

15
Jan 2019

▲ Lvl. 2

State
replied

Montenegro

Alert created on: 13 Apr 2016

Freelance Journalist and Fixer Jovo Martinovic Tried for "Being a Member of a Criminal Organization"

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY  ▶ Detention and imprisonment of journalists

PARTNER: RSF, EFJ/IFJ

Mr. Jovo Martinovic worked as a non-exclusive part-time fixer for a French documentary film "The Route of the Kalashnikov", aired in France on Canal+ on 4 January 2016. The film examines the illegal flow of weapons from Balkans. Part of Mr. Martinovic job involved helping trace underground weapons networks and included interacting with members of these criminal groups in the Balkans. Mr. Martinovic was arrested on 22 October 2015 in relation to this assignment. He is accused of being a member of a criminal organization and of trafficking drug. The arrest warrant was issued by High court in Podgorica after the request of the Special State Prosecutor's office. On 12 April 2016, he still was in custody, waiting for his indictment and trial. Mr. Martinovic has worked with several international media outlets including The Economist (UK), the Financial Times (UK) and M6 (France).

UPDATES

15 Jan 2019: On 15 January 2019, the Higher Court in Podgorica sentenced Jovo Martinovic to 1.5 years in prison for alleged "drug trafficking and membership in a criminal organisation". The journalist rejected the charges which he considers politically motivated. The verdict was condemned by international media freedom organisations and organisations of journalists. Jovo Martinovic announced that he would appeal the verdict.

 **Balkan Insight report : "Montenegro Jails Crime Reporter for Drug Trafficking"**

09 Jan 2017: On 5 January 2017, journalist Jovo Martinović was released pending trial. The Court ordered Martinović to check in with police twice a month, and confiscated his passport. As a consequence, the alert was changed to level 2.

- ➔ Press release by EFJ: "Montenegro: Investigative journalist Martinovic released while pending trial"
- ➔ Press release by CPJ: "Journalist Jovo Martinović released in Montenegro pending trial"

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ➔ EFJ statement: "Montenegro: EFJ demands the immediate acquittal of Jovo Martinovic"
- ➔ Letter from CPJ to Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Đukanović on behalf of detained journalist

STATE REPLIES



28 Aug 2018 | Reply from the Government of Montenegro

- ➔ Note verbale presented by the Permanent Representation of Montenegro to the Council of Europe



07 Dec 2016 | Reply from Montenegro provided by the Ministry of Justice

- ➔ Letter from the Permanent Representation of Montenegro to the Council of Europe

FOLLOW-UPS

 **09 Jan 2017** | OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media welcomes release of Montenegrin journalist and calls for conclusion of his case

- ➔ Statement by Dunja Mijatović