

Report on the work of Montenegrin media for the period

15 July - 1 October 2013

This Report of the Media Council for Self-Regulation (MSS) covers two and a half month period, from 15 July to 1 October. This period of time was mostly marked by so called “The Brajušković Affair“, or „the Black Threes“ that filled the columns of the Montenegrin press in the second half of August and the first days of September.

During this period of time, the Council received a complaint from the NGO Human Rights Action (HRA), which relates to the lack of publication of the response made by this NGO in the daily “Pobjeda”.

On 10th September 2013 the Human Rights Action sent to the daily “Pobjeda” a response to a letter written by Professor Stevan Lilic PhD, President of the Institute for Public Policy, which was published on the same day in this newspaper. This letter by Professor Lilic, among other things, claims that "a newspaper (referring to the daily “Vijesti”) in cooperation with several NGOs (the Human Rights Action – HRA and the Centre for Civic Education - CGO) is having a campaign against the Institute for Public Policy, which is related to their failed attempt to obstruct and eliminate any form of competition when it comes to securing funds for their activities."

The appeal of the Human Rights Action states that the daily newspaper “Pobjeda” has previously published a response of Mr. Lilic on 7th September 2013 (titled "Lilic: Business group daily “Vijesti”-NGOs is hurt by the Institute appearance") which argues that there is a dominance of "business group “Vijesti”-NGOs" which “receives huge donations and money literally for any project, as long as it meets the component of being 'a democratic opposition to the Government’."

"On the basis of Lilic’s press release published on 10th September 2013, it became apparent that these and his earlier claims are related to the NGO Human Rights Action, and I sent a reasoned response to both his statements to the daily "Pobjeda"“, it is stated in the appeal signed by Tea Gorjanc Prelevic, Executive Director of the Human Rights Action.

"Pobjeda" has never published the response that it received on 10th September 2013.

However, two weeks later, on 24th September 2013, „Pobjeda“ published a response of Professor Lilic to the 10th September HRA response, which was never published.

The MSS has thoroughly reviewed all articles published in the daily “Pobjeda” and stated that the newspaper has indeed on 24th September published a Professor Lilic’s response to the HRA response, although the latter was never published in the daily „Pobjeda“.

The MSS has since sought an answer from “Pobjeda” regarding this appeal, but has not yet received their position in this matter.

The Council believes that by failing to publish responses of the HRA, the daily “Pobjeda” violated Principle 4 of the Code of Journalists which defines the obligation of the media to complete an incomplete piece of information and correct any inaccuracies, especially one that can cause any harm, seeing that, at the same time, the response shall be published in an appropriate way. The MSS also reminds that the right to publish corrections and responses is an obligation according to the Constitution of Montenegro, as well as the Law on Media.

The Council believes that this violation of the Code is even more serious because after two weeks the daily “Pobjeda” published a response of Professor Lilic to the HRA response, which was never published.

**Vijesti, 20th July**

The daily “Vijesti” announced on the front page when and where the first Pride Parade in Montenegro will be held, a week before the event.

This piece of information was strictly confidential, and “Vijesti” marked it as such in the headline news: "Top Secret: The metropolis of tourism soon in the colours of rainbow" and the title "Gay parade in Budva next week."

The Media Council for Self-Regulation considers that disclosure of this information from the Police about the location and time of the Parade, which was a high-risk event, as it was later proved, is an act which cannot be justified by the public's right to know.

The Code of Journalists clearly states in Principle 7 that:

**It is a right and duty of a journalist to protect confidential information sources, but also always to check motives of the confidential source before one is promised anonymity and protection.**

Guidelines for interpretation and implementation of this principle states:

**Documents classified as secret may be reported if after careful consideration it is determined, that the public's need to know outweighs the reasons put forward to justify secrecy.**

The Council believes that the public’s need to know in this case could not have outweighed the reasons to justify secrecy, and that publishing of this information, moreover, has further compromised the safety of the Pride Parade participants, since in this way, its opponents were notified of the time and place where the event would be held.

Also, one of the guidelines for interpretation of principle 6, says about research journalism:

**Undercover research may only be used where other methods have failed to yield information of particular public interest. These methods may thus be employed where, for example, they will help to detect or expose criminal activity, abuse of power, or will bring to light information that will protect the public against serious threats to public health and safety and the environment.**

Since the activity in question was not a criminal activity or abuse of power, and security has been threatened precisely for those to which the information relates, the Council believes that the Code has been seriously violated.

The Council notes that the later reporting of this newspaper about the event, i.e. about the Pride Parade, was in accordance with the Code and respect for human rights, with an affirmative approach, even with having the Editor in Chief of the daily “Vijesti”, Mr. Mihailo Jovović, attend the Parade.

**Dan, 23rd July**

In response to the allegations of Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic made ​​in front of the parliamentary Inquiry Committee that the “Audio Recording” affair was fictional and created by a "newspaper which is told to be independent" but which, he claimed, is a "bulletin board of the military intelligence structures from Belgrade", clearly referring to the daily “Dan”, this newspaper published a poem on the front page, written by Editor in Chief Mr. Nikola Markovic, entitled "Instead of a response", together with a cartoon showing Djukanovic in diapers. The verses read: "When a dictator beyond measure, starts yelling, it’s a sign that he began to make s\*\*\* in his pants. Let the public forgive me, it is very rude, but the dictator is crippling us, and the mockery will cripple him. In history a golden rule applies, when a sovereign is filling his diapers, internal enemies he is seeking for, he feels that something stinks, and yet he does not see that it is the breath of his empire rotting. And when he is left alone, when his bodyguards leave him too, a firecracker will be sufficient for his departure."

The MSS considers such a response to be inappropriate, because of the vulgar vocabulary used in the poem, which drastically lowers the level of public communication. The MSS believes that the newspaper could have certainly found a more appropriate way to deny Djukanovic's claims, such that would be consistent with the profile of a serious political media.

The Guidelines for Principle 1 of the Code state that **„Journalists must maintain the highest professional and ethical standards“.**

The Guidelines for Principle 5 of the Code, referring to Hate Speech, states:

**Media institutions must not publish material that is intended or is likely to engender hostility or hatred towards persons on the grounds of their race, ethnic origins, nationality, gender, physical disabilities, religion or political affiliation. The same applies if it is highly probable that publication of a material may cause the above stated hostility and hatred**

**Vijesti, Dan, 3rd August**

## Dailies “Vijesti” and “Dan” have published on their front page articles about alleged corruption at the Montenegro border. The main actor in the story was a British MP Michael Fabricant, Member of the House of Commons.

## The daily “Dan” published a headline: "SCANDAL: Member of the House of Commons in London, Michael Fabricant victim of corruption at the Montenegrin border."The title of the article was "Montenegrin police soliciting bribe from British Member of Parliament."

## In the daily “Vijesti”, Fabricant was not a victim but a witness to alleged corruption, and the article was not labelled as a "scandal" but as a "tweet": "British Parliamentarian Michael Fabricant witnessed corruption among Montenegrin police" was the headline, and the title was: "They asked for money to enter Montenegro".

## The source of this information, which was given significant space in the dailies “Vijesti” and “Dan”, was a Fabricant’s post on social networking site Twitter, where he wrote this: "The Montenegrin police on the border asked for bribes to let us in. The taxi driver refused. A lot of quarrel in Serbo-Croatian. Finally we arrive at the destination.". This is the sentence which is the only material for alleged corruption of Montenegrin police officers at the border crossing.

This statement and writing of the media were a sufficient reason for an internal police investigation, which also asked for cooperation of the police departments between the two countries, Croatia and Montenegro.

The claim was denied ​​by the Police on 24th September, based on the statement made ​​by the Croatian taxi driver D.T. who fully denied claims of the British Parliamentarian that bribe was sought for at the Montenegrin border crossing.

The MSS considers publication of such unverified claims to be unprofessional and refers to Article 3 of the Code which states:

**“The facts should be sacred for a journalist, and it is his duty to put them in the right context and prevent their misuse, whether it is a text, picture or a tone. Rumours and assumptions should be clearly marked as such. It is a duty to clearly separate news from a comment.“**

The Council also reminds of the Guidelines for Principle 1 of the Code, referring to Accuracy:

**The public’s right to be informed does not justify sensational reporting. Therefore, journalists must not distort information by exaggeration, by placing improper emphasis on one aspect of a story or by giving only one side of the story. They must avoid using misleading headlines or advertising slogans. The facts must not be distorted by reporting them out of the context in which they occurred.**

In this case, the Code was also violated because the response was not published in the media which published this piece of information on the front pages. The correction was duly published on the “Vijesti” web portal.

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## “The Black Threes“ Affair

Starting with mid-August, the Montenegrin media were intensely involved in an affair publicly known as “the Brajušković Affair“ or “the Black Threes“.

## All Montenegrin dailies and other media in Montenegro dealt to a greater or lesser extent with the allegations made ​​by Brajuško Brajušković, a former member of the Special Anti-Terrorist Unit (SAJ) and a former officer of the Institute for Execution of Criminal Sanctions in Spuž, who spoke about the existence of the police groups, "the Black Threes" , which used to beat up unsuitable journalists and opposition activists, claiming that Director of the Prison in Spuž, Miljan Perovic, and former Director of the Police Department, Veselin Veljović, stood behind their actions and their choices of the victims.

## Dailies “Vijesti” and “Dan” continuously for days published stories which heated up Brajušković’s allegations that such an organized group of police officers exists, and that it is in charge for beating up unfit politicians and journalists.

## Both newspapers published statements of a number of people, previously known or unknown to Montenegrin public, who said that they were once the victims of “the Black Threes” for the first time.

## Not questioning the truth of these allegations, the Media Council for Self-Regulation finds that the Code has been violated.

## Dan, 22nd August

## Pages 1 and 7 published an article entitled: "Brajuško should reveal who killed Duško Jovanović" with the headline: "DF, SNP and Positive Montenegro demand an emergency session of the parliamentary Security Committee on allegations of the ex member of the special unit about “the Black Threes."

## The subtitle on page 7 states that Vasilije Lalošević MP (SNP) said that Duško Jovanović was beaten in 2000 by members of the so-called “Black Threes”, and that four years later Jovanović was brutally killed, while the article states that Lalošević said it only by quoting the press: "This should be done also considering the fact that he was beaten in 2000, according to the press, by the so-called “Black Threes" (his statement refers to the organization of the Committee session.)

## The MSS notes that the facts here were not placed in the proper context, but that Lalošević’s statement was taken out of context, which is not insignificant, as it was used in the subtitle, in the layout of the article.

## The MSS believes that this violated the Article 3 of the Code, which states:

**“The facts should be sacred for a journalist, and it is his duty to put them in the right context and prevent their misuse, whether it is a text, picture or a tone. Rumours and assumptions should be clearly marked as such. It is a duty to clearly separate news from a comment.“**

## Dan, 23rd August

## "Dan Journalist threatened to have her fingers cut off" is the title of the article published on pages 1 and 3 of the daily “Dan”. This was claimed by a poet Momir Vojvodić, based on the story, as he said, "of one who was part of the team."

## The attackers, as claimed in the text, are not known to this day, and the next sentence says that Vojvodić heard this story by "one of the police officers who beat him": "He was attacked at the entrance of the residential building (in November 2000) in Podgorica where he lives, and the attackers are not known to this day, almost 13 years later. Vojvodić claims that one of the police officers who beat him later confessed that the attack was organized and ordered by Veselin Veljović, former Director of the Police Department, the article states.

## The MSS can repeat the Article 3 of the Code, cited also in the previous example, since this article also published an assumption:

**“The facts should be sacred for a journalist, and it is his duty to put them in the right context and prevent their misuse, whether it is a text, picture or a tone. Rumours and assumptions should be clearly marked as such. It is a duty to clearly separate news from a comment.“**

## Dan, 27th August

## The daily „Dan“ published an article on page 7, titled “Witnesses confirmed Brajuško's story“.

## The article also published a text box with the statement given by painter Tomo Pavićević, in which he claims that he was also beaten up by “the Black Threes”. The text box is entitled "Tomo Pavićević beaten up as well", and it states: "Painter Tomo Pavićević was also a target of “the Black Threes” in 2001, and he was, as he says, beaten up in the middle of the night on his doorstep by three masked men." The statement underlying this claim is as follows: "And just as I opened the door, three masked men came into the house and beat me up... Even today, as I was then, I am certain that “the Black Threes” stand behind this attack", Pavićević said.

## The Media Council for Self-Regulation believes that Article 3 of the Code has been violated, because the article brings completely unsubstantiated assumptions of the person in question.

## The Article 3 of the Code states:

**“The facts should be sacred for a journalist, and it is his duty to put them in the right context and prevent their misuse, whether it is a text, picture or a tone. Rumours and assumptions should be clearly marked as such. It is a duty to clearly separate news from a comment.“**

## Dan, 28th and 29th August

## Commenting on the statement that Goran Perović, a former member of the Special Unit currently employed in the Institute for Execution of Criminal Sanctions, gave to the daily “Dan”, the MSS believes that the two editions of the newspaper should be read in a common context.

## On 28th August, the front page and page 9 published a headline: "Exclusive news: Goran Perović, a former member of the Special Unit currently employed in the Institute for Execution of Criminal Sanctions confirmed the allegations of beatings of persons from the opposition made by Brajuško Brajušković". The title of the article was "I was supposed to beat up Sekulić and to bug Medojević". The caption quoted Perović’s words: "I was offered to bug Medojević’s car and his party offices, and this was ordered by Božidar Vuksanović, as I was told." The subtitle on the front page and on page 9 of the newspaper, this media deliberately ignores that what Perovic also said is that it was Brajušković who told him about this alleged order of Vuksanović.

## On the next day, 29th August, the newspaper published an article on the front page and pages 6 and 7. The article was titled "He made threats to hide the lies", the headline being: "Shame: Goran Perović changed his testimony and accused the journalist of “Dan” to be a member of “the Black Threes”. The text deals with what followed after the publication of Perović’s statement from the previous day, and writes that the journalist of Dan, author of the article Dražen Živković and Goran Perović on 28th August gave statements to the police regarding Perović’s allegations that he was threatened by a journalist and that the journalist is a member of “the Black Threes ."

## The daily Dan refers to www.dan.co.me website where one can hear Perović's statement.

## The MSS has listened to the audio recording of the statement, which reads:

## "My name is Goran Perović. I work in the Institute for Execution of Criminal Sanctions in Spuž . I work in the security sector of the Institute. I will read my statement, and I stand behind it with full responsibility. I can tell you the truth and nothing but the truth. Brajuško asked me to attack Duško Sekulić from the Radical Party. Brajuško continues with his requirements towards me and says we should attack Duško Sekulić and not to worry, this could be done in Montenegro and in Serbia, and that I can do it because I know people in Serbia, because prior to the Institute, I worked in a casino in Slavija.Brajuško accepted to do the organisation himself if I would finish the job. He insisted it to be completed in the following days... I was called from an unknown number. I answered; the voice told me he was sent by Božidar Vuksanović. I was feeling dizzy and numb. I thought – they won’t let me be not even here. The voice said - Božo Vuksanović will give you 10 thousand to bug a man you are following and you'll be back to the Institute. I think this was in 2008. The man was the President of PZP Nebojša Medojević. I was offered to put bugging devices in the PZP, in the party offices, and in the car also...".

## The Council notes that the article published on 28th August omitted an important part of Perović’s statement in the title - that beating up of Sekulić was asked for by Brajušković, and that Brajušković would have been the person organizing it.

## The MSS finds that Article 3 of the Code was violated, which states:

**“The facts should be sacred for a journalist, and it is his duty to put them in the right context and prevent their misuse, whether it is a text, picture or a tone. Rumours and assumptions should be clearly marked as such. It is a duty to clearly separate news from a comment.“**

The Council also reminds of the Guidelines for Principle 1 of the Code, referring to General Standards:

## Journalists must maintain the highest professional and ethical standards. They must take all reasonable steps to ensure that they disseminate only accurate information, and that their comments on events are genuine and honest. They must never publish information that they know to be false or maliciously make unfounded allegations about others that are intended to harm their reputations. It is journalist's right to refuse an assignment being opposite to the ethic codex.

## Dan, 5th September

## The daily “Dan” published an article on the front page and on page 7, under the headline "Dragan Bracanović from Cetinje warned the authorities that it was not yet discovered who beat him up in 1999". The title was “SNP Councillor also a victim of the Black Threes”.

## The MSS notes the statement which was put in the title was not listed anywhere in the text as something said by D. Bracanović. He, as cited, asked for the case of his beating up to be solved.

## The Media Council for Self-Regulation believes that Article 3 of the Code has been violated again:

**“The facts should be sacred for a journalist, and it is his duty to put them in the right context and prevent their misuse, whether it is a text, picture or a tone. Rumours and assumptions should be clearly marked as such. It is a duty to clearly separate news from a comment.“**

Also, the Council reminds of the Guidelines for Principle 1 of the Code, referring to General Standards:

**Journalists must maintain the highest professional and ethical standards. They must take all reasonable steps to ensure that they disseminate only accurate information, and that their comments on events are genuine and honest. They must never publish information that they know to be false or maliciously make unfounded allegations about others that are intended to harm their reputations. It is journalist's right to refuse an assignment being opposite to the ethic codex.**

**Vijesti, 29th August**

The daily “Vijesti” published on their front page an article under the headline "The Black Threes Affair: Miodrag Jovanovic submitted to Vijesti an anonymous letter to his brother Duško with the names of people who allegedly beat the late editor of “Dan” in 2000". The title was "Đurović, Lazović and Kalezić – the striking trio of the beating unit."
The MSS notes that the qualification "allegedly" in the headline does not match the explicit statement in the title.

## The Media Council for Self-Regulation believes that this title violated Article 3 of the Code, which states:

**“The facts should be sacred for a journalist, and it is his duty to put them in the right context and prevent their misuse, whether it is a text, picture or a tone. Rumours and assumptions should be clearly marked as such. It is a duty to clearly separate news from a comment.“**

In addition, the text published a facsimile of the anonymous letter in which persons are appointed as those who executed the beatings.

The Council considers publishing of an anonymous letter to be unprofessional, as well as treating the letter as evidence for the claims in the text, the more so as the persons mentioned are accused of a serious offense, and their full names are published.

## The Media Council for Self-Regulation believes that Article 6 of the Code was violated, which states:

**In order to collect information in any form, a journalist should use professionally honourable and legally allowed methods. Any violation of this rule is allowed only in cases when those methods are not sufficient, and information that is to be obtained of the great importance for the public.**

The Media Council for Self-Regulationbelieves that disclosure of an anonymous letter does not represent an honourable or a legally permissible method.

In addition, correction written by Đurović, Lazović and Kalezić, all mentioned in the anonymous letter, was published in a small box with the title "Member of the Special Unit deny claims from the letter," so one cannot see clearly that this is a correction, thus violating another rule of the Code, referring to Corrections, specified in Article 4:

**It is a duty of a journalist to complete an incomplete and correct incorrect information, especially the one that can cause any harm and at the same time to make sure that the correction is pointed out in the adequate manner.**

**Vijesti, 30th August**

The daily “Vijesti” published an article with the headline: "The Black Threes Affair: After Vijesti published the letter which Duško Jovanović received prior to his death, another case of brutal beating has been confirmed."

Title of the article was: "Gačević: Members of the Special Unit beat up my brother and stabbed him with bayonets."

This is an interview with Goran Gačević from Bijelo Polje, who claims, citing unnamed and unofficial sources from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, that his brother was beaten up by “the Black Threes” and that his body was stabbed by bayonets. This article was published on pages 14 and 15.

The Council believes that the Guidelines for Principle 1 of the Code were here violated, which state, referring to General Standards:

**Journalists must maintain the highest professional and ethical standards. They must take all reasonable steps to ensure that they disseminate only accurate information, and that their comments on events are genuine and honest. They must never publish information that they know to be false or maliciously make unfounded allegations about others that are intended to harm their reputations. It is journalist's right to refuse an assignment being opposite to the ethic codex.**

## In addition, the paper once again published an anonymous letter, published also on the previous day, thus violating Article 6 of the Code once again, which states:

**In order to collect information in any form, a journalist should use professionally honourable and legally allowed methods. Any violation of this rule is allowed only in cases when those methods are not sufficient, and information that is to be obtained of the great importance for the public.**

## Dan, 31st August

## The daily “Dan” published on the front page and on page 7 an article under the headline: "Jumediamont Attorney Nebojsa Asanovic submitted to the prosecutor's office and the Police Department evidence of the beating of Dusko Jovanovic, which were delivered to this media," and the title being: "New names on the list of the beating crew."

## The aforementioned evidence is the anonymous letter, which, as the newspaper said, was delivered to this media on the previous day, and which claims that certain Koca Kovacevic and Milivoje Dragicevic "also participated in the beating of Jovanovic."

## The text says that the Basic State Prosecutor’s Office and the Police Department are checking allegations written in the anonymous letter, stating the names of two members of the Special Antiterrorist Unit, who allegedly participated in the beating of Dusko Jovanovic, and which was submitted to them by the editorial of the newspaper “Dan”.

## The newspaper states that the letter is anonymous, "without any personal information that would refer to the sender and the author of the information."

## The attorney’s appeal clearly reads: "Whether the case is a true information, a false report or a false information, a planted report with unknown intentions to divert attention from a real trace, we have no such knowledge."

The Council believes that the Guidelines for Principle 1 of the Code were here violated, which state, referring to General Standards:

**Journalists must maintain the highest professional and ethical standards. They must take all reasonable steps to ensure that they disseminate only accurate information, and that their comments on events are genuine and honest. They must never publish information that they know to be false or maliciously make unfounded allegations about others that are intended to harm their reputations. It is journalist's right to refuse an assignment being opposite to the ethic codex.**

The Council, also once again strongly condemns publishing of anonymous letters in which a person is discredited, and calls for compliance with the Code, noting that by publishing an anonymous letter this case has violated the same principles as the previous case.

## Article 6 of the Code was violated, which states:

**In order to collect information in any form, a journalist should use professionally honourable and legally allowed methods. Any violation of this rule is allowed only in cases when those methods are not sufficient, and information that is to be obtained of the great importance for the public.**

On the following day, 1st September, the daily “Dan” published two responses, written by persons mentioned in the anonymous letter: "Authorities shall determine that we are not the beating crew," which were published in the bottom of page 7, thus not in the same place where the original article was published.

Media Council for Self-Regulation believes that Principle 4 of the Code was violated in this case, which states:

“It is a duty of a journalist to complete incomplete and correct incorrect information, especially that which can cause any harm and at the same time to make sure that the correction is pointed out in the adequate manner.“

**Pobjeda, 30th August and 17th September**

The daily “Pobjeda” occasionally publishes marketing content written by UPIS - Association of Gambling Providers, which is often full of insults.

The Council reports about two illustrative examples:

Along with the text published on 30th August, entitled "Request in five points for enforcement of the rule of law", a text box was published, titled "Footnote", which is full of insults:

"While UPIS is writing about the rule of law, Fellowship of MIŠKO KVRŽICA is writing columns about their honour of thieves in columns of the greatest dishonour that hit Montenegro. Penetration of their mind is performed by a tough guy for tires aka DŽO GUMAR. He gives moralizing lessons of sublime morality in the field of tire theft. When the time comes that a suspended police officer should write legal and democratic columns, this is the first sign of rubber lustration and profanity. He is rambling to become a little bit morally vertical, even if he grew up to be one meter and a kebab. He is babbling incoherently about something that has nothing to do with the truth. Veseljko, Veselnik, with three faces and without warrants. GUMAR GULE, who peeled rubber, is now peeling justice. She, "the young hope" of MANS, could not resist as a student to listen to the GREAT TEACHER MIŠKO FRAUD. He put out his big ears and nods, lives healthy and does not smoke - in public. Nodder is a **mere ass-kisser** that cannot even be called a POLTROON. But fate gave him moral horizontal and market viability. The media and civil brothel has no other God but SELF-INTEREST. Neither they are baptized, nor they pray, these pure profession-anal patriots, difficult, all day **jerking-offers**, agile and always defending the fatherland when it is the hardest - when the money rustles. Therefore, it is high time that CHARGES rustle for these malevolent people. For fierce guys - a fierce indictment for fierce theft. So the time has come for this shameful coterie to pay the bills - as a set of closely related persons engaged in intrigues, making a sealed unit, as **a camarilla, a clan, a gang of scoundrels, punks, scum, sludge, scumbags and garbage.**

**Although there is a not under the text, saying that this is a vocabulary for those called by these names, the MSS believes that the language is extremely inappropriate.**

On 17th September “Pobjeda” published a text "Finger on the forehead," which states: "They attack and try to destroy anyone who finds himself on their way to the goals of this crime-based civil-media monster system, composed of **scum, scoundrels, punks and other media and civil waste.**

The Media Council for Self-Regulation reminds that this is only a part of the UPIS’ texts published in “Pobjeda”, which are full of insults and utterly inappropriate vocabulary, and the MSS calls the editorial office to put a stop to the practice of publishing paid articles with uncontrolled insulting and labelling of people.

The Council considers publishing of such content to be unacceptable, due to extremely vulgar vocabulary, which lowers the public communication to the street level and is not compatible with the profile of a serious political media, which, in addition, is state-funded.

## The Media Council for Self-Regulation reminds of Guidelines for Principle 5 of the Code, referring to Hate Speech, which states:

**Media institutions must not publish material that is intended or is likely to engender hostility or hatred towards persons on the grounds of their race, ethnic origins, nationality, gender, physical disabilities, religion or political affiliation. The same applies if it is highly probable that publication of a material may cause the above stated hostility and hatred.**

**Pobjeda, 4th August**

The daily “Pobjeda” published on page 20 an article by Marko Vešović, with the headline "Sonja Biserko and friends, the payment of humanism" and the title "Defender of Sarajevo."

The text repeats taunting and insulting names that the author uses for journalists and owners of the weekly “Monitor” and the daily “Vijesti”, and university professor Milan Popovic – he calls them Milka Kiloballs, Ox with a Birth Certificate and Milan Tomfool.

The Media Council for Self-Regulation strongly condemns calling people with derogatory names, and finds that this article is an insult and hate speech, while the Guidelines to Principle 5 of the Code states:

**Media institutions must not publish material that is intended or is likely to engender hostility or hatred towards persons on the grounds of their race, ethnic origins, nationality, gender, physical disabilities, religion or political affiliation. The same applies if it is highly probable that publication of a material may cause the above stated hostility and hatred.**

Also, the Code states that Journalists must maintain the highest professional and ethical standards, and this, the MSS believes, was not the case.

**Dan, 20th August**

The daily “Dan” published a story on page 15 under the headline "Metropolitan Amfilohije criticized the government over developments at Ivanova Korita" and the title "The regime wants to install godless people in churches."

Metropolitan refers to followers of the Montenegrin Orthodox Church as godless as well.

The Media Council for Self-Regulation believes that this article published hate speech, and reminds of the Guidelines for Principle 5 of the Code, which states:

**Media institutions must not publish material that is intended or is likely to engender hostility or hatred towards persons on the grounds of their race, ethnic**

**origins, nationality, gender, physical disabilities, religion or political affiliation. The same applies if it is highly probable that publication of a material may cause the above stated hostility and hatred.**

**WEB PORTALS**

During the period covered by this report of the Media Council for Self-Regulation, it can be concluded that a more professional attitude of the on-line media was observed, in relation to previous reports of the MSS. The Council notes that particularly the web portal Vijesti, which has so far been the leader in publishing controversial comments, has paid far more attention to have such language in a lesser extent. This web portal has published significantly less such comments and has paid more attention about the issue, so it is evident that the administrators of the web portal have been mostly promptly deleting improper comments.

However, this report also reports about the abuse of freedom of expression: insults with the use of street slang and swear words, inappropriate qualifications, unverified information, etc. Nationalistic insults were also noticed, as well as homophobic comments and comments that include elements of hate speech, call to violence, comments with elements of fascism etc.

Here are some examples of violations of professional standards, notices at the web portal Vijesti.

**Article, an interview with Jevrem Brković: Djukanovic is a collaborator with the most personal interests of the margin people around him**

**Locus, 21st August at 04:01**

Face of sh\*\* whose smell has expanded through Montenegro since ages has a name: Jevrem Brkovic: a delator, a thief, a liar, a Nazi toady - Franjo Tudjman, a former associate of the Montenegrin Intelligence, a brave Chetnik and then a rehabilitated Montenegrin who puts former employers in his mouth, seals the deal with Perovic, sucks it up to Lekic, and would and wouldn’t do it with the boss.. yuck

**Sasa086, 21st August at 02:04**

And for those of you who threaten and who are looking for names – I will! I am Sasa Brkovic, nephew of Jevrem Brkovic, I live in Budva and you can find me whenever you want if you want it. And I f\*\*\* you all who dabbles and bark in the comments! Now you know, and suit yourself!

**MickellY, 21st August at 02:02**

This is the Serbian priests’ crew, these remains of inhuman, who want to ruin all that is Montenegrin. Well you're a bit screwed up!!!

**KurdzaNK dominatntni sadista, 21st August at 01:24**

Budos, you speak in Serbian and we in Montenegrin, I can tell you write from Pale or perhaps Bratunac, and you insult Bosniaks, Brkovic, Albanians, Croats, uh you f\*\*\*\*\*\* Serbian motherf\*\*\*\*\*, you spread hatred to break the coalition around DPS, come here, you horse I have a good stick for you.

**KurdzaNK dominatntni sadista, 21st August at 01:00**

Budos, why are you lying that you are a Montenegrin you motherf\*\*\*\*\*, f\*\*\* your mother Serbian wh\*\*\*, Montenegrin defend themselves and others, why didn’t you condemn that Cetniks’ songs in Bratunac, but comment insults and humiliation of the dead in the genocide that your Serbs committed in Srebrenica.

**Gnojavi, 21st August at 01:00**

You are harmless you cowardly cu\*\*. You are no one and nothing...

**KurdzaNK dominatntni sadista, 21st August at 00:40**

Gnojavi, Budos, you are only competent to comment on the Serbian Orthodox Church, the Chetniks dancing and singing in Bratunac announcing a new genocide, that is your field, not these literary ones, because besides the fact that you stupid you look even more stupid; I am keeping that tool for you, don’t worry, you are the first on the list.

**KurdzaNK dominatntni sadista, 20th August at 23:53**

The only final solution is just to use a recipe already tried out, Ante Gotovina, all in accordance to the law, because The Court in the Hague did not convict him, so if we do everything according to the law, if we do it smartly, everybody will be pleased. If the court in The Hague did not convict general Gotovina, we can freely mention the case, while not breaking the rules of the web portal. I just do not like the names the Flash and the Storm, we will be more creative.

**Article: Dukovic and Ponoš at the Parade, support comes from the British Embassy**

**Orijen, 23rd July at 13:38**

Just let those from the British Embassy say how they got that little prince, did its daddy bang its bal\*\* with a fag\*\*, if you want to support this garbage go home and walk there with these sick people, you brought enough troubles to the Balkans and the rest of the world!

**Skeptik, 23rd July at 13:27**

Duković poor you, you are always there to execute their dishonest actions. You are pretending to be a believer and that you pray but you're just an ordinary scumbag. You are embarrassing all of us Muslims. Why didn’t they appoint Marovic or Numanovic to be there, it suits them. I thought you were a man of honour, but since you pray you know well that this is strictly prohibited by the Koran. If you have any relatives, on that day it would be better if they tied you in a barn and stopped from going. That honour belongs to Milo...

**Article: Hooligans in Budva during the Pride Parade stoned a bus from Split**

**Palikuca, 26th July at 23:46**

Theatre. Do you know who made the world's longest porn? Turks in Serbia, it lasted for 550 years... and before that your ancestors were packed by Hungarians and Illyrians, you do not know who you are or what you are, you bastards ... These are the facts set maybe too directly, but they do not insult Serbs but if you are insult by the facts, that's your problem... I see from your reaction that you agree with me that you Serbs do not know who you are, whether you are bastards and whose- Turkish, Hungarian or Illyrian, only DNA analysis can solve that issue....

**Article: Djukanovic: Parliament introduces a dictatorship and wants to close the KAP**

**Momo – divlji, 6th August at 00:51**

That arrogant dog barks more and more lately, he will have to be put a muzzle on his mouth.

**Krdzaa NK, 6th August at 23:36**

TO THE PRIME MINISTER, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, MINISTERS, JUDGES, PROSECUTORS, SENIOR POLICE OFFICIALS, BUSINESSMEN, and I know you read the comments:

It's time to take concrete steps, this is your last chance that something can still be done, tomorrow you will be late, just copy what Vucic is doing in Serbia with the Democratic Party and other political opponents, because if these come to power, and they are digging as moles, you will not exist anymore, nor your children, you will all surely be lynched, arrested, hanged, you are not aware of how much they hate you...

**Article: Montenegro lost to Latvia**

**RainX, 5th September at 22:33**

Srpska Boka, if I was asked I would liquidate this one, and I would liquidate 100 Docleans, descendants of Montenegrin Ustasha Sekula Drljevic, who was Ante Pavelic‘s envoy to Montenegro and the problem would be solved!

**Srpska Boka, 5th September at 22:15**

Hellooo, why are you responding at all.... you clearly see that this Gusar is Siptar (from Kosovo)... I love to talk about my MONTENEGRO with my Orthodox Christians and not with the funny minorities!!

**ArticleDasic for indiscipline removed from the team!**

**Stojan.perunov, 6th September at 17:21**

Pompezan, you say that our history starts in 2006 and we have had a state for 1,000 years, you Serbianized as\*\*ole and scumbag. Maybe your grandfather and great-grandfather were Serbianized but your great great grandfather was a Montenegrin prior to 1918. But I take a sh\*\* at your great-grandparents grave when this lineage continued with you and your gay dad. I bloody fuc\* you all you Serbianized dog

**Tekst: Defeated by Lithuania, Montenegro lost the chance for a second round**

**Krivina, 8th September at 23:27**

May your brain be burned from fat... you want to send people to a camp, you can only bark, you Turkish dog....

The contents of above comments of readers that were published without editorial intervention, along with a large number of insults by street slang, swear words and inappropriate qualifications, homophobia attitudes and incitement to violence, clearly show that Guidelines to the Principle 5 were violated, as the MSS notes, referring to Hate Speech: ” **Media institutions must not publish material that is intended or is likely to engender hostility or hatred towards persons on the grounds of their race, ethnicorigins, nationality, gender, physical disabilities, religion or political affiliation. The same applies if it is highly probable that publication of a material may cause the above stated hostility and hatred.“**

In the following examples, by the same token, without prior editorial control, the web portal Vijesti published comments that contain personal insults about public figures. Thus the **article**: **Brano Micunovic and Vesna Medenica now a family** is illustrated with a photograph of Vesna Medenica and the article contains the following comments from readers:

**Orijen, 22nd September at 16:38**

For this solemn moment the lady even shaved her moustache!

**S.P.Q.R., 22nd September at 16:38**

Such a peasant face!!

**Samo HIV pozitivno, 22nd September at 16:14**

GreatSerbian and hillbilly Vesna Medenica, she is the officer who paraded with a gun alongside prisoners who were taken to Morinj because of the libido, and her rags and a star on her head were so sexy with a moustache so she decided to keep them those years. And electronic, gossip and informative you can see on the Pink TV, Atlas TV, and Portal Analitika.

**Bakanceros, 22nd September at 13:48**

Her face gives it away that she is a filthy one!

**Article: Pejovic about the charter entourage: A diverse, interesting and representative group**

**Jugoslovenka, 8th August at 17:29**

One cannot believe this... this causes such anger ... and this cow has such a stupid face, sweet mother of god, yuckkkkkkkk

**Article: Vešović to the SDP: Everybody knows who is the teacher, and who is a pupil**

**Causan cavor Slobodan, 8th August at 17:58**

Časlav, you black Časlav, who gave Grga a tax injection, DPS or the opposition? Shame on you!

**Pecaros, 8th August at 17:51**

A young scumbag. Buttkisser. Career chaser. Some?!

Only cun\*\*s express in such a way. They never precisely name those they are talking about. The bosses are like that as well..

**Article: Predrag Lucic: A fairy is shouting from Lovcen, Montenegro will be a Hilton**

**Zeljko 123, 17th August at 15:13**

Predraze you cu\*\* you are being paid to be silly, you disgusting monkey, I would not allow you to enter Montenegro, I am telling you, we should bury you in the foundations of the hotel, you gullible moron...

The Media Council for Self-Regulation states that the editorial staff of Cafe del Montenegro and Analitika web portals has in this period very promptly taken care of the content and administration of readers' comments, which are published in such a manner that no comment has been noticed that contains abusive or improper contents or hate speech...

The MSS again recommends to carefully administer the readers' comments in order to reduce to a minimum the misuse of "anonymous" and "nickname" commentators