

Freedom of the press in Montenegro

Fact Sheet



STOP
MEDIA BAN

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The Constitution of Montenegro ensures freedom of expression, stating that it can be restricted only when it infringes upon the rights of others to dignity, reputation, and honour, or poses a threat to public morality or the security of Montenegro. Newspapers and other mass media can be established without formal approval, requiring only registration with the appropriate authority. Broadcasters, however, need a registration licence.

In Montenegro, media enterprises typically derive their funding from advertising, their own productions, and various other sources. According to the Law on Media, substantial state aid funds can also be allocated to the media for purposes such as production, advancement of science and education, cultural initiatives, and providing information to individuals with impaired hearing and/or vision. State aid is additionally employed to promote media production in the languages of national minorities. State advertising, however, does not have well-defined criteria by which state administrative bodies select specific media outlets for advertising. For instance, the daily newspaper *Pobjeda*, which is a state-majority-owned entity, assumed control of 89% of the money spent by Ministries for advertisements in print media.

Journalism is a rather unstable and poorly paid profession in Montenegro, while personal security is also low due to frequent attacks on journalists and the media. There are also indications that the reporter's privilege is not fully respected in practice.

Empirical Evidence

- In September 2021, Aleksandra Tolj Ružić, *N1 TV* reporter, and Amar Pozdelj, a camera operator, were shouted and spat at by demonstrators who then physically attacked them. The journalists were covering a protest against the inauguration of the head of the Serbian church in Montenegro.
- In January 2020, Dražen Živković, editor for local news website *Borba*, and Gojko Raičević, editor for local news website *IN4S*, were arrested for “suspicion of inciting public panic and disorder after their websites reported an explosion yesterday in a villa used by government officials”.
- In April 2018, a car bomb exploded outside the house of journalist Saed Sadikovic following threats relating to a report he published on a privately owned museum.

Resources

- [Freedom of Media in the Western Balkans](#), European Parliament
- [In Montenegro, car bomb explodes outside journalist’s home](#), Committee to Protect Journalists
- [Montenegro reporters Živković and Raičević charged with criminal incitement](#), Committee to Protect Journalists
- [N1 TV crew attacked and harassed at Montenegro protest](#), Committee to Protect Journalists