



**Three Freedoms Under the Magnifying Glass**  
**Violations of Basic Human Rights in Serbia**  
**24 September - 7 October**

**Freedom of Expression**

**Authors of the “Dobar, los, zao” Podcast Threatened**

**Authors of the “Dobar, los, zao” podcast, Marko Vidojkovic and Nenad Kulacin, have been threatened recently for expressing views in their show.** These recent threats have started after [an episode of the podcast](#) in which Vidojković swore at the President after which he became targeted by pro-government tabloids. The threats have intensified after the President [commented on the case](#) in the “Hit Tvit” show on TV Pink. Just a few days later, [Kulacin’s mother was verbally attacked](#) in the city of Bor where she resides. Vidojković [stated that he feared possible attacks](#) that could be organized against them. **This case confirms the practice of inadequate reaction of relevant institutions in the field of security of journalists helped by public and often individual commenting of cases on pro-government television by public officials towards whom the critics were aimed after all.**

**Criminal Charges for Konstantin Katic’s Torture Case**

The legal team of the opposition People’s Party filed [a criminal charge](#) on 29 September to the Prosecutor for Organized Crime against the director and several employees of the

**Security Information Agency for alleged torture of their member Konstantin Katic by the Agency.** The Party stated that Katic was detained at the Belgrade Airport and was interrogated and tortured because of a Twitter post in which he expressed support for Marko Vidojkovic, the host of the “Dobar, los, zao” podcast. **The legal team noted that they will not give up on this case and that they will call on political and social responsibility for all involved.**

### **Physical Attack and Death Threats aimed at Members of the League of Socialdemocrats of Vojvodina**

**Member of the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina Sasa Sucurovic and his colleague and member of the League of Socialdemocrats of Vojvodina (LSV) Djurica Ilicic were attacked in Novi Becej on 6 October while receiving death threats,** LSV states. They were attacked and threatened while being seated in a cafe, by a young man who, as they say, was known for earlier criminal convictions, while other members of his group were recording and following the attack. **Besides the condemnation of the attack, LSV stated their belief that attacks on political opponents are encouraged and that this attack was part of this process.**

## **Freedom of Assembly**

### **Ruling Party Activists Disrupt Opposition Gatherings**

**Activists of the ruling Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) disrupted opposition gatherings in two separate cases.** One gathering organized by the opposition [Democratic Party in Belgrade's Vozdovac Municipality on 25 September](#), was disrupted by a group of SNS activists who turned on a tape recorder with offensive messages aimed towards Dragan Djilas, the president of the opposition Party of Freedom and Justice. In the other case, SNS activists disrupted the event of the [Let's Not Drown Belgrade movement on 2 October](#) in the Karaburma neighborhood. The Movement stated that SNS's presence was aimed at preventing their event from happening and noted that the SNS “in an already seen manner” puts their stands in the same time and on the same place as them. The Movement also said that the police did not react despite the gathering being reported to the police prior according to law. **Relevant institutions are obligated to**

**provide safe and uninterrupted assemblies in case one happens with a counter assembly, something that did not happen in these cases.**

## **Freedom of Association**

### **Association Files Criminal Charge on Death Threats**

**[The Bird Protection and Research Society of Serbia](#) has filed a criminal charge to the Basic Public Prosecutor in Novi Sad regarding death threats sent to the Society on a hunter's portal [srbijalov.com](#). The comment on the portal supported a [demolition of a Society's official car](#) that happened just two weeks prior at first, and then the threats started. The Society stated that this kind of comment caused the feeling of fear and insecurity within their membership because the portal gathers people who are armed. The Society has been facing threats coming from hunters for years, which comes from their field engagement related to illegal hunting. **Relevant institutions must react urgently and without delay to the threats and to be additionally engaged in law implementation instead of the weight of this job falling to citizen's associations who can become victims easily.****

### **Internal Affairs Ministry Attacks Civil Society for Criticizing Law**

**[The Ministry of Internal Affairs has withdrawn the Draft Law on Internal Affairs](#) from the official procedure after civil society criticized the Draft saying it derogates basic rights and freedoms of citizens. On that occasion, Serbian Internal Minister Vulin brought out a number of insults towards the Serbian civil society, saying in an official announcement on the Ministry's web page, that the withdrawal of the Draft Law came because of pressure from "western intelligence services" and their "agency network established in media, non-governmental organizations and political parties" who prepared massive and violent protests on streets. Despite the Ministry telling that the Draft Law would increase security to suppress criminal offences, [civil society organizations and media associations](#) criticized it telling that biometric surveillance derogated freedom of speech and the right to privacy and that it is in conflict with standards in this field that rely on the Law on Personal Data Protection and the General Data Protection**

Regulation (GDPR). **Allegations made in the Ministry of Internal Affairs' announcement as well as the rhetoric used in this official address, represent a continuation of a dangerous narrative of "foreign mercenaries" whose goal is to suppress criticism and intimidate organizations and activists, that is further used to shrink civic space in Serbia.**

### **Monitoring**

#### **Simo Spasic not present at his hearing on threatening *Juzne vesti***

**The President of the Association of Families of the Kidnapped, Killed and Dissapeared from Kosovo and Metohija, Simo Spasic, did not show to his hearing** in the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Niš that was scheduled related to threats sent by Spasic to the *Južne vesti* journalist Aleksandar Stankov. Spasic has sent death threas to *Južne vesti* and has called other media "foreign mercenaries' ". He did not stop with the threats even after warninings. The threatening has started after *Južne vesti* reported on Spasic being received in the Nis City Hall by the city's mayor Dragana Sotirovski who announced that Spasić's association will receive official work space in the center of the city, while the report also reminding that Spasić was convicted on rape.