

16

Aug
2018
⚠ Lvl. 2

Serbia

Alert created on: 16 Aug 2018

Serbian News Portal 'Juzne Vesti' Facing Administrative Harassment

No state
reply yet

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Harassment and intimidation of journalists

NO STATE REPLY YET

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, Index

The Serbian news portal 'Juzne Vesti' has been subjected to a series of administrative harassment acts by the local government, according to the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (IJAS-NUNS). The news portal has been subjected to continuous tax investigation for the last six months. The investigation found no errors in its tax management, but resulted in a legal procedure seeking payment of a fine of 1 million dinars (approximately 8,400 EUR) pursuant to a Tax Authority regulation, the "Job Catalogue" in public services and other organizations of the public sector. The regulation defines the tasks of an editor in chief working in public service media, but is not applicable to private media. According to NUNS, this case raises concerns of systemic intimidation by the government against critical private media. Applying the "Job Catalogue" to private media leads to state interference in the work of media by regulating terms and conditions of editors-in-chief and journalists' employment in private media.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ➔ Mapping Media Freedom report: Update to "Serbia: Authorities exert pressure on critical online media outlet"
- ➔ Statement of the European Federation of Journalists: "Serbia: Administrative harassment against Juzne Vesti news portal"
- ➔ News report in Južne vesti: Novinarska udruženja pisala međunarodnim organizacijama zbog pritisaka na "Južne vesti"
- ➔ Statement of NUNS: "Zaustavite administrativno uznemiravanje medija"
- ➔ Statement of NGO Transparency Serbia: "Ugrožavanje opstanka medija kroz naplatu izmišljenog poreskog dugovanja"

