Investigative journalist Olivera Lakić who works for Montenegro based newspaper Vijesti was shot outside her home on 8 May 2018 around 9 pm in Podgorica by an unidentified gunman. Ms Lakić was injured in the right leg and sent to the hospital where her condition is described as stable.

Olivera Lakić is known for investigating crime and corruption in Montenegro. This attack is the second attack on the journalist after an earlier incident in 2012 when she was punched in the head multiple times following her reports on alleged illegal dealings involving a tobacco factory. The perpetrator was sentenced to jail and Olivera Lakić was put under police protection for a while.

**UPDATES**

**13 Jan 2021**: On 25 December 2020, the Special state prosecutor Sasa Cadjenovic announced that a new assassination attempt on Olivera Lakić had been prevented and that two suspects were arrested on 24 December for planning her murder. They were offered 150,000 euros for the assassination, prosecutors said. The criminal organisation they belong to is also suspected of the 2018 attempted murder, when Lakić was wounded in the leg. The statement of the Special Prosecutor's Office comes after information emerged that an attempt was made to recruit one person for the murder in Spuž prison in May this year. "The motive is to prevent journalist Olivera Lakić from investigating criminal organisations on the territory of Montenegro and their connections with criminal groups from the region," said Čadjenović. The Deputy Prime Minister, Dritan Abazovic, welcomed the arrest of the suspects, but noted that it would not mean much until the masterminds were found.

**20 Feb 2019**: On 19 February 2019, Montenegrin police announced that they have arrested nine members of a criminal organisation who are suspected of shooting Olivera
Lakić in 2018.

Article published by Balkan Insight: "Montenegro Police Arrests Suspected Shooters of Journalist"

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Letter of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
- Report published on the Mapping Media Freedom platform: "Montenegro: Investigative journalist shot in the leg"
- Statement: "RSF decries threats to investigative journalism in Montenegro"
- Statement by EFJ and IFJ: "Montenegrin investigative journalist Olivera Lakić shot and injured"
- Article published by the Guardian: "Investigative journalist shot and injured in Montenegro"
- Statement by the Trade Union of Media of Montenegro (TUMM): "With dishonorable shot Olivera Lakic was sent a message to stop writing"

STATE REPLIES

- 22 Mar 2019 | Reply from the Government of Montenegro
  - Note verbale presented by the Permanent Representation of Montenegro to the Council of Europe
- 24 Sep 2018 | Reply from the Government of Montenegro
  - Note verbale presented by the Permanent Representation of Montenegro to the Council of Europe
- 28 Aug 2018 | Reply from the Government of Montenegro
  - Note verbale presented by the Permanent Representation of Montenegro to the Council of Europe

FOLLOW-UPS
Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights condemned the repeated assault on Olivera Lakić, investigative journalist at the daily Vijesti.

Tweet by Dunja Mijatović

CoE Secretary General shocked over the attack on investigative journalist in Montenegro

Statement by Thorbjørn Jagland

OSCE Representative Désir strongly condemns shooting of journalist Olivera Lakić in Podgorica, call on authorities to bring perpetrators to justice

Statement by Harlem Désir