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State replied

Montenegro

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Journalist Anđela Đikanović Charged with “Causing Panic and Disorder”




SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY  ▶ Detention and imprisonment of journalists

PARTNER: CPJ, RSF

On 5 January 2020, police in Podgorica, the capital of Montenegro, arrested journalist Anđela Đikanović, editor-in-chief of the local news website FOS, according to a report by her employer. Following her arrest, the state prosecutor's office charged Đikanović with “causing panic and disorder,” a criminal offense, and ordered her to be detained for 72 hours, according to that report. The allegations relate to an article Đikanović published on FOS earlier that day, which the website later retracted, according to a report by regional news website Balkan Insight. If convicted, Đikanović could face a fine or a prison sentence of up to one year, according to Montenegro's criminal code. According to the Balkan Insight report, Đikanović's detention was sparked by an article she published which alleged that the Montenegrin government was considering requesting security assistance from Kosovo to help quell protests. Following the publication of the article, the Montenegrin government denied the allegations, and FOS retracted the article and published an apology, according to Balkan Insight and the apology statement. On 6 January, FOS published a statement saying that Đikanović had been dismissed as editor-in-chief for a “serious professional error.” The journalist's lawyer, Milos Vuksanovic, told Balkan Insight that Đikanović had appealed the state prosecutor's ruling, and called her detention “shocking.” CPJ emailed the Montenegrin state prosecutor's office for comment but did not immediately receive a reply.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

-  **FOS apology statement: "Izvinjenje portala FOS Media čitaocima povodom neistinite informacije"**
-  **Article published by Balkan Insight: "Montenegro Holds Journalist for Stirring ‘Panic’ Over Kosovo Intervention"**
-  **CPJ alert : "Montenegro journalist Anđela Đikanović charged with incitement over retracted report"**

STATE REPLIES



10 Jan 2020 | Official reply of the Government of Montenegro

 **Letter from the Permanent Representation of Montenegro to the Council of Europe**