



**Centar za građansko obrazovanje**  
**Centre for civic education**

Podgorica, 13.4.2011.

## **RTCG MUST BE OPEN FOR DIVERSITIES**

**Centre for Civic Education (CCE) condemns the demonstration of pressure on freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, exercised by the editorial board of the public broadcasting service RTCG over journalist Marko Milačić.**

The fact that the public broadcasting service, which should be the space for expression of various social attitudes and needs, is actually demonstrating power and pressure as means for discrediting and eliminating a different opinion should be a matter of concern. Such conduct of RTCG proves that it is the antipode of genuine mission of a public broadcasting service, as its editors obviously do not understand the European civic values and freedoms, firmly remaining closed in the bunkers of political party loyal consciousness. RTCG mission, as the a public broadcasting service, should be to encourage development of civic consciousness, by creating conditions for opening a dialogue, questioning themes of social significance and cross-examination of different arguments.

Journalist Milačić sent a message that the tide of civic engagement, through freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, is inevitable on the road to membership in the family of European nations. Management of RTCG, via their acts, legitimized itself as politically burdened body, as well as anachronistic and unconscious of current needs of the Montenegrin society. This is the reason they should face with the responsibility.

We appeal to the persons in charge at the RTCG to reconsider their decision and to respect the constitutional rights of citizens to freedom of speech and assembly. Only free and happy individual can give the expected contribution to his/her work, family and society as a whole. With suppression of reality, we will not change the relations in our society for the better.

CCE invites the Council of RTCG to reconsider this issue at the next first session and to adopt the binding recommendations for the RTCG management that will oblige them to open dialogue, exchange of arguments, respect of the freedom of expression through a professional attitude towards Montenegro's reality and the work they perform.

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