



# MEDIA NEWS BULLETIN

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### Assessments of the current media situation in Serbia

The rating of Serbia in the area of the freedom of the media is continually worsening and no improvement is evident, says the statement issued by the Ombudsman Office of Vojvodina.

*(Beta, B92, 29/04/2011)*

More than 40 percent of journalists have resorted to self-censorship or have been censored – this is the result of an anonymous poll conducted by the Journalists' Association of Serbia involving more than 350 participants. Additional details are available at the web page: [www.uns.org.rs](http://www.uns.org.rs).

*(UNS, Beta, 29/04/2011)*

The media are influenced by political parties, marketing agencies, nepotistic policies and paid reports, shows the research "Journalism and journalists in Serbia" conducted by the Bureau of Social Research and the research online service "Tvojstav". The poll included 262 participants.

*(Kurir, Dnevnik, Vecernje novosti, 05/05/2011)*

The vice president of the Democratic Party, Jelena Trivan, said that the lack of freedom in the media is mostly economic in nature because the media are affected by the crisis. "I cannot say that Serbia hasn't achieved progress and that the government has shown the tendency to pressure the media", she added.

*(Dnevnik, 06/05/2011)*

Stability of the Government of Serbia was threatened in the summer of 2009 because of disagreements in the ruling coalition regarding the Law on Information, but the possibility of the Serbian Progressive Party coming into power prevented its fall – this is a conclusion resulting from a cable sent from the US Embassy in Belgrade that was published by Wikileaks and reported by Beta news agency.

*(Tanjug, Beta, B92, 04/05/2011; Danas, Pregled, Kurir, Politika, Dnevnik, Press, Pravda, 05/05/2011)*

On Friday, 6 May 2011, the European Commission will hold an international conference "Speak Up!" dedicated to the freedom of the media in countries that are potential members of the European Union. The conference will be attended by the media representatives from the countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey. The event is aimed at emphasizing the crucial significance of the freedom of expression and media for further democratic development.

*(Beta, NDNV, 04/05/2011)*

Freedom of the media is a necessary precondition for entry into the European Union, said the EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Štefan Füle, in his message to the countries of the West Balkans. "Countries that wish to join the European Union have to reach precisely defined standards. The European Commission is deeply concerned because of the developments in the media sector."

*(B92, 06/05/2011)*

### On the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day

On the World Press Freedom Day, the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) noted with disappointment that the situation in the media scene in Serbia and Vojvodina is utterly disastrous, that journalists and the media are threatened on multiple levels, and that the media are still far removed from any form of freedom or independence. The influence of the political elite on the media is more than evident. The media scene is still affected by nationalism which has become the primary model of perception of reality. Apart from nationalism, the media scene is still dominated by xenophobia, clannishness, censorship and self-censorship, sensationalism, discrimination of minorities and marginalized groups.

*(NDNV, 02/05/2011)*

On this World Press Freedom Day, May 3, it is evident that Serbia is a place where journalistic profession is not adequately appreciated nor rewarded, and that journalists and media employees usually work without any social nor any other kind of security – this is the opinion of the members of the Journalists' Association of Serbia and the Journalists' Union of Serbia voiced at the event entitled "Five Minutes of Loud Silence". The participants read a declaration saying that the position of journalists in Serbia has never been more difficult since 5 October 2000.

*(NUNS, UNS, Tanjug, Blic, Kurir, Dnevnik, Vecernje novosti, Politika, Alo, Pravda, Pregled, 04/05/2011)*

We note once again, on the World Press Freedom Day, that Serbia still doesn't know who is behind the murders of journalists and that the framework of media laws has not been completed, said the Protector of Citizens, Sasa Jankovic. The Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Protection of Personal Data, Rodoljub Sabic, was of the opinion that it was a positive development that journalists and the media were increasingly exercising the rights stipulated by the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance and using them to inform the public.

*(Pregled, NUNS, UNS, 04/05/2011)*

Serbia is still a country with partially free media and holds the 72nd position in the annual report on media freedom issued by the American non-governmental organization Freedom House. Other countries from the region have the following rankings, with Slovenia (48) leading the list: Montenegro – 80; Croatia – 85; Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia – 96 (shared); Albania – 102; Kosovo – 104.

*(NUNS, UNS, Danas, B92, Beta, Dnevnik, 24 sata, EuroActiv.rs 04/05/2011)*

The position of the media in Serbia is perhaps worse than ever in its recent history, but the responsibility for this does not lie exclusively on the state, said Dragana Milicevic Milutinovic, the state secretary with the Ministry of Culture, Informing and Information Society, on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day. "The reasons for the unsatisfactory position of journalists and the media in general are numerous and result from the lack of legal regulations and the failings of journalists", she added.

*(NUNS, Blic, Dnevnik, 04/05/2011)*

## **The Media Strategy**

Predrag Markovic, the Minister of Culture, Informing and Information Society, has announced that the national cultural and media strategy would be completed soon. "I believe that the media strategy should be prepared by media professionals. I am convinced that this task will be finished on time", he said in an interview with Vecernje Novosti.

*(Vecernje Novosti, NUNS, UNS, 28/04/2011)*

Members of the work group for preparation of the media strategy are Jelena Surculija, Dragoljub Zarkovic, Zoran Sekulic, Slobodan Kremenjak, Rade Veljanovski, Igor Avzner and Danilo Nikolic.

*(NUNS, 10/05/2011)*

## **Media-related legal proceedings**

The Constitutional Court of Serbia declared unconstitutional the provision of the Law Amending the Law on Public Information authorizing the competent minister to regulate the administration of the Register of Public Media Outlets. The Court has also decided that the process of applying for entry in the Register is contrary to the Constitution.

*(UNS, 06/05/2011, ASMEDI Newsletter, 151, NUNS, 10/05/2011)*

The First Primary Court in Belgrade sentenced today Milan Savatovic to 10 months of house arrest for his attack on TV B92 cameraman, Bosko Brankovic, in 2008. Stefan Milicevic and Nikola Lazic received a six-month and four-month prison sentence, respectively, or a suspended three-year sentence.

*(Tanjug, Beta, B92, NUNS, UNS, 09/05/2011; Pravda, 10/05/2011)*

Media associations consider that the verdicts against the attackers on the TV B92 cameraman are inadequately low. The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) called on the journalists and citizens to protest the sentences "that make us all feel ashamed". In its open letter, NUNS said that the verdict is an obvious example of judiciary's attitude towards the violation of basic human rights in Serbia. The Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) is shocked by the lenient sentences and asked the First Primary Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade to appeal the decision.

*(NUNS, Beta, B92, 09/05/2011; Alo, Dnevnik, Politika, Blic, Danas, Kurir, 10/05/2011)*

The president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), Ljiljana Smajlovic, said that she could not understand the lenient verdict against the attackers on B92 cameraman Bosko Brankovic. "I am under the impression that journalists enjoy less legal protection than politicians and members of other professions", she said.

*(UNS, Beta, B92, 09/05/2011; Pravda, Alo, Dnevnik, Politika, Blic, 10/05/2011)*

### **Appointment of members of Managing Boards of Public Service Broadcasters**

Complaint filed by the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) against the appointment of Dalibor Bubnjevic as a member of the Managing Board of Radio-Television Vojvodina was rejected yesterday at the session of the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) because it had not been made within the prescribed period of time, said the RRA.

*(Danas, Pravda, NUNS, 05/05/2011)*

Professor Slobodan Markovic was appointed as the president of the Managing Board of Radio-Television Serbia, while sociologist Milan Nikolic was appointed as the vice president.

*(NUNS, UNS, Pravda, Politika, Vecernje novosti, Blic, Kurir, Dnevnik, 29/04/2011)*

### **Attacks on the media and journalists**

A journalist with the Surdulica radio and TV station, Dragan Milosevic, asked the Journalists' Association of Serbia for help because of alleged threats issued during a telephone call by the president of the municipal section of the Democratic Party, Slavoljub Stajkovic. Stajkovic denies making any threats against the journalist. The threat followed a TV show authored by the journalist, which claimed that Stajkovic was illegally connected to a cable network without paying any subscription.

*(UNS, 28/04/2011)*

After Blic's reports on abuses related to the public tender for construction of fences around football fields in a dozen villages in the Zupa district, the president of the Assembly of Aleksandrovac, Tomisa Savkovic, banned the correspondent of Blic from entering the municipal hall and reporting on the sessions of the local assembly. The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) condemned Savkovic's decision in their announcement.

*(Blic, NUNS, 05/05/2011)*

The editorial office of "Vranjske Novine", located in the very center of the city, was burglarized for the fourth time on May 4. Seven laptop computers and two cameras were stolen from the office. On the same day, a journalist with the weekly received an award for investigative journalism from the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Embassy of the US.

*(B92, NDNV, 05/05/2011; Politika, UNS, 06/05/2011)*

The police filed misdemeanor charges against four individuals from the village of Backo Petrovo Selo suspected of hitting the journalist of "Madjar So", Caba Segi, and inflicting him minor physical injuries.

*(Dnevnik, Vecernje novosti, NUNS, UNS, 10/05/2011)*

### The media audience

According to latest research conducted by the "Skan" agency from Novi Sad, the best-rated channel in Vojvodina is Radio-Television Serbia, which is watched by 25 percent of citizens. TV Pink and TV Prva hold the second (22 percent) and third position (12 percent), respectively. The Blic newspaper has the widest audience among the press and is regularly read by almost 17 percent of readers. Newspapers Kurir and Alo hold the second and third place with 6 and 4 percent, respectively. The research was organized near the end of March and included 1,500 participants in 23 municipalities in Vojvodina.

*(Blic, 05/05/2011)*

The youth section of the Serbian Progressive Party held a performance in Knez Mihajlova Street entitled "The Diary of Rage" – a parody of the Evening News of the Radio-Television Serbia – that aimed to point out that the public service broadcaster conveys a false image of prosperity that is created in the cabinet of the President of the Republic.

*(Kurir, 08/05/2011)*

### Awards and contests

The Austria Press Agency (APA), in cooperation with the Bank Austria, organized a public competition for best reports on Europe and everyday life in European countries entitled "Writing for the Central and Eastern Europe 2011". The competition is held for the eighth time and the financial award amounts to 5,000 euros.

*(Beta, NUNS, Pravda, 29/04/2011)*

The TFT (Theater, Film, Television) magazine, edited by Slobodan Suljagic and published by the public company "Official Gazette" from Belgrade, was selected as the best magazine at the recently-held 23rd book fair in Sarajevo.

*(Blic, 26/04/2011, 24sata 27/04/2011, Danas, UNS, 29/04/2011)*

Film and television festival "Detectiv FEST" held in Moscow awarded the programme authored by Masan Lekic "Crnje od Crne Hronike" that is broadcast on a Belgrade station, TV Prva.

*(NUNS, UNS, Politika, 29/04/2011)*

Regular annual awards for investigative journalism, established by the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Embassy of the US in Belgrade, were presented to the team of the programme Insider and its series "Scam of the Century" dealing with financial abuses committed in the Kolubara mine (for investigative TV journalism); to Zoran Janjic for his article "The Cabinet of Dr Kostunica" published by E-Novine (for online journalism); and to Zoran Radulovic for his article "All Lies and Deceptions of Dragomir Tomic" published by the weekly magazine "Vranjske" (for press journalism). In the category of young journalists, the award went to the investigative team of the NUNS' Center for Investigative Journalism for its investigative series "The Miskovic Project".

*(NUNS, Blic, B92, 04/05/2011; Politika, UNS, 05/05/2011)*

The Office of the Council of Europe in Belgrade and the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities have announced a public contest for the best media report in the field of local self-government. The contest is open to journalists and authors of press, radio and TV reports, as well as to press, radio and TV editorial offices.

*(Danas, 07/05/2011)*

The South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO) has organized a public competition for journalism award in 2011 that is issued annually for contributions to better understanding and elimination of ethnic

barriers and xenophobia between the nations of the region. Detailed requirements of the competition are available at the web site of the SEEMO ([www.seemo.org](http://www.seemo.org)).

*(Danas, NUNS, 05/05/2011)*

### **Media visits**

The press attache of the Embassy of the US in Belgrade, Brian Stimmler, visited yesterday Sremske Novine and said that the newspaper is one of the rare privatized newspapers that have managed to work successfully in a difficult economic environment.

*(Dnevnik, NUNS, UNS, 29/04/2011)*

A project of exchange of journalists between print and electronic media in Belgrade and Pristina was presented in Pristina by the president of the Association of Professional Journalists of Kosovo, Arben Ahmeti, and a member of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), Dragan Janjic. The implementation of the project is supported by the embassies of the US in Pristina and Belgrade.

*(Beta, NUNS, Blic, Danas, 10/05/2011)*

### **Anniversaries**

The newspaper "Republika" celebrated a rare anniversary – the publication of the 500th issue. Despite numerous financial and political difficulties, the newspaper and its analytical and critical approach to social phenomena have become recognizable and unique during a period of almost a quarter of a century.

*(NUNS, 10/05/2011)*

One of the oldest radio stations in Vojvodina, Radio Kovacica, has organized a modest celebration of its 40th anniversary since 1 May 1971, when its programme first went on air. Radio Kovacica now broadcasts 62 hours of weekly programme in Serbian, 42 hours in Slovakian, and 11 hours each in Hungarian and Romanian languages.

*(Dnevnik, NUNS, UNS, 04/05/2011)*

This year marks a 30th anniversary of the airing of the first programme "Susretanja" ("Meetings") on Radio Belgrade. The programme, unique in its concept both in Serbia and in the territory of former Yugoslavia, deals with current events in the world of artistic music in the country and abroad.

*(Politika, 10/05/2011)*

### **Other news**

Branko Zujovic, the vice president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), a member of the Press Council, and a correspondent with "The Voice of Russia", has been appointed as a new editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine "Suboticke Novine". Zujovic worked as an editor of "Suboticki Dani" and "Revija 024", and as a correspondent with "Nacional".

*(Pravda, Dnevnik, NUNS, UNS, 04/05/2011)*

The Managing Board of the Press Council announced on May 7 a public contest for the position of the secretary general of the Press Council.

*(NUNS, 10/05/2011)*

Milan Kalinic, a TV host, will transfer from TV Pink to TV Prva as of autumn this year to lead one of the station's biggest projects.

*(Kurir, 06/05/2011)*

### Newspaper prices

Daily newspapers in Serbia are the cheapest in the region and their average price amounts to 15-35 dinars, shows the research conducted by the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS). Prices are similar in Macedonia and Romania, where daily newspapers cost between 0.2 and 0.75 euros. In Hungary, prices range from 0.5 to 0.85 euros, while daily newspapers in Croatia cost three times more than in Serbia. Slovenian newspapers have the average price of 0.9-1.2 euros. In Montenegro, daily newspapers cost 0.5 euros, the same as in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

*(Danas, Press, UNS, B92 27/04/2011)*

Commenting on the prices of daily newspapers in Serbia, Dragan Bujosevic, the president of the Press Council, said that prices in Serbia are lowest because of low incomes, while Filip Svarm, the editor of the weekly Magazine Vreme, believes that the reason lies in the lowest standard of living in the region. Aleksandar Stevanovic, an associate of the Center for Free Market, is of the opinion that the situation is caused by excessive competition and unsatisfactory content of newspapers. Srdjan Bogosavljevic, director of Ipsos Strategic Marketing, said that the Serbian market offers a much wider range of daily newspapers than the other countries of the region, while the purchasing power of the population has dropped significantly in the last three years.

*(Danas, NUNS, UNS, 29/04/2011)*

### The minority media

Employees in the newspaper oriented toward the Bulgarian national minority, "Bratstvo", who have not received any salaries in several months, asked the founder of the National Council of Bulgarians (NSBM) in Serbia to remove from position its director Nebojsa Ivanov. In the opinion of the journalistic trade union, he is responsible for this situation. The director said that he has not received salary since October as well, and that the troubles began in 2009, when the then Ministry of Culture decided to reduce the available funds from 30 to 7.5 million dinars. The protector of citizens concluded that our rights as a minority newspaper had been violated and ordered the decision to be reversed, but without any results, said Nebojsa Ivanov.

*(Vecernje Novosti, UNS, 28/04/2011)*

### Privatization and public media outlets

A representative of the state capital for the local television station, TV Valjevo, has not been appointed, while the station is facing closure because of the outstanding debt amounting to five million dinars. The explanation received from the Privatization Agency says that "the procedure of appointment has not been completed". "Quiet agony under the state supervision", say the employees in TV Valjevo, describing their current status.

*(Blic, 09/05/2011)*

Employees in the Radio-Television Smederevo began a strike yesterday because of unpaid salaries and inadequate working conditions. Radio Smederevo was sold at an auction held in the Privatization Agency in December 2009, and its majority owner is Marko Lukic.

*(NUNS, Pravda, Danas, Vecernje novosti, Blic, 27/04/2011; Blic, 28/04/2011)*

On the occasion of the strike of employees of Radio-Television Smederevo, representatives of the management said at a press conference that only a half of the workers were striking, and that the strike was caused by mandatory investment of the majority owner and the unpaid obligations of the previous employer.

*(Pravda, 28/04/2011)*

TV Smederevo, which is owned by the local self-government, has been working for more than two years without any plan or a program. During the same period, no sessions of the Managing Board have been held, while the Municipal Assembly has not received any financial reports. The Assembly discussed the operations of this media outlet only in October 2008.

*(Vecernje Novosti, 05/05/2011)*

On June 20, Radio Pirot will appear on an auction sale for the fourth time. The decision was announced by the Privatization Agency, while the starting price amounts to 3,487,000 dinars. Previous three auction sales failed to attract any prospective buyers for the station that is still being financed by the municipality.

*(Vecernje Novosti, 29/04/2011, NUNS, Press, 10/05/2011)*

Journalist Filip Mladenovic, a part-time worker employed with Radio Belgrade 202, protested in front of the Radio-Television Serbia and Radio Belgrade buildings because of discrimination of part-time workers. Remunerations paid to part-time workers have been dropping for months, while at the same time several vacant work positions could be filled by converting part-time employees into full-time workers.

*(Blog B92, NUNS, 03/05/2011)*

Employees in a regional TV station, RTV 5 from Nis, have ended their 2 month-long strike despite the failure to reach a written agreement with the employer on payment of remaining late salaries.

*(Pregled, Vecernje novosti, UNS, 09/05/2011)*

### **Broadcasting of parliamentary sessions**

The National Parliament of Serbia sent a contract on airing of parliamentary sessions to Radio-Television of Serbia. The document states that the broadcaster would receive 80 million dinars for a year of airing – 40 percent immediately and the rest in installments.

*(Beta, Blic, Pravda, E-novine, UNS, 28/04/2011; Vecernje Novosti, Kurir, 29/04/2011)*

The director of the Radio-Television of Serbia, Aleksandar Tijanic, said that in around ten days RTS would offer a response to the Serbian Parliament about the proposed contract on broadcasting of parliamentary sessions.

*(Tanjug, NUNS, B92, 04/05/2011; Kurir, Vecernje novosti, 05/05/2011)*

### **Other news**

At the end of April, the company "Novosti" launched a new publishing project entitled "The Golden Europeans". Every week until July 6, "Novosti" will offer to its readers literary works of famous European authors. The edition consists of 12 books that will be sold in newsstands for the price of only 390 dinars.

*(ASMEDI Newsletter, 151)*



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

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) called on its members and the citizens of Serbia and the region to sign an initiative for formation of the Regional Commission for Establishment of Facts About Victims of Armed Conflicts in the Territory of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. (NUNS, 03/05/2011)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) and Civic Vojvodina have criticized the appearance of journalist Milijana Baletic in the role of an author and screenwriter on Radio-Television Vojvodina. Milijana Baletic is one of the symbols of the journalism of the nineties, hate speech, promotion of nationalist ideology and disregard for fundamental ethical standards – says the announcement issued by NUNS and NDNV. (NUNS, NDNV, UNS, Danas, Dnevnik, Blic, Kurir, Pravda, 09/05/2011)

The Provincial Committee of the Serbian Renewal Movement for Vojvodina is strongly opposed to the return of Milijana Baletic to the Public Service Broadcaster of Vojvodina. "Someone who was a symbol of warmongering journalism that had certainly contributed to armed conflicts in the territory of former Yugoslavia should not be allowed to work for the Public Service Broadcaster. The reappearance of Milijana Baletic constitutes an utter disrespect for war victims", says the statement. (Pravda, 10/05/2011)

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

Secretary general of the Journalists' Association of Serbia, Nino Brajovic, in his open letter published by the daily newspaper Politika, says: "I agree with Jelka Jovanovic from the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) that after the court verdict in favour of the UNS any further debate is pointless. On behalf of UNS I call on my colleagues to reconsider whether there is a better way to use our time, energy and modest journalistic resources. I suggest that we try to reach an out-of-court agreement about all remaining issues". (UNS, Politika, 27/04/2011)

The founder of Wikileaks, Julian Assange, is the winner of this year's "Zora" award for freedom of the media presented by the Journalists' Association of Serbia on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day – May 3. The UNS says that Assange and his colleagues from Wikileaks have made a historical contribution to the world citizens' right to know. (UNS, Pravda, RTS.rs, Blic, emportal.rs 03/05/2011)

A French journalist and writer, the editor of the cultural section in the Le Figaro magazine, Jean-Christophe Buisson, will receive tomorrow the award of Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) for journalism without borders on the occasion of the Day of Journalists of Serbia, March 27 of this year. (UNS, 02/05/2011)

A delegation of the Journalistic Association of Serbia (UNS) laid a wreath at the former location of the Chinese Embassy, where 12 years ago three Chinese journalist lost their lives to NATO bombs. (UNS, 07/05/2011, Blic, Politika, Kurir, 08/05/2011)

### The Media Association

On May 20, the Media Association officially became a member of the European Newspaper Publishers Association (ENPA). (NUNS, 10/05/2011, ASMEDI Newsletter 151)

## Journalistic trade unions

Although the journalists of "Svetlost" from Kragujevac have been striking since February because of their employer's a year-long failure to pay salaries and contributions for social and health insurance, and the employer's decision not to negotiate with them, the employer has announced a public invitation for new employees in direct violation of the Labor Law and the Law on Strike. "Publication of a public invitation for employment of new journalists in today's issue of the weekly magazine 'Svetlost' is the culmination of cynicism and arrogance of the employer", says the announcement of the magazine's Journalistic Trade Union.

*(Tanjug, B92, 05/05/2011; Pregled, UNS, 06/05/2011)*

## The Republic Agency for Electronic Communications (RATEL)

The Republic Agency for Electronic Communications (RATEL) has joined the marking of the Girls' Day by inviting eight-grade schoolgirls from the primary school "Vuk Karadzic" from the village of Pecenjevece near Leskovac and their teachers to visit the Agency. The school is the first one in Serbia to receive a digital cabinet as a part of the "Digital School" project of the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society.

*(RATEL, 03/05/2011)*

Licenses who have been issued a location/frequency by the Republic Broadcasting Agency are obliged to deliver the Republic Agency for Electronic Communications (RATEL) complete technical and other documentation specified by the Rulebook on Forms (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No. 8/11). The Rulebook is published on the Agency's web page, including the application forms for issuance of individual licenses. RATEL will issue individual licenses for usage of radio frequencies as of July 22, 2011.

*(RATEL, 05/05/2011)*

## The South-East European Media Organization (SEEMO)

On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, celebrated on 3 May, SEEMO recalls that there is still a long way to go until media workers can enjoy press freedom. In 2010, SEEMO registered 406 press freedom violations in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Turkey, and Ukraine. These included different forms of threats made by email, letter, telephone, or in person, murders, physical assaults, bomb attacks, detentions and imprisonment, criminal charges, house arrests, political and economic pressures, as well as menacing warnings from religious leaders.

*(SEEMO, 02/05/2011)*

Threats, assaults, abuse and various forms of pressure are part of everyday life for journalists in South, Eastern and Central Europe, said the South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO). In the last year, SEEMO registered 406 instances of violation of the freedom of the media in 20 countries. These included different forms of threats made by email, letter, telephone, or in person, murders, physical assaults, bomb attacks, detentions and imprisonment, criminal charges, house arrests, political and economic pressures, as well as menacing warnings from religious leaders. The organisation has noted an increase in the number of threats by businessmen who often operate in a mafia-like style, but journalists also receive threats from religious organisations, actors and musicians.

*(B92, Beta, Danas, 04/05/2011)*

The First Istanbul Media Days are scheduled to take place from 16 to 20 May 2011. The First Belgrade Media Days, which will take place in Belgrade, Serbia, are scheduled for 2012, and will be organized in cooperation with the Singidunum University.

*(SEEMO/IPI, 09/05/2011)*

## The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA)

The National Parliament of Serbia elected Milos Rajkovic, Slobodan Veljkovic and Bozidar Nikolic as members of the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency. The Council of the RRA has nine members, and after the latest appointments all positions in the Council are filled.

*(Tanjug, NUNS, UNS, B92, Dnevnik, 05/05/2011)*

The vice president of the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), Goran Karadzic, said to Kurir daily that he had not watched the programme whose host showed a devil's sign on the day of Easter, and that he was not sure whether the incident constituted a violation of the law. Citizens have not complained to the RRA about that. The monitoring section began working only after the public holiday. Therefore I cannot make any official statement on behalf of the Agency".

*(Kurir, 27/04/2011)*

### The New Magazine (Novi magazin)

The first issue of the weekly "The New Magazine" ("Novi Magazin") that appeared on newsstands today will deal with the most significant social and economic events, but the political issues will not prevail over the others, said the editor of the newspaper. The editor-in-chief of "The New Magazine" is Nadezda Gace, while the rest of the editorial office includes renowned journalists from other media outlets. Among them are Mijat Lakicevic, Misa Brkic, Vojislav Tufegdzic, Milorad Ivanovic, Jelka Jovanovic, Dusan Velickovic, Sanja Ajdanic, Ratko Femic and others, while the editor of photography is Imre Sabo.

*(NUNS, 05/05/2011)*

The director of the Office for European Integration of the Government of Serbia, Milica Delevic, said at the presentation of the weekly "New Magazine", that the magazine would probably not glorify Europe, nor oppose Serbia's European integrations, but that it may become a place for debate about Europe. The editor-in-chief of "The New Magazine", Nadezda Gace, said that the magazine will deal with politics in a different way, report on all events taking place in Serbia, and also search for positive topics.

*(Danas, NUNS, UNS, 10/05/2011)*

### The new profile of B92

A spring programme schedule of the Radio B92, that begins on May 9, was presented under a slogan "Radio B92 Surprises". "During this spring, Radio B92 has only one goal – to entertain you, make you smile and make you move. The news programme remains dedicated to objective and immediate reporting", announced B92.

*(B92, 07/05/2011)*

As of May 9 at 18.30, TV B92 will broadcast "new good news from a new, redesigned and modern studio".

*(B92, 08/05/2011)*

### Digitalization

A transmitter for an experimental digital television network will be installed on the Avala Tower. Its signal will be available to all inhabitants of Belgrade and it will begin working in this year. Apart from a higher-quality sound and picture, digital receivers will offer additional benefits like video-on-demand or an electronic programme guide, while the citizens will enjoy in a DVBT2/MPEG-4 digital network that is in accordance with European standards, said Vladimir Homan, the director of the public company "Broadcasting Equipment".

*(24 sata, 21/04/2011)*

In less than a year, the digital TV signal will reach Serbian households, said the state secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Media and Information Society, Jasna Matic. She announced that the state would prepare assistance for 300,000 lowest-income families so that they would be able to buy the decoder. Citizens who use aerial antennas to watch the programme will have to buy a digital signal decoder or new TV sets.

*(Vecernje Novosti, NUNS, UNS, 27/04/2011)*

The state secretary for digital agenda, Jasna Matic, announced that Serbia will receive a financial assistance in the amount of more than 10 million euros for acquisition of equipment for digital broadcasting of TV programme.

*(Beta, Kurir, 08/05/2011)*

TV sets that support the second generation of the digital signal began appearing in shops and only a few models are available that carry labels with signs DVB-T2 and MPEG-4. These TV sets are among the most expensive in the market and their prices start at 60,000 dinars, reports the Vecernje Novosti newspaper.

*(Vecernje Novosti, NUNS, UNS, 27/04/2011)*

Goran Milic, programme director of the regional branch of Qatari TV network "Al Jazeera Balkans", announced that the TV station would report without any prejudices. "We will win our place on the screens of former Yugoslavian republics only by offering information. We will not be politicians' sycophants", said Milic to Danas newspaper.

*(Danas, 07/05/2011)*

- 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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