



CENTAR ZA GRAĐANSKO OBRAZOVANJE
CENTRE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

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WHO IS IMPOSING THE RULES OF THE GAME?

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) expresses its concern over the brutal attack on the sports journalist Mladen Stojović which happened in his apartment on Friday evening. He is one of the rare sports journalists who have dared to reveal to the public abuses and machinations in the Montenegrin and Serbian sport.

Research journalism and non bias reporting on the influence of the mafia on public institutions, persons and events, in the concrete case on the relationship between the organised crime and national football, was never a risk-free enterprise and always required personal courage and professional responsibility, which unfortunately only a few can boast of. This is precisely why the public institutions ought to protect such people, and seek out and find those who have infringed upon their rights and freedoms.

Freedom of speech is a fundamental principle of democracy. It is not enough simply to declare such freedom, however: the state must *de facto* put the weight of its authority in its defence. We are thus urging the responsible authorities to conduct investigation as soon as possible and demonstrate that the “rules of the game” cannot be imposed by the powerful criminal organisations and individuals, but are defined and maintained by the rule of law. Unlike the victims, the state must not suffer amnesia and forget to remember, investigate and punish the perpetrators.

CCE urges the Police Directorate to evaluate the risks of the current situation and provide Stojović with adequate protection, especially as he might be a victim of further pressures. CCE also urges the parliamentary Committee for Security and Defence and the Council for Civic Control of Police Forces to closely follow the process and report on every failure by the police to implement all necessary measures.

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