

28

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▲ Lvl. 2

State replied

Montenegro

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## Police Used Teargas Against a Group of About 30 Journalists

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY  ▶ Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists

**PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ**

On 24 October 2015, riot police in Montenegro fired teargas at a group of around 30 journalists covering a protest of the opposition in Podgorica. The police targeted journalists despite the fact that they had yellow vests with the 'press' emblem on them provided by the ministry of Interior. According to board members of the Trade Union of Media of Montenegro (Sindikata medija Crne Gore, SMCG), the police deliberately threw massive amounts of tear gas at a group of about 30 journalists who had fled a little away from the parliament building. Several journalists were badly injured on 24 October 2015, one journalist has been burned by tear gas shells while some others were attacked by demonstrators. Stones were thrown at TV Pink M because demonstrators did not agree with the editorial policy of the media considered as too close to the government. In a written statement, the Trade Union of Media of Montenegro has strongly condemned the use of teargas against journalists. The statement also asks for an "internal investigation" into whether the police overextended their power.

### UPDATES

**30 Nov 2015:** Montenegro Council for Civil Control of Police acting upon the complaint of the Union of media of Montenegro adopted its conclusions about police treatment towards a group of journalists after demonstrations in Podgorica on 24 October 2015.

 **Conclusions adopted by Montenegro Council for Civil Control of Police**

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

 **Letter of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression/UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of**

peaceful assembly and of association

- ➔ News report by Televizija Vijesti
- ➔ Article by CDM: "Sindikata medija: Utvrditi da li je policija prekoračila ovlašćenja prema novinarima"
- ➔ Article on Mapping Media Freedom website: "Montenegro: Police fire teargas at journalists"
- ➔ Article on EFJ website: "Montenegro: Violence against journalists is unacceptable and dangerous"

## 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



**16 Nov 2015** | Reply of the Ministry of Interior of the Government of Montenegro

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

## RELEVANT COE INSTRUMENTS



**29 Feb 2016** | Factsheet on media coverage of protests and demonstrations

- ➔ Overview of the ECHR case law and European regulations and standards (CoE, EU, OSCE) related to media coverage of protests and demonstrations.

### DISCLAIMER

This section presents a non-exhaustive selection of CoE instruments and ECHR case-law. This information is not a legal assessment of the alert and should not be treated or used as such.