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EUROPEAN STANDARDS VS. LOCAL TYCOONS: 1:0

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) welcomes the decision of the Basic Court judge wherewith has relieved of liability a journalist of the daily "Vijesti" Slavko Radulović by complaint of the dean of Law Faculty Ranko Mujović and his assistant Bojana Lakićević. Bearing in mind the evidence presented during this trial, CCE calls the Prosecution to initiate an investigation against the dean based on the facts, now determined before the court, which indicate the possible offenses for which it is necessary to establish the adequate responsibility.

By submitting the evidence, the journalist Radulović proved before the court that while reporting on developments at the Law Faculty, which have been shocking academic, as well as wider social community for a long time, he acted in accordance with the rules of his profession.

Unequivocal evidence which the court accepted and which does not support the claims of Mujović and his assistant Lakićević that they had been libeled, represent the legal basis for the Prosecution to initiate the investigation process and to call the dean on responsibility for acts that are prosecuted ex officio, considering they were not there, as it was claimed.

CCE has already, in its written comments on the Draft of the Action Plan of the Government of Montenegro, suggested that, alongside the additional training for judges and prosecutors on Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the case law regarding this article, it is necessary for judges to apply the case law of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

CCE expresses the hope that an acquittal for journalist Radulović represents the beginning of consistent application of European standards and the best practices in protection of freedom of expression, which creates an environment where journalists without fear of rigorous penalties, which have so far been imposed to the media and journalists, are able to do their job. CCE believes these are the measurable results that the EC expects from us.

CCE urges the Chief State Prosecutor Ranka Čarapić to initiate a proceeding against Ranko Mujović, a member of the Prosecution Council, which she chairs, on the basis of the evidence presented to the public. Otherwise, there will still remain the doubt concerning the commitment of this body to implement judicial reform and fight against corruption in all segments of society. And this does not bring us closer to the EU.

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