

FREE MEDIA HELP LINE

REGISTERED CASES OF VIOLATION OF MEDIA FREEDOM AND JOURNALIST RIGHTS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA IN 2007

Threats/ Pressures: 15

Physical attacks: 4

Denials of information: 3

Working disputes: 5

Complaints against journalists and media outlets: 1

BHT1	Boycott	18.01.2007	The Government of the Republic of Srpska decided to boycott the National Television BHTV1 and to deny issuing of statements to this Television...	FMHL issued a press release condemning such behaviour of the RS Government and expressing its concern about such political pressure on media...
RTV Mostar	Insults, threats	29.01.2007	TV crew was shooting the news item on the decision of the Constitutional Court to remove all entity insignia; security police officers prevented the filming with verbal insults, threats, physical pushing...	FMHL issued a letter to the Federation BIH Ministry of Internal Affairs. They have stated that they would conduct an investigation...
<i>Dnevni avaz</i> , <i>Dnevni list</i> , Mostar	Ban to enter	02.02.2007	Journalists from <i>Dnevni avaz</i> and <i>Dnevni list</i> were prevented to attend a performance in the Croatian National Theatre in Mostar...	FMHL has sent a letter to the HNK Mostar Director requesting an explanation about this ban ...

Correspondent of Beta Agency	Pressures		A politician, unsatisfied with the writings of a journalist, requested withdrawal of the news...	She reported the case in order to be recorded in the FMHL records...
<i>Dnevni avaz</i> , Kakanj	Threats	05.02.2007	After he published an article on conflict between certain persons in Kakanj, he received threats...	FMHL contacted the Police Station in Kakanj requesting protection for the journalist...
<i>Nezavisne novine</i>	Threats	30.01.2007	While on vacation, journalists received threatening SMS messages. Police service reacted promptly and provided protection, as well as investigation of the case...	FMHL has sent a letter to the RS Police Director, requesting police to start an investigation and inform the journalists of its results...
Firm "UFA media"	Labour dispute	13.02.2007	A journalist was writing critically of the Bosna Basketball Team. After his firm has signed a sponsorship contract with the main sponsor of that team, he lost his job...	FMHL send a letter to the Director of the "UFA Media" indicating the irregularities in discharging the journalist from his position...
FTV	Threats	09.03.2007	A journalist was working on reportage about higher education in the SBK Canton: When the reportage was broadcasted, she has been threatened by the Minister of Education Assistant and by the Dean of one private faculty in Travnik...	FMHL reacted by issuing a public letter to the persons in question, and stated in public that their behaviour is unacceptable...
Ex journalist of <i>Dnevni List</i>	Labour dispute	02.03.2007	After the termination of contact, a journalist discovered that his employer hasn't been paying the benefits for certain number of months, and didn't get his work booklet. Due to this event, the journalist cannot realize a new employment contract.	FMHL sent a letter to the owner. Later FMHL contacted the work inspection in Sarajevo and advised journalist to address the Work inspection in his town and try to resolve the issue with their help.
Radio Istocno Sarajevo	Threats	14.03.2007.	A journalist received a threatening letter and lodge a complaint to the police, requesting them to check upon the person that put his signature on the letter. After ten day there was no response from the police.	FMHL called the police officials asking for any information regarding the development of the case. The police has reacted and confirmed the identity of the person.
Presidency in BIH	Withholding the information	28.03.2007	After an hour of waiting for a statement from the members of the Presidency, journalists demonstratively left the press conference and the building...	FMHL issued a press release fiercely condemning behaviour of the Presidency and asked for an apology. Zeljko Komsic has apologized.
FTV, <i>Nezavisne novine</i> , <i>Dnevni avaz</i> - Tuzla	Assaults, threats	02.04.2007.	During the funeral of <i>vehabi</i> leader Jusuf Barcic, journalists covering the funeral were called names, threatened and even physically harassed. Police failed to protect them.	FMHL issued the press release condemning behaviour of the police officers during the funeral.

Oslobodjenje	Assault	02.04.2007	A police officer attacked a journalist and prevented him to make photos.	This case was reported to the police; FMHL contacted the Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior and requested information.
BHT1	Labour dispute	22.04.2007	A journalist in TV magazine brought charges against BHT1 and subsequently he was discharged from his position of the Editor of informative program and the magazine...	FMHL has sent a letter to the Director of BHT1 Milenko Vockic requesting an explanation...
Esad Šabanagić – newspaper <i>RE - Present</i>	Threats	22.4.2007.	Because of articles about activities of the Una-Sana Canton Union of War Prisoners, a journalist who published the articles received threatening SMS and got direct threats by phone...	FMHL sent a letter to the Una-Sana Canton Police requesting an investigation about the case and special protection for the journalists if there is need for that..
Dinno Kassalo	Pressures	27.04.2007	The journalist made a documentary about building of dam on the Neretva river, which has been broadcasted on BHT1. The «INTRADE-ENERGIJA» company submitted a compliant to the RAK due to broadcasting of the same film on TV...	FMHL sent a letter to RAK, requesting that during consideration of the complaint, RAK takes into consideration the fact that it was documentary-artistic film and not the informative program. During the process of consideration, RAK rejected all accusations of the «INTRADE-ENERGIJA» company as unfounded...
Radio Q	Pressures / Economics pressures	03.05.2007.	Some respectable people and business persons from Visoko received by post copies of documents with the OSA logo (OSA is the BIH security agency) and signature on them. According to those copied documents, the owner and editor-in-chief of the Radio Q do surveillance and spy on the above mentioned persons...	FMHL sent a letter to the OSA and Parliamentary Commission, requesting an urgent investigation about this case and to announce names of persons that falsified OSA documents; OSA responded to the association soon, claiming in its letter that it has been proved that OSA logo was copied and that investigation is ongoing...
Nevenka Kelava – Dnevni list	Working dispute	9.5. 2007.	The journalist was dismissed from her position without receiving all her salaries. Since she did not have any working contract, her employer (Director of Dnevni List) refused to discuss this issue further on...	FMH has sent a letter to <i>Dnevni List</i> and advised the journalist to address the HNC Inspection for work and request help from them. FMH also suggested to her to report about illegal work in this media house. The Inspection of Work involved itself in this case, calling upon all journalists that illegally work to report the names of their employers...

FTV	Labour dispute	22.05. 2007	The editor of the TV magazine «Uživo» and journalist Zvonko Maric are moved from his position and transferred to the FBiH radio program. According to the Editor-in Chief of the IP, it happened because of the lack of working discipline and violation of the editorial decisions...	FMHL has sent a letter to the Director of RTV FBiH, Jasmin Duraković, requesting an explanation for such decision, as well as to express his stand on this case...
HTV Hayat	Pressures	11.06.2007	At a press conference, Milorad Dodik, the RS Prime Minister, stated various accusations against NTV Hayat. The motive for this statement was broadcast of certain parts of the interview that the Prime Minister had been given to the US magazine News Max. The parts of the interview were broadcasted in the TV Journal by Senad Hadžifejzović...	FMHL reacted with the public statement...
FTV, TV magazine "60 minutes"	Dead threats	1.10.2007.	A candidate for the position of the state ombudsman for human rights, Vitimir Popović, publicly (alive in program) sent dead threats to the journalist and the editor of the "60 minutes" TV program, stating that "he deserves a bullet in the head"...	FHML promptly reacted by issuing a public statement and sending letters to the Office of State Ombudsmen and the Parliamentary Assembly, which is authorised for the election of ombudsmen; letters about this case have been sent to the International Journalist Federation (IFJ) and the OSCE Mission in Vienna. Apart from the FMHL, the OSCE in Vienna has conducted the investigation too...
Oslobodjenje, Nermin Bise	Denial of information and ban to monitor a session of the municipal council	19.10.2007.	The journalist monitored the work of the Stolac Municipal Council; after several introductory reports and after arrival of a journalist crew and reporters from Sarajevo, the President of the Stolac Municipal Council closed the session for public and sent away journalists, underlining that he would only reports to "journalists that work for Croatian media outlets."	FMHL has sent a letter to the President of the Stolac Municipal Council, as well as to the OHR and OSCE office in Mostar. Both OSCE and the OHR reacted and declared themselves authorised for this case. The Municipal Council of Stolac did not react on the FMHL letter.
Almir Arnaut, AP journalist	Physical attack	1.11.2007.	Members of the Tuzla Canton Police physically attacked the journalist who was with a group of supporters of the <i>Sloboda</i> football club during the football game in Tuzla...	FHML gave a legal advice and suggested the journalists to fill compliant within the Police Administration and the International Police. (EUPM) ...

Legal dispute between the INTRADE ENERGIJA company and BHT1 journalist-author Dinno Kassalo	Continuation of pressures on journalist and BHT1	6.11.2007.	“INTRADE ENERGIJA” company press charges against BHT1 and its journalist Dino Kassalo because of the documentary film about the building of the dam on the river of Neretva...	FMHL gave a legal advice and provided a list of persons that can help as witnesses or observers during the trial; a representative of the BH Journalist Association will be the witness of defendants from BHT1 and Dino Kassalo...
Director of FIPA reported incorrect behaviour of NTV Hayat journalist	Unprofessional behaviour of journalist	7.11.2007.	Haris Bašić, Director of the FIPA, has sent to us a correspondence with the editor of the NTV Hayat, warning on “incorrect and unprofessional” behaviour of journalists from NTV Hayat ...	FMHL registered the case and informed FIPA Director about procedures of reacting on journalists’ behaviour and mechanisms for protecting public from irresponsible work of journalists and media...
Sanjin Bećiragić – FTV	Physical attack / threats to journalist	7.11.2007.	Journalist Beciragic was physically attacked by a representative of security (Federation Police) in the building of the BIH Elektroprivreda in Sarajevo while he was waiting for the beginning of the session of the Supervising Board of this company. ...	FMHL and BIH Journalists sent a letter to the Federation Police Director requesting punishment of the policeman that attacked this journalist; Zlatko Mišetić, the Police Director, suspended the policeman and immediately informed BH Journalist Association and FMHL about it...
RS Prime Minister threatened Bakir Hadžomerović, the editor-in-chief of the “60 minutes” TV program	Threats	18.12.2007.	In HRT program “On Sunday at 14:00”, the RS Prime Minister confirmed earlier stated threats that “he would beat up journalist Hadziomerovic if he ever appears in Banja Luka”...	BH Journalists and FMHL has sent a public letter to the RS Prime Minister, warning him on his violent and undemocratic behaviour toward journalists and media; the office of the Prime Minister responded on the letter commenting the work of journalist Hadziomerovic without saying anything about contents of the letter of BIH Journalists and FMHL...