

23
Feb 2018

▲ Lvl. 2

Resolved

Serbia

Alert created on: 19 Feb 2018

Journalist Philippe Bertinchamps Threatened with Expulsion in Serbia

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY  ▶ Harassment and intimidation of journalists

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ

In February 2018, Philippe Bertinchamps, a Belgrade-based Belgian journalist working for various French-speaking media outlets is threatened with expulsion after the Serbian interior minister (MUP) rejected his second request for a temporary residence permit. If deported, the journalist will be separated from his family living in Serbia. The authorities are accusing him of being an "obstacle to public order and national security". Mr. Bertinchamp's application for a temporary residence permit on preservation of family unity grounds was rejected by the MUP in April 2017 and again on 8 January 2018 with no explanation. A Serbian administrative court ruled in his favour in November 2017, agreeing the authorities needed to provide grounds for their rejection of his appeal. Mr. Bertinchamps has been covering Serbia and Western Balkans for the last ten years without ever coming into conflict with the law.

RESOLVED

23 Feb 2018: In light of the developments of 19 February 2018, which allowed the journalist to remain in the country, the partner organisations to the Platform declared this case to be "resolved", concluding it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

UPDATES

19 Feb 2018: On 19 February 2018, Philippe Bertinchamps was delivered a residence visa for a year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



- ➔ N1 report : "Belgijski novinar, nakon pisanja medija, dobio boravišnu"
- ➔ EFJ report : "Journalist Philippe Bertinchamps threatened with expulsion in Serbia"
- ➔ RSF statement : "Serbia threatens Belgrade-based Belgian reporter with expulsion"
- ➔ Alert published on Safejournalists.net : "Srbija belgijskom reporteru prethodi proterivanjem iz Beograda"

FOLLOW-UPS



23 Feb 2018 | Commissioner for Human Rights: 'Concerted efforts needed to protect media freedoms in Serbia'

- ➔ Excerpt from the Commissioner's follow-up visit report carried out from 19 to 22 February 2018