



28

Nov

2018

▲ Lvl. 2

Slovenia

n° 46/2016

Alert created on: 24 Mar 2016

Former Prime Minister Publicly Insults Two Journalists

Resolved

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ Non-state

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Harassment and intimidation of journalists

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, Index, RSF

On 21 March 2016, the former Prime Minister of Slovenia and current leader of the main opposition party (SDS), Janez Jansa, insulted on his personal Twitter account a journalist and an editor from TV Slovenija (TVS), the Slovenian public broadcaster. They had broadcasted a story on the increase of hate speech against refugees and migrants in the country, including within SDS. On 21 March, at 7:43 pm, Janez Jansa posted a tweet naming the two journalists and comparing them to "disused prostitutes for 30 and 35 euros". The Slovene Association of Journalists (DNS) and TVS journalists strongly condemned this public attack.

RESOLVED

13 Sep 2016: On 1st April 2016, an urgent session was held by the Committee on Culture of the Slovenian National Assembly. It condemned verbal attacks as a form of political pressure on journalists and the media and proposed to the President of the National Assembly to adopt a Code of Ethics for the Members of the Parliament "with a view to rejecting verbal abuse and other forms of offensive behaviour". On 13 September 2016, the partner organisations of the Platform declared this case to be "resolved", concluding it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

UPDATES

28 Nov 2018: On 23 November 2018, the court of Celje sentenced Janez Jansa to a three-month suspended jail sentence for insulting two female journalists. It also ruled that the politician must pay the costs of the proceedings stemming from the 2016 incident. Jansa's lawyer has said he will appeal the ruling.

➔ AP dispatch : "Slovenia right-wing politician gets 3-month suspended jail "

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



-  Report published on the Mapping Media Freedom platform: "Slovenia: Former PM tweets sexist insults to journalists "
-  Statement of the Slovenian Association of Journalists and the TV Slovenija journalists (in Slovenian)
-  Mr. Jansa's tweet

STATE REPLIES



29 Jun 2016 | Reply from the Republic of Slovenia

-  Letter from the Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the Council of Europe

FOLLOW-UPS



OSCE 28 Nov 2018 | OSCE representative welcomes conviction of senior politician in Slovenia for Tweet calling two journalists "prostitutes" in relation to their reporting in 2016. The 3-month prison sentence suspended for 1 year of probation is a strong sign that such abuse should not be tolerated.

-  Tweet by Harlem Désir