

Podgorica, 17 July 2011

PRESSURE ON PROFESSIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE WORK OF INDEPENDENT MEDIA

We condemn the brutal attack on the media property and recognize it as a pressure on their unobstructed, professional and sustainable work.

Regardless of the motive and whether it was an individual act, the act of certain interest groups or centres of power, we stress that the role of police in the criminal law system is crucial in safeguarding the rule of law. We are within sensitive stage of development in which institutions of system must not allow even one example of impunity for crimes. We expect the police to determine responsible, as well as the overall background of arson attacks on two cars of the independent daily "Vijesti" and as soon as possible to inform the public on the matter.

Freedom of expression and information is crucial for our future social, economic and political progress. Prevention and detection of crime of any kind, especially when the independent media and journalists are attacked, due to their their social significance and importance, must be a priority for the prosecution and the police work, but also an indicator of institutional capacity and maturity.

Aleksandar Zekovic, MA, member of the Council for Civil Control of Police
Daliborka Uljarevic, executive director of the Centre for Civic Education
Momcilo Radulovic, MA, Secretary General of European Movement in Montenegro
Aida Petrovic, coordinator of the Montenegrin Women's Lobby
Zlatko Vujovic, MA, a member of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Communications
Ana Novakovic, executive director of the Center for Development of NGOs
Stevo Muk, President of the Managing Board of the Institute Alternative
Ljiljana Raicevic, director of the Women's Safe House
Andrija Djukanovic, member of the Council of the Government of Montenegro for cooperation with NGOs
Ivana Vujovic Vojvodic, president of the Board of Directors of Juventas
Bosko Nenezic, executive director of the Center for Monitoring