



**Three Freedoms Under the Magnifying Glass**  
**Violations of Basic Human Rights in Serbia**

November 14 - November 27, 2025

**Freedom of Expression**

**Hacker attacks on student Instagram accounts**

Student profiles, as well as the profiles of influential public figures who regularly write about the protests, have come under a wave of hacking attacks in recent weeks. Namely, there has been a sudden increase in the number of fake followers (bot accounts), which could potentially lead to Instagram accounts being shut down (and this has indeed happened to some profiles). This clearly coordinated action is aimed at disabling Instagram accounts that have become the main source of information for citizens, and represents an evident attempt to disrupt the spread of information and prevent communication via social media. In addition to student accounts, the Instagram account of N1 was shut down on November 26 due to a hacking attack. This is happening at a time when Freedom House has published its report on internet freedom, in which Serbia is labeled as a partly free country, marking a decline compared to last year.

**Attack on N1 team**

Another in a series of physical attacks has occurred against journalists who are trying to report from the public area in front of the National Assembly, where tents belonging to supporters of the government have been located since March. These supporters are extremely hostile toward critical media. A man wearing a cap approached N1 journalist Maja Nikolić and her cameraman and completely destroyed their television camera. The First Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade ordered the police to determine the identity of the perpetrator, even though the journalist already recognized the attacker: Vladan Sretenović, a convicted murderer previously mentioned in the media after being seen in the tent settlement in front of the National Assembly. The police officers present at the time of the attack did not react and did not detain the attacker. Government representatives did not clearly and unequivocally condemn the attack; instead, they attempted to downplay the seriousness of this violent act by criticizing the way N1 reports. The President even stated that it was an “attack on a camera,” trivializing this dangerous assault on the media, which has been directly fueled by the rhetoric of the ruling party, the biggest opponent of freedom of thought and the press.

## **Cameraman kicked out of conference**

An RTS cameraman was removed from a press conference in the Presidency building because he was wearing a badge with the symbol of a bloody hand, one of the symbols of the student and civic protests. Denying the cameraman access to the conference directly prevents media workers from doing their jobs. In addition to the RTS cameraman, reporting was also obstructed for an Insajder journalist after the press conference. Individuals present in the so-called "Ćaciland" forbade him from filming the inside of the tent, even though it is a public space and no one should be allowed to prevent journalists from reporting on issues of public interest. The tent camp that has blocked the city center for eight months, and whose financing remains unknown, is unquestionably a matter of public concern.

## **RTS editor fired**

The editor of the late-night news on RTS was dismissed, and he believes the reason is that he insulted the "residents" of the Ćaciland tent settlement. The incident occurred on November 2, when individuals stationed in the pro-government camp were playing loud music, provoking Dijana Hrka, who had begun a hunger strike that day. Editor Ivan Plavšić insulted the people from Ćaciland who were singing, and a recording of the event quickly spread on pro-regime television channels. Plavšić states that he received around 400 threats from various platforms, as well as that RTS: "the house where I have worked since my university days", dismissed him, "due to pressure from him (Aleksandar Vučić), due to his and his associates' demands."

# **Freedom of Association**

## **Attacked members of citizens' assemblies**

The citizens' assembly of the Belgrade municipality of Stari grad announced that masked attackers beat members of that assembly and the Savski Venac united assemblies in front of the Serbian Parliament. During the attack, one member of the citizens' assembly also had her phone taken away. The Ćaciland tent settlement has been a gathering place for suspicious and convicted persons who terrorize journalists and citizens for months. In recent weeks, there have been several attacks by people from this sort of paramilitary camp on journalists, as well as opposition MPs who tried to get to their workplace.

## **Freedom of Assembly**

### **Police attacked citizens**

In Novi Sad, tensions had been high for days in front of the Banovina building, where transportation provider Milomir Jaćimović had been on a hunger strike because seven of his buses, used to transport students to protests across the country, had been confiscated. After one of the buses was returned to him, Jaćimović parked it at the location where he had been staging his hunger strike. Very quickly, a police cordon formed on the scene with the intention of seizing the bus again. Citizens who had gathered attempted to stop the police, leading to pushing and shoving between the two groups. During the incident, a Blokade info reporter and an N1 reporter were pushed. The editor of the Razglas News portal was also physically assaulted by the police. “The passion with which police officers and gendarmes strike journalists clearly indicates that they have been ordered to do so from the very top of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the state,” stated the Independent Journalists’ Association of Vojvodina. That same evening, videos circulated showing violence committed by the police against citizens. In one video, a police officer is seen hitting a woman in the head and dragging her by the hair. Several students were injured, and photos and videos show disturbing images of students’ bloodied faces caused by members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. At one point, the police began dispersing citizens and chasing them through the streets while shouting phrases such as “Kill him.” Citizen assemblies of Novi Sad reported that police also beat minors. During the police intervention, Milomir Jaćimović’s underage son was injured and was detained the following day without any explanation or notification to his father. He was released later that day. Police brutality this year has reached unprecedented levels, and no one has been held accountable.