

Questionnaire of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences Ms Dubravka Simonovic - focusing on the specific threats faced by women journalists –

Information provided by Montenegro

Question 1: Please indicate whether there are cases of gender based violence and harassment against women journalist in your country. If so, please specify how these cases are documented, and describe the State response, or lack of thereof, to such cases, including examples of good practice.

Response

In the period 2018-2019, five cases were registered against women journalists in Montenegro. IN 2018 – it is registered two threats against two women journalists, in both cases criminal charges were filed against two persons for criminal offences – endangering of safety. In third case – the assault of the woman journalist – officers of the Police Directorate took all measures and actions with a view of identifying the perpetrator, established cooperation with international police, and in 2019 police officers submitted report as an update of criminal charge against 9 persons for ground of suspicion that they committed criminal offence.

In 2019 in one case – woman journalist reported harassment and threat in working place, and police officers imposed the measure of warning, and in second case woman journalist reported disclosing her personal circumstances in derogatory context in TV show, and the case is submitted to the State Prosecutor for decision. In order to protect the safety of journalists, officers of the Police Directorate, provided protection to two women journalists during this period.

Police Directorate, State Prosecutor and Courts set the investigations, and solving of the cases of the attacks on journalists, medias and their property as the priority in their work in order to ensure freedom of speech and expression and create safe environment for the professional engagement of journalists in Montenegro. The Police Directorate appointed chief police inspector who coordinates all prosecutorial and police activities in this area. Government in cooperation with representatives of media established the Commission for monitoring the conduct of competent authorities in investigations of cases of threats and violence against journalists, in cases of murders of journalists and in cases of assaults on the property of medias. They have regular sessions with representatives of Police Directorate, State Prosecutor and High Court during which they provide necessary information on particular cases. Additionally, we are devoted to strengthen capacities in this field. The officers of the Police Directorate, the representatives of the judiciary and State Prosecutor's offices participate in the regional project "Strengthening judicial expertise on freedom of expression and medias in South-east Europe" (JUFREX), organized by the Office of Council of Europe in Podgorica, whose segment treats the protection and safety of journalists.

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Question 2: Please indicate whether your country has early-warning and rapid-response systems in place, such as hotlines, online platforms or 24-hour emergency contact points to ensure that journalist and other media actors have immediate access to protective measures when they are under threat.

Response

When it comes to special mechanisms for protecting women journalists, there are no specific rapid response or alert mechanisms in Montenegro, such as S.O.S. lines, online platforms or 24/7 contact points.

Question 3: Please specify whether there are any programs in place aimed at addressing factors that increase the likelihood of violence and harassment in the world of work for women journalists, including specialized discrimination, the abuse of power relations, and gender, cultural and social norms that support violence and harassment.

There are no programs specialized to address the increase in violence against women journalists (discrimination, abuse of power, gender, cultural and social norms).

Question 4: Please specify whether online and ICT facilitated violence against women is recognized as a crime, particularly cases of killings, threats of rape and harassment of women journalists.

Response:

Criminal Code of Montenegro ensures the criminalization of all forms of violence against women journalists, and the protection of the right to life, security, dignity, data security, all rights in accordance with Labour Law, protection of intellectual property, civil and political rights, as well as the human rights guaranteed under the international law.

Montenegrin legislation ensures the criminalization of the commission of these offenses, directly or online, through social networks, or any other means of online platforms.

Question 6: Please indicate what challenges are faced by women journalist when reporting on cases of gender based violence, and specify whether there are any good practices in this regard.

Response:

There have been no cases of assault on women journalists in Montenegro in reports on cases of gender-based violence.