



Podgorica, 9 January 2007

## **DO NOT IGNORE THE CASES OF ČALIĆ AND MIRKOVIĆ**

Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO) and Centre for Civic Education (CCE) urge the editorial board of the Radio Television Montenegro (RTCG) not to ignore the facts which are being brought up lately in the Montenegrin public, concerning two members of the RTCG Council.

There is no professional consideration which allows the public service RTCG to disregard events which are being reported by other electronic media and the entire press.

CCE and CDNGO are therefore asking the editorial board of RTCG: which and whose problems are you going to report to the public freely, objectively and professionally, if you are not able to inform the public on what goes on in your own house?

Especially bearing in mind that your responsibility to the public in this matter is greater than of any other media in Montenegro! You are bound to it by the Journalists' Codex, but also by the Law on Public Broadcasting Services of RTCG and many other documents adopted by your house; you are also responsible to contribute through your professional work to the genuine transformation of RTCG into a public service. At the moment, the RTCG is obviously not public service, which has been noted in many reports so far, the most important being the European Commission Report on the progress made by Montenegro in 2006, which warned that "the Radio and Television of Montenegro has not yet been transformed into a genuine independent public service, although in legal terms the transformation has been completed".

We believe that the report on journalism in Seattle, USA, could not be more important to the Montenegrin citizens from a report on the cases of Čalić and Mirković and the consequences of their violation of law concerning the current status of RTCG and its future development.

We remind you that at least two members of the RTCG Council have not been appointed in compliance with the Law on PBS RTCG and that it is clear that people of highest Government's trust at the same time are sitting in the RTCG Council and representing Government in their enterprises and institutions. This is not only a blatant breach of the principles and regulations of the laws on the media – it is also a severe obstacle to the transformation of RTCG into a public service, which is best illustrated by your refusal to tackle this issue.