

ELECTIONS

UNDER THE MAGNIFYING GLASS

3 days
until the
elections



84 human
rights
violations

DATE: 30-31/03/2022

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.

Independent media targeted by a right-wing party

The right-wing "Srpski pokret Dveri" targeted the N1 and Nova S televisions after a new episode of the documentary "Heroes of the Evil Age" was broadcast, dedicated to the Bishop of Backa, Irinej Bulovic. Dveri stated that this show "insults the Bishop of Backa Irinej Bulovic, the entire clergy of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and thus all the traditional and spiritual values of our people, with the most brutal lies." It is also stated that N1 and Nova S "insult the feelings of Orthodox believers" and that they "tell untruths" when it comes to the Serbian Orthodox Church. It is also said that these televisions "even during the corona pandemic nurtured intolerance towards the Serbian Orthodox Church and some bishops because of attitudes that protect human freedom of choice, and today they seem to mind that the Church does not publicly satanize Russia and the fraternal Russian people." In the end, they stated that "for years, the pro-Western media in Serbia have a long-term agenda to undermine the authority of the most respected institution in the Serbian people with lies and fabrications."

On this occasion, the Independent Journalist's Association of Serbia (NUNS) announced that it strongly condemns this statement and called on participants in public life to pay attention to a publicly spoken word that can have far-reaching consequences and to "stop dangerous labelling and targeting of professional journalists."

Educators of preschool institutions in Lucani and Guca under pressure

For months, workers in preschools in Lucani and Guca have been under pressure from director Gordana Milcevic, forcing them to attend rallies by the ruling Serbian Progressive Party. It is stated that Milcevic published the lists of employees who should go to rallies in closed correspondence, and in the beginning, all educators were obliged to go, and then only those who were employed on a temporary basis. The employees state that they are exposed to blackmail and pressure, and that those who refused to go were told "that a higher instance was informed about that".



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New accusations against CRTA

The President of the Council of the Regulatory Body for Electronic Media, Olivera Zekic, made accusations against the CRTA organization in a statement published on the website of this institution on March 31, 2021. Zekic stated that CRTA was using "the last hours before the election silence in order to "get" another election vote in favour of its political mentors, referring to independence, professionalism and high standards". This statement, related to the results of the research on election conditions in the election campaign, which was presented by CRTA earlier in the day, notes that this organization tried to "place inaccurate and tendentious data on the election campaign" and that referring to unverified data, they are carrying out their "mission", collecting, at the last minute, the votes of the electorate". CRTA held a press conference on March 31, 2022, at which they stated that the election campaign was in worse conditions than the one in 2020, referring to the inappropriate work of the competent election institutions and the representation of government and opposition representatives in national television programs with national coverage.

An opposition member from Kragujevac was sentenced to prison for attending environmental protests

A member of the Main Board of the opposition People's Party in Kragujevac, Boris Herman, was sentenced to 5 days in prison for unpaid misdemeanour fine in the amount of 5,000 dinars for a traffic violation from one of the environmental protests and blockades across Serbia.

The People's Party stated that Herman was never asked for his ID at the protests, as well as that he never received a misdemeanour order imposing a fine on him. The party additionally stated that it is inadmissible to "hand over decisions on serving prison sentences to protesters, while thugs who attacked participants in peaceful environmental protests with hammers and excavators, enjoy all the protection of the authoritarian regime."

