

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Non-governmental organizations strongly protest against beating-up of the journalist Mladen Stojovic and call upon competent authorities to immediately discover perpetrators of this attack.

In the month when the entire world has marked the World Independent Media Day, Montenegro should not allow for such attacks to remain unrevealed, especially when it is known that earlier crimes against journalists and other public figures have still not been resolved.

We remind that the American non-governmental organisation „Freedom House“ in its 2008 report evaluated Montenegro as partially free country, and the attack against journalist Stojovic, that even happened within his home, testifies that the freedom of expression and media is indeed at a very low level.

Instead of suspecting wounded Stojovic, NGOs appeal to the Police Directorate to genuinely intensify official measures and actions towards identification of person/s who are behind this attack and who ordered this serious warning.

We also appeal to the State Prosecutors' Office to act upon their own initiative and effectively process this as well as other similar crimes.

We invite the Prime Minister Djukanovic, Minister of Interior Kalamperovic and the director of the Police Directorate to contribute to the resolution of the crime against Stojovic, and not to dilute this as well as other similar events and to publicly and clearly denounce all such acts.

Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organizations, Podgorica  
Citizens' Association OZON, Niksic  
Centre for Civic Education, Podgorica  
Roma Scholarship Foundation, Podgorica  
European Movement in Montenegro, Podgorica  
Union of the Blind of Montenegro, Podgorica  
Human Rights Action, Podgorica  
MAPSS, Podgorica  
Shelter for Women and Children Victims of Violence, Podgorica  
ANIMA, Kotor  
ADP Zid, Podgorica  
EXPEDITIO, Kotor  
Home of Hope, Podgorica  
Centre for Initiatives for Sustainable Tourism, Podgorica  
Agua vita, Bijelo Polje  
MOGUL, Ulcinj  
Zeleni gaj – Rozaje  
Association of Parents of Montenegro, Podgorica  
Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Podgorica  
NVO Hope, Herceg Novi  
Association Herceg Novi Alternative, Herceg Novi  
Association for Assistance of Reuma Disease