

Podgorica, 6 August 2009.

STATE HAS TO PROVE IT'S STRONGER THAN CERTAIN FAMILIES

We strongly condemn the assault on the editor and photographer of the daily newspaper "Vijesti" Mihailo Jovović and Boris Pejović.

This assault again points at the dangers of work in the media in Montenegro and testifies that the journalists and other public actors are endangered mostly from the persons which are in the positions of power in the ruling establishment.

It is very dangerous for the society in general when the key state and party officials go from a harsh rhetoric to the full physical aggressiveness. The fact that also concerns is that they had firearms, which even enhances their power. Instead of excelling in law enforcement and thus promote the rule of law, they undermine it by their delinquent manners.

Mugoša senior and junior, both public officials, unaware of their job and position, brutally confronted the right of the public to monitor and control their work on devotion to respect of the law.

Blocked by the authority of the Mugoša family, institutions of the system seem to have completely forgotten about their mandate and obligations, which is unacceptable and further reaffirms the rumours on certain individuals and families which are above the Law.

We already requested from the Department for internal control and implementation of authorisation of Police Directorate to check whether the police staff fail to conduct all the necessary actions regarding this incident during its processing, and by these doing eventually attempted to eliminate or reduce criminal responsibility of three aggressors.

Also, we issued a request to the director of Clinical Centre of Montenegro, dr Olivera Miljanović, asking her to check whether the medical and other staff instead of professional approach to the injured, or did they, like the police staff, shrink before the authority and might of the mayor of Capital Miomir Mugoša.

We are stunned to acknowledge that the young diplomat Miljan Mugoša, the third secretary in our Embassy in the United States of America, owns a pistol and does not hesitate to publicly reach for it. We requested information from the competent authority regarding the legal status of possession of a firearm of the person in question. We also requested from the Minister of Foreign Affairs Milan Roćen to do all what is necessary to keep the credibility of the Montenegrin diplomatic network.

Processing of the behaviour of senior and junior Mugoša is the final chance for our public services to show professional approach and readiness for liberating Montenegro and its institutions of the partisan heritage and mighty individuals.

Stevo Muk
President of the Managing board of the Institute "Alternative"
Daliborka Uljarević
Executive director of the Centre for Civic Education
Aleksandar Saša Zeković
Researcher on human rights violations