Three Freedoms Under the Magnifying Glass
Violations of Basic Human Rights in Serbia
October 26 - November 5, 2026

Freedom of Expression

Threats Against Journalists and Media Outlets

The Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM), the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), and the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) are calling for an urgent response from the competent public prosecutor's office and the police following death threats and threats of violence directed at the editorial teams of the Južne vesti and Volim Zrenjanin news portals in online comments posted beneath several articles.

UNS strongly condemned the threats directed at N1 television in comments posted on the journalists' association's social media accounts, as well as threatening phone calls made to the association's secretariat, following the publication of news about the submission of an initiative to revoke the broadcasting licence of Informer television. A series of offensive comments posted on the social media accounts of the organisations that submitted the initiative points to a coordinated bot campaign.

ANEM reported a threat directed at Mladen Savatović, a journalist with N1 television, on the social media platform X to the Special Prosecutor's Office for High-Tech Crime (VTK). According to ANEM, the threat was made by Željko Jovićević, who had previously threatened Savatović on 2 October, while the journalist was waiting to go live on N1's programme at Nikola Pašić Square in Belgrade.

Journalist and activist Lazar Dinić claims that he was followed by a black SUV while returning home and that, subsequently, an unidentified individual photographed the terrace of his apartment. He reported the incident to the police, who attended the scene and notified the prosecutor. The Civil Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Whistleblowers of the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP) expressed concern for the safety of journalist and activist Dinić and called on the police and the prosecution to investigate the reported surveillance and take measures to ensure his safety.

UNS called on former President Aleksandar Vučić to apologise to Milan Srdić, head of the Radio Television of Serbia (RTS) correspondent office, for the insulting remarks he made about him during an appearance on the Hit Tvit programme on Pink TV. The association expressed its support for Srdić, describing him as an honourable journalist who performs his professional duties with professionalism and impartiality.

The Media Freedom Coalition condemned the threats and intimidation directed at journalists from the Pančevo Si Ti news portal by approximately 40 individuals via social media. It called on the police and the prosecution to respond urgently and ensure the protection of the journalists at risk. According to the editorial team, the journalists received direct threats of physical assault, as well as messages indicating that the senders knew where they lived.

Threats against Dragana Prica Kovačević, editor of the 021.rs news portal, were posted in a comment beneath a republished news article on 31 October. UNS reminded the public that, under the Criminal Code, threatening persons who perform work of public importance in the field of public information and thereby endangering their safety is punishable by imprisonment for a term of six months to five years.

Eavesdropping Equipment

The University of Belgrade Faculty of Law announced that on Friday, 30 October, technical equipment suspected of being used for audio and video recording was discovered inside a fire alarm device above the entrance door of its largest lecture hall, the Radomir Lukić Amphitheatre (Amphitheatre V). Rector Đokić expressed particular concern over the fact that the alleged eavesdropping and recording had taken place on university premises, which, as he emphasised, must remain a place of free thought, open dialogue, critical reflection, and freedom of assembly.

According to the Radar editorial team, the Director of the Security Intelligence Agency (BIA), Vladimir Orlić, submitted a request to the Higher Court in Belgrade for the implementation of covert surveillance measures targeting Vesna Mališić, Editor-in-Chief of Radar, as well as journalists Sandra Petrušić and Milan Radonjić. The court initially approved these measures on 12 June 2026. The measures authorised against the Radar editor and journalists included the interception and recording of communications within premises, explicitly including the editorial offices of Radar. Consequently, the BIA, under Orlić's leadership, monitored the communications of all Radar editors and journalists.

Freedom of Assembly

Attacks on Students at Several Schools

A complaint has been filed in Aranđelovac against Danijela Damnjanović, Topola Municipality Councillor for Sports and Youth, on suspicion of verbally and physically assaulting a group of students from the Karađorđe Primary School in Topola. According to the parents, the students attempted to seek refuge in the school principal's office, where Danijela Damnjanović allegedly followed them. They further claim that she filmed the children and verbally abused the school principal. The students and their parents gave statements to the police yesterday, while the children underwent medical examinations at the local health centre.

On Friday, 30 October 2026, at around 5 p.m., masked individuals attacked students near the Mechanical Engineering School in Pančevo. Several parents of students attending the school contacted N1's editorial team, stating that this was not an isolated incident and that attacks had become increasingly frequent over the previous week, raising concerns about their children's safety. The Higher Public Prosecutor's Office in Pančevo announced that it was investigating the incident, specifying that it had received a report that two or three unidentified individuals had assaulted a 16-year-old student outside the Pančevo Mechanical Engineering School, inflicting multiple blows and causing minor bodily injuries. The Prosecutor's Office added that, in cooperation with the Pančevo Police Department, it was taking the necessary steps to identify and locate the perpetrators and gather evidence. The Pančevo Mechanical Engineering School told the N1 news portal that, following the incident, it had immediately activated all security protocols and notified the external child protection network.

Violence Outside the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media Headquarters

Supporters of the tabloid television station Informer gathered outside the headquarters of the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media (REM) while a session was being held at which the first measures against the television station were also due to be discussed. During a live broadcast by N1 journalist Anđela Čolanić, some Informer supporters obstructed the N1 crew by deliberately walking in front of the camera or blocking its view with umbrellas. They also shouted insulting remarks at the N1 crew.

The REM Council unanimously decided at its session to impose a seven-day broadcasting ban on Informer television's programme Prve info, in which a particularly serious violation of the law had occurred. Following the session at which the measure against the tabloid television station was imposed, individuals who had gathered outside REM's headquarters to express their support for Informer confronted and physically attacked Rodoljub Šabić, a member of the REM Council.