

Election Day in the Shadow of Violence

BOR

- In Bor, several physical attacks were recorded. In one recorded case, a student mobile mission and a lawyer of the CRTA observation mission [were attacked](#).
- Another [video](#) shows a group of men dressed in black beating observers in front of the Fund for pension and health insurance. [A policeman was present](#) at the scene, but that did not prevent the men from beating observers from the student observation mission and the NGO CRTA mission. Three students and two members of the CRTA observation mission were transported to the hospital for [stitches](#). One of the [beaten lawyers](#) received several blows to the head and his phone was taken from him. Among the [attackers](#), the current secretary of the Secretariat for General Affairs in Belgrade, Dejan Kesar, was recognized, who had already been seen among the groups of thugs of the ruling party. In addition to him, councilor of the city Municipality of Voždovac and [member of the Municipal Council](#) for Education from Bačka Topola participated in the violent incident.
- Activist Ivan Bjelić [was detained](#), who was in Bor to report on the protests for the youth portal "Revolt". Although he had a press vest, the police identified Bjelić and detained him due to [an alleged warrant](#) for him. The activist was [released](#) during the day.
- During the day, a large number of [masked persons on quads](#) were filmed.
- In the vicinity of Bor, masked men from an Audi with Pančevo license plates [attacked](#) activist Ivan Bjelić, student Lazar Dinić, and local activist Aleksandar Kulić. According to testimonies, the attackers carried axes with them. Lazar Dinić, otherwise one of the students from the Novi Sad group being tried for the alleged overthrow of the constitutional order, sustained head injuries and [had a bloody face](#). He and Ivan Bjelić were transported by ambulance to the hospital to receive [medical assistance](#). On that occasion, the phones of the attacked activists were confiscated. The incident occurred when masked men first [attacked activist](#) and photojournalist Zorica Popović and took her camera. Then Bjelić approached to help her, but the men knocked him to the ground and beat him. Lazar Dinić tried to run away from the thugs, but they caught him, [beat and filmed](#) him and forced him to say that Vučić was the president. Dinić suffered [a fractured cheekbone](#) and is now awaiting surgery. Zorica Popović complained of pain in the stomach area, and Kulić sustained injuries similar to Dinić's.

- During the day, a group of men came out of the SNS headquarters and once again [attacked students](#) from the mobile observation team who were filming a vehicle in front of the premises in which they noticed parallel electoral rolls. The men attacked the students, among whom is a student who had already been attacked in the morning. According to CRTA information, he sustained blows to the head after which he felt [numbness in his body](#). Among the [attackers](#) was Miodrag Mijović, councilor in the city municipality of Voždovac.
- In the evening, members of the polling board at one polling station could not leave the premises because members of the board from the ranks of the authorities allegedly forbade them from doing so. When citizens gathered in front of that polling station, SNS representatives [began to flee](#). A chase of several people through the streets occurred. The police detained several persons.

BAJINA BAŠTA

- The night before the elections, [tires were punctured](#) on 6 cars belonging to members of observation missions. Tires were also punctured on the cars of observers of the "Kreni-promeni" movement, and Savo Manojlović stated that this was an attempt to prevent their observers from reaching polling stations in rural parts of Bajina Bašta.
- In the city center, 2 members of the observation mission from Zbor Stari grad [were attacked](#). Unknown men approached the observers, and kicked one of them and took his phone. The observers came to the city center to see why a huge number of vehicles with plates from other cities were parked in the central parking lot. [The police refused to react](#) despite the pleas of the beaten observer. [Journalist of the Zumer portal](#), Darko Gligorijević, also came to the parking lot to film the attack on the observers. A group of men approached him as well and sprayed him with pepper spray, and one of them dealt him [several blows to the head](#).
- Near the stadium in Bajina Bašta, a [large group of men](#), when they noticed journalists, [ran after reporters](#) from Mašina and Blokada Info and citizens. The police only returned them to the facility they came out of, without identifying them. At the moment when the group of men rushed at the citizens, one man got out of an Audi vehicle [with a pistol in his hand](#).

KULA

- Around polling stations, [groups of people](#) with badges with the letter "Ć" were filmed (SNS supporters began wearing this badge last year as a sign of "pride" that people

pejoratively call them "ćaci" and members of so-called "Ćaciland"). Many among them carry white folders as a form of distraction, while there is nothing in them. A [group of bikers](#) also with "Ć" badges was filmed arriving in the village of Crvenka.

- Citizens claim that [SNS rented about ten premises](#) and that there is a suspicion that illegal activities are taking place in them during the election day. What is particularly worrying is the fact that the police were securing objects in which it is suspected that SNS members were carrying out malpractices.
- Student and "zbor" observation missions claim that in the town of Sivac they spotted a vehicle containing [parallel electoral rolls](#) and that the buying and selling of votes is being conducted in one premises. The police did not respond to the citizens' call, but only when a person from the vehicle gave a sign to the policeman. After inspecting one vehicle, the [police allowed the persons](#) from the vehicle to continue without any sanction. In another vehicle, something that looks like [parallel electoral rolls](#) were filmed.
- In the village of Crvenka near Kula, citizens reported that votes were being bought at one location. However, the police did not want to enter the facility suspected of containing a call center and [prevented citizens](#) from entering and filming what was happening. On that occasion, [pushing](#) occurred between citizens and the police. The police then [secured the premises where SNS activists were](#) located and did not react to illegal actions.
- Near another cafe in Kula, [the police protected a premises](#) where, according to citizens' claims, electoral malpractices were being carried out. This is one of 5 places for which citizens reported seeing larger groups of persons with certain papers, but the [police refused to check](#) if these were parallel lists, and instead secured those premises. Two people were detained. One video shows a man being [roughly detained](#) by the police after he tried to defend his son who was attacked by the police.
- In front of the restaurant "Ćira," [SNS officials together with the police](#) prevented citizens from seeing what was happening inside the premises. Citizens suspect that this is another place where SNS members keep parallel electoral rolls.
- [A police cordon](#) was also formed [in front of the "Tvrđava" premises](#) where SNS members locked themselves in. Some police officers [wore phantom masks](#) and had no markings. This is another premises suspected of serving as a gathering place where parallel electoral rolls are kept. In front of the premises was also an employee from the pro-regime channel Informer, who is otherwise often seen at protests provoking protest participants. The video shows the police taking away one citizen.
- In the center of Kula, a video was recorded when [men with batons](#) ran out of the [premises in the FC Hajduk stadium](#) and rushed toward citizens. However, the police

reacted only toward one group, while [not taking any measures](#) against the masked men with clubs and batons. The men then locked themselves in a facility and the police formed a cordon around the facility and protected the violent men. [Two people were injured](#) and transported to the hospital.

- Shortly before 6 PM, the police began [searching the premises of observation missions](#).
- Around 7 PM, in front of polling station number 5, [a group of about 30 men](#) arrived. They came by bus and [vehicles without license plates](#). Eyewitnesses say some carried batons. Citizens tried to prevent such organized action by suspicious persons, however, the police interposed themselves between the two groups and allowed the group of men access to the polling station.
- [Attempts to puncture the tires](#) of citizens, observers, and activists were also recorded.

ARANĐELOVAC

- Observers reported that an [SNS call center](#) is located in a balloon hall. When the observers entered the hall, the people inside started [picking up things and fleeing](#), as [can be seen in the video](#).
- Students [seized a parallel electoral roll](#) they found with persons near the bus station. A transport company that transported SNS supporters to rallies across Serbia is signed on the lists. A female volunteer who came to film what was happening in the bus station building [was attacked by men](#) in a jeep. One of the men got out and started chasing the volunteer, who fortunately managed to escape. Later, several cars were filmed in the parking lot near the bus station, and one official vehicle had double plates. [The police allowed](#) suspicious vehicles to pass.
- [Three observers of the "Kreni-promeni" movement were arrested](#) after texts were published on the pro-regime Informer targeting one of the observers and falsely accusing him of attacking SNS activists. In this way, the topic of violence against women was once again abused for the political purposes of the ruling party in order to suppress the democratic election process and arrest professional observers. During the day, activists discovered a place where SNS officials from other towns in Serbia were located (employees of the Municipality of Obrenovac were recognized), and who fled the facility upon the arrival of the activists.
- Another woman [was attacked](#) in the vicinity of Aranđelovac while filming two men with certain lists. One of the attackers, who knocked the phone out of her hand, was recognized as an employee of the Traffic Safety Agency.
- In the evening, it was tense in the center of Aranđelovac, and a [police cordon](#) separated SNS supporters from the rest of the citizens who came out to defend the electoral will.

- Students in the blockade announced that a student for Faculty for Political Science (FPN) [was detained](#) when he went to repark his car; a group of people without any identification or markings approached him and pulled him out of the car. "The police in uniform stood to the side. The colleague was 'detained' in the municipality, and only then was he taken over by the police in uniform and taken to the station," stated FPN students in the blockade.

SMEDEREVSKA PALANKA

- CRTA observers recorded [suspicion on vote buying](#).
- In a village near Smederevska Palanka, an incident occurred, but the police did not publish any details. It was only announced that [4 people were arrested](#), and that misdemeanor charges would be filed against 11. According to information from the field, 4 bikers were arrested after a false report by Vukašin Đoković, an SNS supporter who previously attacked journalists and citizens at protests.

KLADOVO

- The N1 television crew recorded a large number of people with laptops and certain documentation in the Hotel "Đerdap." The persons in the video refused to answer the journalist's questions about whether this is an [SNS call center](#), and it can be seen that they hide papers from the tables at the moment while the camera is filming them.

LUČANI

- In the town of Guča in the municipality of Lučani, an incident was recorded when citizens noticed a man [leaving a polling station with an envelope](#).
- After the closing of the polling stations, [riot police](#) surrounded the municipal administration building where the municipal election commission is also located.

KNJAŽEVAC

- Opposition representatives announced that [SNS call centers](#) are located in closed taverns and at the bus station in Knjaževac and that vote buying is being carried out. The president of the municipality of Knjaževac stood in front of the entrance to the tavern

suspected of being a call center and prevented students and the opposition from entering.

- Thugs [beat up a professor](#) from the Faculty of Geography who was in the field because they received information about [vote buying](#). Batinaše was led by the [former president](#) of the Knjaževac Municipal Assembly.

SEVOJNO

- After the closing of the polling stations, [riot police](#) deployed in front of the municipal election commission.

POST-ELECTION PRESSURES

- On April 6, [members of the criminal police searched the premises](#) of the Novi Sad Assembly and the apartments of several observers and activists who were watching the elections in Kula. On that occasion, 4 activists and one lawyer who attended the search were detained. "They finished the search of one of our comrades, we signed the report and then they stopped us on the street and asked me to return the phone that I allegedly took. They accuse me of stealing the phone. This is a classic abuse of authority by the police," said the detained lawyer. He and two activists were released, while two activists were [detained for up to 30 days](#) due to the alleged suspicion of endangering security by damaging other people's property. This is a continuation of the pressure on independent actors who, during the election day, pointed to electoral manipulations and defended the electoral will of the citizens.