
THREE FREEDOMS UNDER THE MAGNIFYING GLASS



Civic
Initiatives

freedom of expression

freedom of assembly

freedom of association

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

December 26, 2025 - January 15, 2026

Freedom of Expression

Pressures and threats against N1 and Bečejski Mozaik Journalists

Journalists of N1 television were subjected to threats, sexist insults, and hate speech through comments on internet portals. The threats were reported to the competent authorities, and regarding these attacks, the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia also spoke out, condemning the attacks on journalists, assessing them as a direct incitement to violence and an attempt to intimidate the media.

At the same time, the journalist of the portal Bečejski mozaik, Kristina Demeter Filipčev, was targeted by the mayor of Bečejski, Vuk Radojević, who from the podium of the Municipal Assembly, during two sessions on November 24 and December 23, publicly accused and singled her out, questioning her professional integrity. In a statement regarding the most recent attacks on media workers, NUNS also warned about frequent insults and threats to the editorial office of Bečejski mozaik on social media and called on institutions to urgently prosecute those responsible and clearly show that attacks on journalists constitute criminal offenses, not permissible forms of public communication.

During the period of these attacks, ANEM published a report on the state of local media in Serbia for 2025, indicating a deterioration in the working conditions of local journalists, with an overall rating of 2.23 for the state of media freedom compared to the previous year, when it was rated 2.53, and a decline was also recorded in the areas of access to information, safety of media workers, and economic position.

Threats of setting the editorial office of the daily newspaper Danas

The editorial office of the daily newspaper and portal Danas was subjected to a serious threat of violence following the publication of an article on energy issues and the position of NIS. In the comments under the news, a direct threat of setting the editorial office on fire was made, along with a call to throw explosives. The threat was sent from the account "Brine" and explicitly called for violence against the editorial office because of the way of reporting. The case was reported to the Prosecutor's Office for High-Tech Crime.

Hacker attacks on the media

Editorial offices of the media Radar and the portal Zoomer faced coordinated hacker and bot attacks on their Instagram accounts. The Radar editorial office informed the public that a sudden and unnatural increase in the number of followers was observed on their Instagram account in a very short period, raising reasonable suspicion that this was an organized bot attack using fake profiles. Such artificially generated growth carries the risk of account blocking or shutdown by Meta, which would directly limit Radar's ability to distribute content and communicate with the audience.

Similarly, the Instagram account of the portal Zoomer experienced a sudden and unusual jump in the number of followers, from about 29,400 to over 32,700 in just one hour, which editors interpreted as a bot attack aimed at limiting the account's visibility or, in the worst case, causing it to be permanently disabled. In both cases, the editorial offices locked the accounts, identified suspicious profiles, and notified Meta and relevant authorities about suspicions of these attacks.

In both cases, it is characteristic that the targets of the hacker attacks were editorial offices and media with a critical editorial approach. Such well-coordinated digital actions directed exclusively at critical media occur in the context of increased pressure on the media and represent attempts to restrict public access to information via social networks.

Pressures on public enterprise employees due to support for students

During 2025, according to employee testimonies, organized pressures were exerted on public enterprise workers to attend rallies of the Serbian Progressive Party and visits to the so-called "Čacilend," with invitations often coming directly from managers. Bojan Sarić, then employed at JKP Toplane Kikinda, claims that due to refusing these invitations and publicly supporting students, he lost his job, as the director informed him that there was an order "from the top" not to renew his contract, even though he had worked for four years in various positions and met all professional requirements, while director Dušan Marjanović, whom Sarić names as responsible, did not respond to journalists' inquiries. Such actions are part of a broader practice in public enterprises, where mass layoffs, transfers, and demotions are carried out to place loyal personnel and discipline employees who point out irregularities or do not fit into the existing management structure.

Freedom of Assembly

Criminal charges against six citizens of Čačak

During a concert of singer Ana Bekuta in Čačak, organized on the occasion of the Serbian New Year celebration, an incident occurred in which some of the gathered citizens threw snowballs at the stage. The citizens' discontent arose due to, as they say, the "senseless and unnecessary spending of 4.5 million dinars" from the city budget for a concert organized by the authorities in the square for the celebration of the New Year according to the Julian calendar. Although throwing snowballs is not a criminal offense, members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Čačak filed criminal charges against six individuals, on the grounds of reasonable suspicion that they committed the criminal offense of violent behavior at a sports event or public gathering, while the Ministry of Internal Affairs previously stated that the police identified 11 people who, according to police reports, participated in the throwing.

According to the lawyer, the police acted on their own initiative, without a complaint from the injured party. It was also noted that Ana Bekuta did not seek assistance from the emergency medical service or a doctor and that, according to available information, she did not sustain any injuries. Despite this, the police carried out identification and detention, and the decision on the possible legal qualification of the event was left to the prosecution.

Detention of an architect after a protest gathering in Valjevo

After a protest gathering in Valjevo organized to mark five months since the brutal beating of several citizens by the police, Valjevo architect F.P. was, after the protest ended and the citizens dispersed, intercepted and identified by the police, and then detained at the Police Department in Valjevo. He was reportedly detained because of the message "Valjevo remembers," which he had left during the protest on a traffic sign at the entrance to the Police Department building. After some time, the architect left the Police Department building.

The protest was organized as a commemoration of the August incidents in which, according to previous reports, nearly 70 people were arrested, and the injured were not even recorded.