NUNS, 14.10.2011)

The participants of the OSCE conference about the media in the Southeast Europe have adopted the *Sarajevo Declaration* which will be delivered to governments of all countries in the region. The Declaration says that state-owned media outlets cannot exist in a democratic society, and at the same time demands independence of the media and public service broadcasters; reform of media laws; investigation and sentencing of perpetrators of attacks on journalists; promotion of ethical journalism and self-regulation; strengthening of journalistic associations; and improvement of journalists' working conditions.

(Beta, 14.10.2011)

Rade Veljanovski, a professor at the Faculty of Political Science, writes in his article: "In recent days, two important media-related documents have appeared. The Strategy of Development of the Public Information System in the Republic of Serbia Until 2016 appeared first, followed shortly afterwards by the Report on Pressure and Control Over the Media in Serbia. Both documents have originated from the highest levels of the state administration: the

Government of Serbia and the government's Anti-Corruption Council. You would have supposed that the content of these documents would have caused a public debate, comparisons, argumentation, concern or at least some questioning. However, the silence was deafening. For six years, the state has had an illegal ownership in *Politika* newspaper, *Dnevnik* from Novi Sad, *Vecernje Novosti* and a certain number of other local and regional media outlets. There was not a word about the responsibility for confusion caused by contradictory laws: three laws stipulate privatization, while three other laws prevent it. They are all in force at the same time and all of them have been adopted by the National Parliament. There was no mention any criticism with regard to the most important standard of the democratic world – the obligation to ensure media independence and prevent influence from the sphere of politics and business on the media. Three crucial recommendations of the Council of Europe have not been mentioned: the recommendations about guaranteeing independence of the public service broadcaster (R 96 10); about independence and functions of regulatory bodies in the area of broadcasting (R 2000 23); and about media pluralism and diversity of media contents (R 2007 2). The article 4 of the Strategy begins with words: "The state is committed to withdrawal from media ownership". The same article further stipulates that the state may establish: national, provincial and regional public service broadcasters; media outlets in Serbian language serving the population in Kosovo and Metohija; specific media outlets intended to inform citizens about the activities of state bodies and public companies (internet portals, parliamentary channel etc.). At the same time, councils of national minorities may establish media outlets in minority languages. When these provisions are transformed into laws, they will result in formation of dozens of state-owned media outlets."

(Danas, 19.10.2011, ANEM 20.10.2011)

Aleksandar Vucic, the deputy president of the largest opposition party – the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) – criticized the media because of their failure to report on the incident caused by the mayor of Belgrade, Dragan Djilas, in the town of Rajka, when he "grabbed and pushed a citizen who asked him a question". "It is a disgrace that state and city officials would attack citizens who ask them questions related to their activities and that no one would write a single word about that", said Vucic.

(Pregled, 20.10.2011)

SEEMO condemns renewed threats and pressures against journalists in Serbia. On 14 October 2011, Anel Grbovic, a journalist with the local Television Novi Pazar received death threats, apparently because he failed to cover a voluntary blood donation event. On 6 October 2011, a local politician allegedly threatened Vojkan Ristic, an editor of the Web portal Vranjepres, in Vranje because he published a story linking the political party with which the politician was affiliated to a major corruption scandal allegedly involving the mine complex Kulubara. On 5 October 2011, Hanibal Kovac, a reporter with the local paper Podrinske, in Sabac, was hit by an unknown individual who claimed to represent a local businessman. In a separate development, the public prosecutor in Novi Sad, filed charges against Milorad Bojovic, the editor of Nacionalni Gradjanski List, and Jelena Spasic, a journalist working for the publication, because they published an article about the Serbian army. The prosecutor claimed that the article was based on a confidential document of the Ministry of Justice and described the information as dangerous for national security. "I am concerned at all these press freedom violation cases," said Oliver Vujovic, SEEMO Secretary General. "I urge the authorities to find the perpetrators of all the attacks against journalists and take appropriate legal action. In the case of legal action against journalists, it is not acceptable that the prosecutor presses charges against journalists who publish information of public interest. Silencing journalists is a violation of press freedom and the right of the public to know".

(SEEMO 18.10. 2011, Danas, UNS, ANEM, 19.10.2011)

According to findings of ANEM's monitoring team, the situation in the field of freedom of expression did not change in September 2011 as compared to August. Journalists (and often camera operators) were subjected to threats, pressure and physical assaults. Examples from the court practice in media-related cases show that perpetrators of attacks on journalists usually receive sentences near or below the legal minimum; at the same time, legal proceedings are endlessly long proceedings that make the legal sanctions meaningless. Dismissals of executives in Hungarian media outlets founded or co-founded by the Hungarian National Council is the result of the lack of legal mechanism for protection of the management and editorial offices of such media outlets from the influence of their co-

founders on their editorial policy. The complete analysis is available at the web site of ANEM.  
(ANEM, 26.10.2011)

### Public service broadcasters

The public invitation for nomination of candidates for a member of the Managing Board of the Public Service Broadcaster of Vojvodina was published on 25 October 2011 in daily newspapers *Politika* and *Dnevnik*.  
(RRA, 25.10.2011)

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

Journalists and correspondents from Zrenjanin for media outlets from Belgrade and Novi Sad have complained to the Republic Prosecutor and Acting Public Prosecutor of Appeals against the behavior of the Higher Public Prosecutor in Zrenjanin, Borislav Miglinski. "The Prosecutor Miglinski has grossly violated the constitutional right to work of professional journalists from Zrenjanin by withholding the information about initiation of legal proceedings and filing of criminal charges", claimed the journalists.  
(Vecernje Novosti - Vojvodina, UNS, NUNS, 25.10.2011)

A journalist from the regional TV Novi Pazar, Anel Grbovic, has asked for help from the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and claimed that an official from the Electrical Power Distribution Company in the city of Novi Pazar, Rifat Prtinac, had threatened him with death because the TV station did not report on the voluntary blood donation event organized in the Electrical Power Distribution Company. NUNS again demands that all legal actions be taken. The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) has also demanded that the Police Administration in Novi Pazar urgently investigate and inform the public about all the facts related to the case.  
(Beta, NUNS, UNS, 15.10.2011, FoNet, Blic, 16.10.2011, NDNV, 17.10.2011)

Radio-Television Prima from Bajina Basta announced that attacks and pressure against the activities and the editorial policy of the station have reached unbearable proportions. Last weekend, unidentified individuals broke the TV station's windows using rocks, while the previous week tires were cut on the company car. The vehicle had also been damaged twice in August and September. Ten days ago, it was sprayed with paint. Aside from political pressure, the station has also been subjected to economic pressure, personal warnings and pressure aimed at its employees. The station says that it will not bow to pressure and become a mouthpiece of a political party, and that it will continue to report in an unbiased manner and in the interest of citizens.  
(Beta, Politika, Blic, 18.10.2011, Danas, UNS, NUNS, 21.10.2011)

In its statement, the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) strongly protests against the series of attacks on a member of the Association, Radio-Television Prima from Bajina Basta.  
(ANEM press statement, 18.10.2011)

The editorial office of the daily newspaper *Alo!* says that its journalists and photographers have been banned from attending the matches organized by the basketball club *Partizan*.  
(Beta, Politika, 25.10.2011)

The editorial office of the daily newspaper *Alo!* considers that the basketball club *Partizan* obviously intends to take advantage of the aforementioned ban in order to influence the editorial policy of the newspaper, with the aim to force it to publish only the information and content that is favorable to the basketball club *Partizan*. The editorial office of the newspaper *Alo!* will continue to report on the activities of the basketball club *Partizan* in the interest of the public and the fans of basketball.  
(Blic, 25.10.2011)

The Association of Sports Journalists of Serbia (USNS) strongly condemns the decision made by the management of the basketball club *Partizan* from Belgrade and intends to inform the relevant international forums, the European Basketball Federation and the International Association of Sport Journalists.  
(Alo!, Vecernje novosti, NUNS, 26.10.2011)

Basketball club *Partizan* responded by saying that they had never intended to influence the editorial policy of the media. "The only thing we ever wanted, and which we intend to insist on in the future as well, is correct and accurate reporting about our matches. Therefore we do not feel the need to apologize to anyone. If the newspaper *Alo!* wants to continue to report from our matches, it has to offer us a public apology."

(Blic, 26.10.2011)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia has protested against the behavior of the mayor of the city of Jagodina, Dragan Markovic Palma, who insulted the correspondent of *Politika*, Zorica Gligorijevic, while she was collecting information in the hospital in Jagodina. The children who were hurt during the exercise of the anti-terrorist unit were being treated in the hospital. After the incident, the mayor of Jagodina admitted his mistake and justified it with his emotional state and shock caused by the unfortunate event. The mayor of Jagodina phoned Zorica Gligorijevic and apologized to her for his behavior.

(UNS, 18.10.2011, *Politika*, 19.10.2011)

The announced appearance of a journalist working for the public service broadcaster (RTS), Dusko Korac, on the programme "The Amidzic Show" aired every Monday by TV Pink, was not possible because the journalist did not have the approval of his company, RTS.

(*Alo!*, *Kurir*, NUNS, 19.10.2011)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) is concerned about the safety of the correspondent of the *Danas* newspaper from Novi Pazar, Sladjana Novosel, after the internet magazine *Sandzak Press* accused her of publishing "perfidious articles about the unity within the Islamic community". On September 22, she was the first to publish an exclusive and correct information about the plans for formation of a unified Islamic community in Serbia. The UNS calls on colleagues, journalists and editors of *Sandzak Press* to adhere to the Journalistic Code of Conduct of Serbia.

(*Danas*, UNS, NUNS, 20.10.2011)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) demands that sales of the regional monthly newspaper *Rasina Press* in Aleksandrovac be immediately continued. The distributor has delivered the copies to newsstands, but they are not available to readers. According to unofficial but reliable information acquired by the UNS, newspaper sellers in Aleksandrovac received a "suggestion" from municipal officials to stop selling the newspaper *Rasina Press*. Some of them have even been threatened with closure of their newsstands if they continue selling the newspaper. *Rasina Press* is a regional newspaper with a circulation that amounts to 2,500 copies and is distributed in 12 municipalities within the Rasinski District. 33 issues have been published so far.

(UNS, 19.10.2011)

The president of the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV), Dinko Gruhonjic, was acquitted by the First Primary Court in Belgrade of criminal charges filed by the Serbian Movement "Dveri" and the Serbian People's Movement "Svetozar Miletic". The two organizations filed criminal charges of insult against Gruhonjic.

(NDNV, 18.10.2011, *Alo*, UNS, NUNS, ANEM, 19.10.2011)

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has established that the act of spreading of the false news about the Nobel Prize for literature for writer Dobrica Cosic does not contain elements of high-tech crime nor any other criminal offense.

(FoNet, Radio 021, 21.10.2011)

Journalist for Beta and Radio B92, Ljiljana Danilovic, filed criminal charges against the editor of RTV Kursumlija, Slavko Savic, because of his threats. Journalist working for Fonet and Radio Free Europe, Milos Ivanovic, was interviewed as a witness by the police. The witness, Milos Ivanovic, says that he confirmed in his police testimony that Slavko Savic had threatened his colleague, Ljiljana Danilovic. Ivanovic is of the opinion that the incident constitutes pressure on all journalists who report about the conflict between the local TV station and the municipal administration. Slavko Savic denies that any threats were made and claims that he only defends himself.

(www.kursumlija.org, NUNS, 21.10.2011)

The Belgrade police department discovered the studio and the transmitter used by an illegal radio station "Radio Boss", whose signal had interfered with "radio communication of highest-priority services" – says the statement issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia. Suspect Miroslav M., the station's owner, was arrested during the operation.

(RATEL, RRA, 25.10.2011, Politika, Pravda, Večernje Novosti, NUNS, UNS, 26.10.2011)

The Minister of Internal Affairs of Serbia, Ivica Dacic, held a meeting with a group of foreign journalists. The domestic media were allowed to record the beginning of the meeting, after which Dacic was supposed to make a public statement. Belgrade journalists waited in front of his cabinet for an hour and 45 minutes (from 16.15 to 18.00), but Dacic did not appear.

(Beta, Politika, NUNS, 26.10.2011)

### **The case of "Nacionalni Gradjanski"**

The Public Prosecutor's Office in Novi Sad has initiated criminal charges against a journalist working for the *Nacionalni Gradjanski* newspaper, Jelena Spasic, and her editor, Milorad Bojovic, because of the publication of the article entitled "State Institutions Fully Unprepared for War" which allegedly revealed national secrets.

(Beta, Kurir, B92, NUNS, 16.10.2011, Dnevnik, ANEM, 17.10.2011)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) has condemned the initiation of criminal charges against the journalist and the editor of *Nacionalni Gradjanski*. The UNS strongly protests the "criminal charges launched by the prosecutor's office against Serbian journalists who have published information in public interest, revealing the incompetence of state institutions, while these institutions are trying to hide that incompetence behind the cover of national secret".

(UNS, 15.10.2011, Politika, 16.10.2011)

The Commissioner for Information of Public Importance, Rodoljub Sabic, told to *Tanjugnews* agency that he was concerned about the initiation of criminal charges against the journalist working for *Nacionalni Gradjanski* because of alleged revealing of national secret. He was of the opinion that state officials should be held accountable for alleged leaking of national secrets, "if there is any reason for that". "Obviously, journalists cannot be held responsible for revealing of secrets", says Sabic. He emphasized that, according to current laws, journalists are not under any obligation to identify their source of information even when they know the source.

(www.poverenik.rs, UNS, 15.10.2011, Tanjug, Politika, 16.10.2011, Politika, NUNS, Danas, ANEM, Dnevnik, UNS, 17.10.2011)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) strongly protest against the decision of the Municipal Public Prosecutor's Office in Novi Sad to file criminal charges against journalists Jelena Spasic and Milorad Bojovic. "We especially condemn the fact that the trial will be 'expedient' and 'secret'. This can be interpreted not only as a political and judicial pressure on the media, but also as serious persecution of journalists aimed at preventing professional reporting about the Army of Serbia and its affairs. We welcome the quick reaction of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Protection of Personal Data, who has warned that state officials should be held responsible for the alleged revealing of national secrets, if it actually occurred, not journalists", says their press statement.

(NUNS, NDNV, 16.10.2011)

The Commissioner for Information of Public Importance said to B92 that he hoped that the State Prosecutor, Zagorka Dolovac, would "rectify the steps taken by the Public Prosecutor's Office from Novi Sad" which has filed criminal charges against a journalist working for the newspaper *Nacionalni Gradjanski*.

(FoNet, B92, 16.10.2011, Kurir, Blic, Danas, NUNS, Blic onlajn, UNS, 17.10.2011)

A petition against the secret trial of Jelena Spasic and Milorad Bojovic, who work as a journalist and the editor of *Nacionalni Gradjanski* newspaper, was signed by 250 journalists in a single day. The petition was posted on the web site of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) and in a short time it has mobilized the journalistic community

which has supported their persecuted colleagues.

(UNS, 18.10.2011, Tanjug, Pregled, Danas, 19.10.2011)

The Belgrade Center for Security Policy and 15 other non-governmental organizations have strongly condemned the initiation of criminal charges against journalist and editor of *Nacionalni Gradjanski* newspaper. "We consider that this act constitutes an impermissible violation of the freedom of the press and the public's right to know. What is much more important is the fact that the competent state bodies, including the Prosecutor's Office, have not yet launched any legal proceedings against those whose acts or failure to act had jeopardized the defense system."

(Tanjug, Politika, Kurir, UNS, ANEM, NUNS, 19.10.2011)

The Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) says that the criminal charges against the journalist Jelena Spasic and the editor of the newspaper *Nacionalni Gradjanski*, Milorad Bojovic, constitute a continuation of the regime's persecution aimed at journalists and the media who have the courage to write and publish the truth that is so inconvenient for the Democratic Party.

(Pravda, 19.10.2011)

Journalist Jelena Spasic, who is accused by the Prosecutor's Office from Novi Sad of "harming the national security of Serbia", has refused to participate in a secret trial. The petition organized by the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) opposing the secret trial of Jelena Spasic and the editor of *Nacionalni Gradjanski* newspaper, Milorad Bojovic, has been signed by more than 320 journalists and editors of the Serbian media. Jelena Spasic says that the success of the petition has proved that the professional journalistic community wants to defend itself from the government's pressure. The UNS points out that the International Federation of Journalists and the European Federation of Journalists have protested the criminal persecution of journalists in Serbia.

(UNS, NUNS, 19.10.2011)

The editor in chief of the daily newspaper *Nacionalni Gradjanski* from Novi Sad, accompanied by his lawyer, received the indictment filed by the prosecutor's office because of the publication of Jelena Spasic's article entitled "State Institutions Fully Unprepared for War". After receiving the indictment, Bojovic said that the criminal charges against him and the journalist constitute a proof that democracy does not exist in Serbia.

(Alo!, Politika, Danas, ANEM, NUNS, Dnevnik, 20.10.2011)

"The claim of the prosecutor's office that I have concealed the source of information and thereby assisted the perpetrator of the crime is a complete lie", says journalist Jelena Spasic, whose statement was posted on the web site of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS). The journalist, employed by the newspaper *Nacionalni Gradjanski*, is facing the prison sentence of up to eight years and a secret trial. "It goes without saying that I would never reveal my journalistic sources to the police or the prosecutor's office, but the point is that the prosecutor's office from Novi Sad has filed charges against me without ever conducting an investigation. I have not exposed any secrets since the documents found on cafe tables in the parliament's buffet cannot possibly be considered a secret", says Jelena Spasic, who is a several-times winner of annual competitions organized by the European Commission and the government's Office of European Integration for the best article on European integration.

(UNS, Beta, B92, 21.10.2011, Press, Dnevnik, Kurir, 22.10.2011)

The Criminal Extra-Judicial Council of the Primary Court in Novi Sad has transferred the indictment against the journalist and editor of the newspaper *Nacionalni Gradjanski* back in the investigative procedure, which means that an investigation will be conducted, said to Tanjug the spokesperson of the Republic Public Prosecutor's Office, Tomo Zoric.

(UNS, Tanjug, 22.10.2011, ASMEDI Newsletter, October 2011, Blic, Press, 23.10.2011)

The Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Protection of Personal Data said that the Republic Prosecutor's decision to dismiss the indictment against the journalists from the *Nacionalni Gradjanski* newspaper was a professional and responsible move.

(www.poverenik.rs, UNS, 22.10.2011, Politika, 23.10.2011, Dnevnik, 24.10.2011)

Journalist Jelena Spasic delivered yesterday [a complaint against the indictment](#) to the Primary Court in Novi Sad.  
(UNS, 23.10.2011)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) has called on the Republic Prosecutor to fully clarify all legal ambiguities related to the indictment against the journalist from *Nacionalni Gradjanski*. UNS protests against the "legal uncertainty applied against journalists after contradictory statements made by the prosecutor Zagorka Dolovac and her spokesperson". "Zagorka Dolovac informed the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance, Rodoljub Sabic, that the state had dropped criminal charges against the journalist, while her spokesperson, Tomo Zoric, says that the indictment has not been dismissed and that it will be further widened after investigation", says the UNS.  
(Tanjug, Politika, Press, 24.10.2011)

The spokesperson of the Republic Prosecutor's Office, Tomo Zoric, confirmed that the indictment against the journalists had been dismissed. However, he said that "investigation against the two of them would be conducted again".  
(Politika, 24.10.2011)

The trial of the editor of the newspaper *Nacionalni Gradjanski*, Milorad Bojovic, will continue before the Primary Court in Novi Sad, but it is still uncertain whether the process will be based on the direct indictment or whether an investigation will be conducted.  
(Dnevnik, UNS, NUNS, 25.10.2011)

### **The Media Strategy**

The president of the Managing Board of the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM), Sasa Mirkovic, writes: "The adopted Media Strategy does not solve most of the existing problems, but only delays them to some later stage. Our insistence on privatization is based on the fact that state ownership over the media allows impermissible influence of the government on the editorial policy of the media and disrupts the existing market conditions. Unfortunately, the Strategy went a step backwards, because it specifies an even larger number of media outlets that will not be privatized – the minority media outlets and regional public service broadcasters."  
(MC Newsletter, ANEM, 21.10.2011)

### **The minority media**

It is expected that the Media Strategy of Vojvodina Hungarians 2011-2016 will be adopted by the National Council of Hungarians in mid-November. According to the president of the Council, Tamas Korhec, the Media Strategy should contain an analysis of the situation and definition of goals, as well as describe the possibility of their realization. "Pressure on the media is not one of the goals", said Korhec.  
(Magyar Szo, NUNS, 17.10.2011)



### Professional standards

There is no reason to treat the hate speech on the Internet different from the hate speech in the traditional media, said journalist Teofil Pancic. At a public debate organized by the Cultural Center in Ruma, he described his irritation with anonymous comments on various web pages which spread the worst form of hate speech under the mask of anonymity. He described the example of two Swedish newspapers who had decided not to publish any more anonymous readers' comments on their web pages, regardless of whether they are positive or negative. "Possibility of anonymity creates favorable conditions for spreading of hatred. Freedom of speech does not allow limitations to other people's freedom, which is precisely what often happens on the Internet", said Pancic.

(Autonomija, NDNV, 15.10.2011)

The Minister of Culture, Media and Information Society, Predrag Markovic, proposed that clear professional rules should be established in the media in order to prevent publication of untruths. The Ministry of Culture, Media and Information Society had previously said that it expected the prosecutor's office to investigate who was behind the lies about insults that the Minister of Culture, Predrag Markovic, allegedly said to actress Mirjana Karanovic.

(Tanjug, RTV, NUNS, 26.10.2011)

### Appraisals, awards, training courses and competitions

Journalist from Radio Belgrade, Miroslav Vojvodic, has won this year's award "Branislav Mane Sakic" for hosts who advance the linguistic culture in the electronic media.

(Blic, 16.10.2011, NUNS, 17.10.2011)

Zoran T. Popovic from Pancevo is the recipient of the "Jovan Hadzi-Kostic" award for journalistic satire.

(Vecernje Novosti, 15.10.2011, NUNS, 17.10.2011)

Journalist from the Center for Investigative Journalism of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), Stevan Dojcinovic, is among this year's winners of the "Daniel Pearl" international award for investigative journalism. The award ceremony was held in Kiev during the Global Investigative Journalism Conference 2011. Dojcinovic was a part of the team of reporters from East Europe and the USA hired by the OCCRP network ([reportingproject.net](http://reportingproject.net)) to research the increasing number of companies used to hide ownership and property, launder money and conduct secret business operations.

(NUNS, 20.10.2011)

Journalists Dinko Gruhonjic and Ljubomir Zivkov are the winners of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia's "Dusan Bogavac" award for ethics and courage. The award ceremony will be held on Thursday, 27 October 2011.

(NUNS, Beta, Danas, Politika, Dnevnik, UNS, Pravda, 25.10.2011)

The daily newspaper *Press* has won two awards at the 16th INTERFER international festival held in Apatin. *Press* won the award for its special contribution to reportage as a traditional journalistic genre and the best selection of reportages in the previous years. The newspaper's journalist, Veljko Miladinovic, has received the first prize and the golden statue in the category of journalistic reportage for his article "The Long Journey to Brussels" published by *Press* on 13 March of this year.

(Press, UNS, 24.10.2011)

A reporter from Radio Novi Sad, Mirjana Petrusic, won the second award at the international festival of reportage, INTERFER, held on 21-24 October, for her programme "Jungle in Vojvodina", while Radio Novi Sad won a special award "Interfer" for a significant contribution to advancement of reportage as a journalistic genre.

(RTV, NUNS, 26.10.2011)

The UNICEF Office in Serbia has announced a public competition for the annual award for reporting on children and their rights, with an emphasis on promotion of social inclusion of vulnerable children in Serbia. The deadline for

submission of works is 5 November 2011, while the award ceremony will be held on 21 November 2011. Applications should be sent to the following address: Medija centar, Terazije 3/l, 11000 Beograd, with the designation: "Za UNICEF konkurs".

(MC, 21.10.2011)

The first winner of the "Djoko Vjestica" award for journalistic humanitarianism – established by the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) and the company Lemix from Belgrade – is Dragoljub Janojlic, a journalist from the newspaper *Nezavisne Novine Palanacke* from Smederevska Palanka.

(UNS, 25.10.2011, Beta, Politika, 26.10.2011)

Authors of the best media reports about local self-government were awarded with a study trip to Strasbourg and Paris, where they will visit media companies and EU institutions in France. Recipients of the award are as follows: Ivana Pavlovic (*Ekonomist* magazine), Nenad Kovacevic (*Novi Magazin*), Sladjana Gluscevic (*Dnevnik*), Aleksandar Bjelogrić (*Zrenjanin*), Jelena Aleksic and Sandra Mandić (*B92*) and Olivera Sasek-Radulovic (*Niska Televizija*).

(Blic, Dnevnik, UNS, NUNS, 26.10.2011)

Renowned caricaturist and illustrator, Dusan Petricic, will open his solo exhibition of illustrations and caricatures entitled "My Toronto" on 3 November in the Campbell House Museum in Toronto. A book with illustrations and caricatures with the same title will be promoted at the same time. The book contains works published by Petricic during the years by the leading Canadian daily newspaper *Toronto Star* in his column, "Dusan's World". Each week, Petricic also publishes a caricature on the front page of the daily newspaper *Politika*.

(ASMEDI Newsletter, October 2011)

ABC Serbia, the Media Association of Serbia and Business Dialogue organize the Second Press Media Summit on 16 November in the Belgrade Hotel Continental. The aim of this year's event is to exchange opinions, ideas and experiences related to the most significant aspects of the current situation in the print media; to advance cooperation, mutual exchange of information, and the efficiency of business operations; and to examine the immediate future of the industry.

(Dnevnik, Blic, NUNS, 21.10.2011, ASMEDI Newsletter, October 2011, Press, Pravda, 24.10.2011)

Magazine publishers from Serbia were represented at the 38th Magazine World Congress held in New Delhi on October 10-12 by the president of the Color Press Group and a member of the Managing Board of the Media Association, Robert Coban. The next Magazine World Congress will be held in Rome in September 2013.

(ASMEDI Newsletter, October 2011)

On 27 October in the Press Center of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), the Center for Development of Photography will present the best photographs published in the media during the last several years. The exhibition will be open until 20 November, when it will be moved to Athens.

(UNS, 26.10.2011)

### **Media visits**

A delegations of the Association of Iraqi Journalists visited the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS). The representatives of the two associations have signed a protocol on cooperation. Iraqi journalists pointed out that the war in their country had forced them to lag behind the changes experienced in the media industry.

(UNS, 14.10.2011, Kurir, 16.10.2011)

The president of the Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Bojan Pajtic, visited the Media Association. His hosts were the editors and directors of media companies that are members of the Association.

(ASMEDI Newsletter, October 2011)

### **Anniversaries**

The newspaper *Alo!* celebrates its fourth birthday today. The newspaper writes that in a short time it has managed to become a tabloid with the largest circulation in Serbia. Among the numerous readers from all parts of Serbia, the newspaper received its first congratulation note from the deputy president of the Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS),

Dr Nenad Popovic.

(Alo!, 15.10.2011, NUNS, 17.10.2011)

Newspaper *Vecernje Novosti* have turned 58. More than 5.2 billion copies have passed through the hands of its readers since October 16, 1953.

(Vecernje Novosti, 15.10.2011, NUNS, 17.10.2011, ASMEDI Newsletter, October 2011)

### **Other news**

The *Info Local Media Group* has joined the Press Council. The Council comprises of seven local newspapers from Vojvodina and one newspaper from South Serbia. The following newspapers are the new members of the Council: Somborske Novine, Suboticke Novine, Nove Kikindske Novine, Zrenjanin, Backopalanački Nedeljnik, Vrsacka Kula, NS Reporter and Nova Slobodna Rec from Vranje, whose total circulation amounts to around 56,000 copies.

(UNS, NUNS, 19.10.2011, Politika, Vecernje Novosti, 20.10.2011)

The Press Council, which is the first self-regulatory body on the media scene of Serbia, got a new visual identity in mid-October. The creative team from the Communis agency designed a new logo and a series of advertisements that will be used to present the Press Council to readers in the following period.

(ASMEDI Newsletter, October 2011)

### **In Memoriam**

A renowned dramatic writer, Ferenc Deak has passed away in Subotica at the age of 73 after a long illness. He will be remembered as a journalist, dramatist, and a former director of Radio-Television Vojvodina, as well as an author of numerous film scenarios.

(Vecernje Novosti - Vojvodina, 24.10.2011)

### Media business operations

The only monthly newspaper in Leskovac, *Panorama*, will be closed down because of very high printing costs and low circulation. The circulation dropped from initial 3,000 to only 1,000 copies, with too many unsold copies, announced the editorial office of the newspaper.

(Pregled, NUNS, 14.10.2011)

The only daily newspaper in Serbian language in Novi Sad (apart from *Dnevnik*), *Nacionalni Gradjanski*, was closed down because of financial losses. The editor-in-chief of the newspaper, Milorad Bojovic, said that "the only genuine opposition newspaper was going to end its operations – the only newspaper that used to report about topics avoided by other newspapers. This fact led to the lack of advertisers and the closure of the newspaper."

(UNS, 14.10.2011, Vecernje Novosti - Vojvodina, 15.10.2011, ASMEDI Newsletter, October 2011)

Employees of TV Avala have not received their salaries for five months. Out of protest, they refused to produce the news at 14.00 on Wednesday. The editor-in-chief of the station, Bojana Lekic, says that the employees are being paid: "That's not true, they have received their salaries. The news was not aired due to technical problems and a human error that I have recognized as justified".

(Press, 22.10.2011)

According to estimation of the *Tabu* magazine based on official data, in the last year in Serbia around half billion euros was invested in advertising via the media, creation of advertising content, and market research. However, marketing experts estimate that much more money is being invested in advertising each year – no less than around a billion euros. The largest revenue has been achieved by specialized companies for planning and purchase of the advertising space – around 140 million euros. They are followed by commercial radio and TV stations (without taking into account the public service broadcasters RTS and RTV) with around 102 million euros. The third place is held by market communication agencies (around 95 million euros).

(PressOnline, 19.10.2011)

Daily newspaper *Blic* has launched a campaign to promote daily content at locations in all parts of the city of Belgrade. The campaign represents an innovative approach to the use of LED displays in the field of daily promotion of products. The Ringier Axel Springer company has used the same basic principle to support the campaign by promoting content on national TV stations.

(ASMEDI Newsletter, October 2011)

### The case of *Dnevnik*

The employees of the printing section of *Dnevnik Holding* have announced that they are "forced to radicalize" their protest and accused the provincial government – the founder of the company – of failure to fulfill their promises.

(Danas, Dnevnik, NUNS, ANEM, 17.10.2011)

Three trade union organizations within *Dnevnik Holding* organized a protest because of their dissatisfaction with the situation in the media company. The protest walk to the building of the Government of Vojvodina has not been fruitful – not a single official received the protesters. *Dnevnik Holding* and the printing department employ 270 workers.

(Danas, Dnevnik, ANEM, NUNS, Pravda, Pregled, 21.10.2011)

*Dnevnik Holding* employees have organized a new protest walk to the building of the Government of Vojvodina. They demand payment of unpaid salaries and that the situation in the company be improved. (Pravda, 25.10.2011)

The Provincial Secretary of Labor, Employment and Gender Equality, Miroslav Hasin, met with the management and representatives of the trade union of the company *Dnevnik Holding*, which is on strike. At the meeting, it was agreed to hold a session of the Managing Board of *Dnevnik Holding* on Wednesday, 26 October. The session will be attended by the management of the company and by the representatives of the company's two trade unions, with the aim to agree on specific solutions for all of the problematic issues.

(UNS, Dnevnik, 25.10.2011)

### Privatization and state-owned media

According to the Stabilization and Association Agreement, Serbia is obliged to end any direct funding of media outlets from the state budget. The Assistant Minister of Culture for the Media, Dragana Milicevic Milutinovic, said to *Blic* that all the obligations stipulated by the adopted media strategy and action plan would be fulfilled.

(Blic, NUNS, 14.10.2011)

The Commission for Protection of Competition has rejected the request for media concentration submitted by the Austrian company OST Holding Suedosteuropa GmbH (which is a part of VAC), it was published on the web site of the Commission. The request for acquisition of 62.4 percent of stocks of the company *Novosti* via the acquisition of the total ownership share of three foreign companies, shareholders of OST Holding (Trimax Investments, Ardos Holding and Karamat Holding) has been rejected because of the lack of the necessary proof of legal basis.

(Pregled, 18.10.2011)

Businessman Milan Beko has not made an offer for purchase of the remaining 37.5 percent of the capital of *Novosti*, a company which is owned by the government of Serbia and small stockholders. The deadline for submission of offers has expired by the end of September. At the same time, he has not sold his 62.4 percent share, despite the fact that he is required by law to sell his ownership share if he was unable to purchase 100 percent of the company. Therefore the company *Novosti* will continue to be managed by the state, which is the largest individual owner with 36.6 percent of the company capital. Milan Beko was punished in July of this year after it became know that he was the majority owner. He was stripped of his right to manage the capital of the media company above the ownership share of 25 percent, although he owns 62.4 percent of the company's stocks.

(Pravda, ANEM, NUNS, 20.10.2011)

### Other news

At a recently held session, the Managing Board of the Media Association has adopted a concept of a promotional campaign organized by the print media with the aim to present to the wide-ranging public and business community all the advantages of advertising on pages of daily newspapers and magazines. A series of creative solutions and an outline of the campaign were presented to editors and directors of media companies by experts from the McCann Erickson agency. The research that was conducted before the campaign was financially supported by the Ministry of Culture, Informing and Information Society and the OSCE Mission in Serbia.

(ASMEDI Newsletter, October 2011)

### The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) has called on the government to declassify all documents related to the conflict at the Jarinje administrative crossing and to publish secret services' information about the events.

(Politika, Pravda, NUNS, 14.10.2011)

On 20 October 2011, the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) will organize a workshop entitled "The Role of the Media and Implementation of Ethical Standards in Reporting About the Reform of the Social Security System and Users of Social Services". The workshop is aimed at journalists who report on social issues in the media and students who study to become journalists.

(MC, 14.10.2011)

On the occasion of 16 October – the European Day of Organ Donation – the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) calls on its members and colleagues to become donors and join the campaign under the slogan "Let's Make Lives Longer".

(NUNS, Blic, 17.10.2011)

On Friday and Saturday, 21-22 October in Cacak, at a stall erected by the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), citizens will have a chance to choose topics to be investigated by the journalists of the weekly magazine *Cacanske* during the following six months. NUNS and *Cacanske* have prepared a list of topics about the allocation of state budget funds. The project has been successfully realized in Kikinda and Krusevac. The project is being implemented as a part of the program of support to civil society by the Delegation of the EU in Serbia.

(NUNS, 20.10.2011)

On Saturday, 22 October, despite bad weather, a large number of citizens participated in the project, selecting the topics for research proposed by the journalists of *Cacanske* newspaper and the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS). Preliminary results show that the citizens of Cacak are most interested in public procurement in the local administration and the Public Company Gradac. On next Saturday, 29 October, NUNS will end its project in the city of Nis, in cooperation with the news portal *Juzne Vesti*.

(NUNS, 22/10/2011)

### The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) condemns the increasingly frequent attacks against RTV Prima from Bajina Basta and demands that the police identify the perpetrators of the attacks. UNS demands urgent investigation by the police and the prosecutor's office and immediate announcement of results, that the cases of attacks against the media be solved, and that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

(UNS, 18.10.2011)

UNS calls on all its journalistic colleagues in Serbia to [sign a petition against secret trials of journalists](#). The petition was initiated because of the indictment against the journalist of the *Nacionalni Gradjanski* newspaper from Novi Sad, Jelena Spasic, and her editor, Milorad Bojovic. "The indictment was made without any investigation, which means that the journalists have been subjected to an urgent procedure, while the prosecutor has demanded a secret trial, without the public. The crime the journalists have been accused of carries a prison sentence, while the defendants are not allowed to publicly reveal any details about the legal proceedings. The state's intention to persecute the journalists in a Stalinist manner is outrageous. These journalists have been praised by the journalistic community because of their reporting in the interest of citizens and the public's right to know. We call on the public to exert pressure on the judiciary to give up on its intention to secretly prosecute the journalists who have performed their work in a professional manner and in the interest of the public", says the statement issued by the UNS.

(UNS, 17.10.2011)

### **The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA)**

Ten days ago, the Kikinda branch of the cable provider SBB removed the TV VK station's programme from its cable packages without any previous announcement or explanation. TV VK is one of two local TV stations. The founder of RTV VK, Jet Company, submitted a complaint to the Committee for Protection of Competition demanding their intervention. In its opinion, the decision by SBB to end transmission of the programme of TV VK is discriminatory and is beneficial only to its competition, TV Rubin. This week, RTV VK issued a statement in support of the proposal made by the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS): at the initiative of TV Kanal 9 from Novi Sad, the UNS demanded that the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) and Ratel order the cable providers to broadcast the programme of TV stations in territories where they are licensed.

(Kikindske novine, UNS, 17.10.2011)

### **The Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL)**

In accordance with its legal authority, the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL) has taken and is continuously taking appropriate measures to prevent operation of illegal FM, TV and radio stations which do not have individual licenses for usage of radio frequencies or programme broadcasting. Their broadcasts are being discovered in the course of control of the radio frequency spectrum. The Agency has initiated appropriate procedures to punish the owners of these radio stations. An updated list of 51 FM, TV and radio stations which are not authorized to use the radio frequency spectrum has been published on the web site of RATEL.

(Ratel, 18.10.2011)

The Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL) calls on the public and the professional community to participate in public discussion about the draft Plan on Amending the Plan of Allocation of Frequencies/Locations for Terrestrial Analog FM and TV Broadcasting Stations in the Territory of the Republic of Serbia. Comments have to be submitted in a written form and must contain the submitter's name and contact details. Comments should be sent to the following address: Republička agencija za elektronske komunikacije, Višnjićeva 8, 11000 Beograd, Faks: 011 3242 673; E-mail: [ratel@ratel.rs](mailto:ratel@ratel.rs); [javnekonstultacije@ratel.rs](mailto:javnekonstultacije@ratel.rs)

(Ratel, 18.10.2011)

### **The South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO)**

SEEMO, with the support of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADA), and in cooperation with the Albanian Media Institute, will organise a conference on how media in South, Central and Eastern Europe report on ethnic minorities, gender and sexual diversity issues, and religion. To be held in Tirana, Albania, from 24-26 October 2011, the conference will also include a special panel discussion dedicated to hate speech.

(SEEMO, 21.10.2011)

SEEMO condemns the series of attacks against the property of Radio-Television Prima in Bajina Basta. SEEMO is informed that TV Prima has been under increasing political and economic pressure during the past four months. In fact, local media in Serbia are continuously pressured by politicians, business leaders and religious figures.

(SEEMO, 24.10.2011)

Croatian journalist Dragutin-Drago Hedl is the winner of the 2011 Dr. Erhard Busek - SEEMO Award for Better Understanding in South East Europe. He worked for Slobodna Dalmacija, Feral Tribune, Novi List and since 2008 he has been writing the Zagreb daily Jutarnji List. In addition he is published in The Guardian, Time magazine, Die Wochenzeitung, and numerous other US and European publications.

(SEEMO, 24.10.2011)

The Media Center offers the service of recording and editing of all types of events – press conferences, promotions, briefings, seminars, business meetings – in various locations. Edited video content can be delivered in a required format (DVD video, DV AVI, or any of the web-friendly formats) and distributed to additional addresses or the Web TV network. Contact person: Biljana Pavlović, E-mail: [pavlovic@mc.rs](mailto:pavlovic@mc.rs). Tel: 011 3349 547, 063 408 057.

(MC, 18.10.2011)

Adria Media Serbia has launched a new online project entitled "The Matter of Taste" ("*Stvar ukusa*"). *StvarUkusa.rs* was created with a desire to extend the boundaries of culinary experience and traditional recipes.

(ASMEDI Newsletter, October 2011)

The Serbian edition of the widest-selling global fashion magazine has presented the web site ELLE.rs which is aimed at everyone interested in fashion. The publishing company, Adria Media Serbia, says that ELLE.rs has a mission similar to the print edition, which is to "inspire, understand and guide the modern women towards their personal style".

(ASMEDI Newsletter, October 2011)

"After the closure of the newspaper *Nacionalni Gradjanski* we have launched a weekly magazine with 64 color pages which will be report, perhaps exclusively, on events in Novi Sad", says the editor-in-chief, Milorad Bojovic. Info Local Media Group, which was the owner of *Nacionalni Gradjanski*, is behind the magazine. The company still manages the newspapers *Somborske Novine*, *Suboticke Novine*, *Nove Kikindske Novine*, *Zrenjanin*, *Backopalanacki Nedeljnik*, *Vrsacka Kula* and *Nova Slobodna Rec* from Vranje. "The ownership structure has remained unchanged – only the concept has been modified. We will not cover major political issues at the state level anymore, but instead concentrate on the city and urban living", said Bojovic, who was the editor-in-chief of the newspaper *Gradjanski List*, which was later renamed and became *Nacionalni Gradjanski*.

(RTV, NUNS, 19.10.2011)

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