

ELECTIONS

UNDER THE MAGNIFYING GLASS

34

days
until the
elections



human
rights
violations

**DATE: 25-
28/02/2022**

The Three Freedoms Platform will monitor and record all irregularities in public information and the election process on a daily basis, and send its reports to the international community and the interested public.

The Ruling SNS Polling Citizens by Calling their Foreign Phone Numbers

A reader of the *Nova.rs* portal announced that he received a call from volunteers of the Serbian Progressive Party, as part of the pre-election poll, who called him to his foreign number, which he did not register anywhere. According to the reader, he has been living in Malta for 5 years, and he uses the phone number for job purposes, to which he was called by persons who introduced themselves as being from the Serbian Progressive Party. He states that his family members do not have that phone number either, so he asked the interviewers where they got his number from, so that the interviewer would state that she does not know, but that she received a database from which she sees the numbers. Nova journalists called the number from which the reader received the call, and persons who answered, after a short whisper, rejected the allegations that they were interviewers of the Serbian Progressive Party.

Activist Summoned for Questioning For Participation Protests

Activist and member of *Pokret Tvrdava (Fortress Movement)* from Smederevo, Nikola Krstic, received an invitation on February 23, 2022, to report to the Misdemeanor Court in that city. As stated in the court invitation, Krstic is charged with violations of two articles of the Law on Public Gatherings: for holding a rally without reporting to the competent authority and for failing to maintain order at the rally. According to the Movement, they see this call as a continuation of the pressure on them, especially after Krstic was arrested earlier for participating in a protest, when a misdemeanor procedure was also initiated against him.

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Local Activist Attacked in Kula

Activist of the Citizen's Group Critical Mass for Victory in Kula, Rade Obradovic, was physically attacked in that town in the evening hours of February 25, 2022. According to Obradovic, he was attacked by a man known to him, who got out of the car and hit him with his fist. During the attack, the attacker said that he was attacking Obradovic because of a text that reveals suspicious economic activities that his wife was engaged in. Obradovic states that he only shared one text of the VOICE portal which referred to the Minister in the Government of Serbia Marija Obradovic and the State Secretary in her ministry, the attacker's wife, which states that they were engaged in animal husbandry business within a cooperative established together with persons close to the ruling Serbian Progressive Party. However, Obradovic states that he shared this text a long time ago, and that he met the attacker earlier in this place, but that nothing happened between them. He states that this attack is of a political nature and that it comes as a consequence of the fact that Obradovic is in the process of collecting signatures of support for going to the upcoming elections within the mentioned Citizen's Group. He states that he immediately reported the case of the attack to the police.

Activists Attacked in Novi Sad After Protest

Activists of the Youth Student Action (YSA) from Novi Sad were attacked on February 26, 2022, after a protest they organized in that city. According to YSA, after they finished the protest walk, several people with metal batons got out of a gray Volkswagen car, after which they threatened them. After the gathered activists opposed them, the attackers withdrew, threatening that "they will shoot" the activists. The YSA states that their security is endangered, but that they will not give up on their activities. A day later, the media published information that there was another incident at the same protest when the driver of a car, trapped in the protest traffic blockade, attacked the gathered citizens. On that occasion, an uniformed police officer was almost hit, while one activist, sitting on the road, was hit by the car, and the other had her phone knocked out by a person sitting in the passenger seat.



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Public Company Workers Involved in Party Activities

According to the *Nova.rs* portal, employees of the "Belgrade City Markets" Public Utility Company are engaged in party activities of the Serbian Progressive Party, which is why **they do not come to work for days**. It is stated that the director of this public company coordinates this process, which is contrary to the Law on Public Companies, which explicitly prohibits the use of resources of public companies for political purposes. It is also stated that this practice is not a surprise, considering that the director of the *City Markets*, Bojan Bajagic, is a "party raider" who is in charge of the campaign of the ruling party in Nis and Pirot. *Nova.rs* states that it sent a question to Bajagic about it, but that at the time of publishing this news, they did not receive any answer.

Activist of the Ruling SNS Physically Attacked a Citizen

An activist of the Serbian Progressive Party, during a door-to-door campaign, hit a resident of the building where they were promoting the party, on **February 25, 2022**. As can be seen in the video that the tenant posted on his Twitter profile, after a short verbal fight, the SNS activist physically attacked him, stealing his phone from his hand. After that, the phone was returned, and the tenant claims that his thumb was injured during the attack. He also stated that it was the second time that SNS activists were in his building, and the second time that they rang his doorbell because of the party's promotion.

