

# THREE FREEDOMS UNDER THE MAGNIFYING GLASS

Cases of violations of basic human rights in Serbia 29 April - 12 May 2022



## Freedom of expression

### - Journalist Isidora Kovacevic receives threats

**Podrinske editor-in-chief Isidora Kovacevic received threats from an unknown person via social media.**

Following an announcement criticizing Serbian Progressive Party official and Director of the Fund for Retirement and Disability Insurance in Sabac Aleksandar Pejanovic, Kovacevic received threats stating that "she should stop writing, otherwise they will start making announcements about her until she ends up in an asylum". Kovacevic had previously been subjected to death threats, as well as public targeting, when a wanted poster featuring Kovacevic was unveiled on the streets of the town of Sabac last year. No case has ever been solved by the police. Aleksandar Pejanovic, has been linked to attacks against participants in a protest on the Sabac Bridge last year, when a group of young men physically attacked the crowd and citizens with sticks. In the end, Kovacevic says she was worried for her and her family's safety and that says she "must find a way to protect them because the institutions, by covering up these threats, give these people extra courage to continue, and who knows what they do".

### Threats against journalist Snezana Congradin

**Danas journalist Snezana Congradin received threats and insults from anonymous users on social media.**

According to the newspaper, the threats made on this occasion are reminiscent of those sent to Congradin from the official profile of the Serbian Football Association last year, for which the investigation is still ongoing. Danas also reported that the newspaper's journalists have recently been subjected to attacks and death threats, mostly from unidentified online profiles.

### Threats against journalist Dinko Gruhonjic

**Journalist Dinko Gruhonjic received threats directed at him and members of his family.** The Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) said Gruhonjic had been subjected to pressure and threats for a long time, with his family included in the latter. It is said that the person who identified himself as a "Serb and chetnik", via Facebook, threatened Gruhonjic, alleging he was a "traitor". The same person was trying to make a call with Gruhonjic through the Messenger app.

## Freedom of association

### - Let's not Drown Belgrade activist attacked

**A member and activist of the Let's Not Drown Belgrade movement Milos Vuckovic was physically assaulted in the evening hours of May 11, 2022.** It is said to be the same person who attacked him on election day outside a polling station in the Belgrade municipality of Zvezdara on April 3, 2022. Authorities have been urged to detain the attacker as there is a risk of another attack. The Network for Democratic Dialogue, which reacted on the case, said "the police have not obviously done their job the first time" and called on "the competent authorities to stop attacks on Milos Vuckovic immediately".

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# MONITORING

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## *Criminal charges filed by N1 journalist for security endangerment rejected*

The Basic Public Prosecutor's Office rejected criminal charges filed by N1 TV journalist Ksenija Pavkov against the manager of the construction site of the Linglong factory in Zrenjanin. This report followed after the mentioned manager blocked and filmed the N1 vehicle, and after the N1 team reported on conditions in which workers from Vietnam work on this construction site. The Prosecutor's Office stated that the fact that the mentioned manager used the phone and took pictures of the N1 vehicle does not represent any specific action that can be qualified as a crime of endangering safety. Journalist Pavkov stated that she would file a complaint due to "numerous illogicalities".