



## Content

Events

Media on Media

Press Releases

Job Vacancies

Incoming Events

Free Media Help Line

Local Media as Part of Election Prey

Conquered by Wining Political Parties

By: Gordana Katana

Local media conduct towards local

media - Pay the Fare?

By: Šejn Husejnefendić

Locally matters too...

By: Faruk Kajtaz

Unenviable Journalism

By: Senudin Safić

## Events

12 Nov 2015

**Mostar journalists united in claims for their rights and freedom of speech**

The workshop about the protection of labor rights and freedom of speech was held in Mostar.

“Taking into account quite bad situation in media filed in Bosnia and degrading journalism as profession, including the fact that journalists are often treated as hired labor workers, we could get out of this situation only if we act together and join our forces. Journalists in Mostar have never been gathered in attempt to fight for their rights. Therefore, I believe that it would be necessary, above anything else, to join our forces and strengthen Mostar Journalists Club”, stated Faruk Kajtaz, president of Mostar Journalists Club.

[Details](#)

## Editorial

Relationship between political party representatives and governing authorities towards journalists and media is mostly marked by various pressures, political favors and generally disrespecting journalism as professional trade. Situation has worsen on local levels with less evident cases of pressure that journalists and media representatives had been imposed with; cases where freedom of expression and organizations that would react against such cases and occurrences. By rule, local media representatives have been blackmailed by budget grants and more or less have been censored or imposed with auto – censorship in almost all cities and towns in BiH. BiH political parties define budget money, that is, public funds, as their private property and, in sense of BiH context; this phenomenon seems legitimate and commonly accepted.

Biggest problem for local powerful people is displayed through public RTV service reporters and other media representatives with coverage throughout the country. These reporters are exposed to direct assaults/attacks and threats by politicians. As far as freedom of speech, level of democracy and position of politicians in local communities is perhaps best seen through the speech delivered by Izudin Saracevic, prime minister of Una - Sana Canton at the end of September in Bihac, during the promotion of “Tomasica” book. Prime minister publically criticized journalists of public broadcasters and private media reporters from Sarajevo accusing them that their reports directly prevent foreign investments in this particular part of BiH.

“I understand that journalists liberties and private media exist n reality, but there are also state media houses and people working in these media houses should act according to orders given by the state officials. There can be no liberty given here, claimed Saracevic. These kinds of messages, as claimed by many journalists, became a daily routine in local communities and are often spoken out in a subtle manner and often not in presence of recording video cameras. In this case in media reports, the fact that no person in the audience reacted in any possible way, was completely elided. Fear, puppet state and selfishness, even 20 years after the end of war, are still shaping up the public picture in BiH. This is naturally, additional motif for journalist solidarity and strengthening of journalists clubs throughout our country.

Apart from direct pressures journalists also face fundamental lack of understanding by the local governing representatives on journalists and media, freedom of expression and information, which puts journalist from local media into an awkward position. Journalists are required to record and broadcast completely senseless statements and events; officials insist on recording propaganda speeches; truth is often concealed and journalists teams are often obliged and forced to cover political “events”, such as opening ceremonies of new internet web site posting or donation of washing machine to school. Journalism profession is degraded to certain extent and editors are often responsible for this occurrence. Actual cases of both responsibilities and irresponsibility’s by politicians but also by journalists in local media houses, censorship, black-mailing and pressures shall be covered in this E-bulletin edition by: Faruk Kajtaz, editor of web site StaMo, Gordana Katana, “Oslobodjenje” reporter from Banjaluka, Senudin Safic, BH radio 1 reporter from Sanski Most and Šejn Husejnefendić, assistant professor at the Faculty of Philosophy in Tuzla.

*Adis Šušnjar, BH Journalists Association*

## Media and Local Authorities

### Local Media as Part of Election Prey Conquered by Wining Political Parties

By: Gordana Katana

If one takes into consideration the fact that citizens acquire most of their rights during local elections, it seems that local authorities are those that utility services depend on, which again reflects the quality of life of any citizen. Consequently, one could expect that this kind of information may appear in local media sources, including both, radio and local TV houses.

However, the situation on the field is quite different and when it comes to BiH, in its constituent part, called Republic of Srpska, the current situation, regarding the survival of local media, is rather alarming. This also applies to most media houses, including both private and public media houses, because the budget on any local level, including city, town and/or municipality is very difficult to be dispersed and accordingly implemented even for fulfillment of fundamental legal duties that must be paid. Financing and funding media houses are therefore on the very last position in priority lists.

There are very limited and reliable information in both BiH entities, regarding the

## Events

11 Nov 2015

### European Commission marks BH Journalists work affirmative

European Commission report for 2015, regarding the advancement of our region in the EU integration process, the Association of BiH Journalists was evaluated as (quote) "leading organization of civil society in BiH dedicated to ensure freedom of speech and media, security safety of journalists, including media integrity"(end of quote).

This was a second report by EC highlighting the role of BiH Journalists in terms of protection of freedom of expression and media in BiH.

[Details](#)

10 Nov 2015

### Two - day training for non - government organization representatives on media communicating commences

Training gathered non - government organization representatives from Sarajevo, Brčko, Bijeljina and Gorazde. Training was aimed to introduce key elements and communicating models with media for better quality of representing achievements in local communicates.

Purpose of this training as well as the purpose of "Dijalog za buducnost" (Dialogue for Future), project which included the space creating for dialogue that would eventually allow the creating process for better mutual understanding, throughout the country, promote co - existence and respect of diversities, as well as more frequent engagement of youth population, educated and cultural organizations representatives and institutions in these processes.

[Details](#)

7 Nov 2015

### Association of BHJ announce official cooperation with Association of European Journalists

During the 53 Congress of the Association of European Journalists (AEJ) held in Sibia in Romania, formalized cooperation with the Association of BiH Journalists. Otmar Lahodinsky, president of AEJ, during his introductory speech supported the formation of national section for Bosnia and Herzegovina. He also announced that BiH Journalists should be granted with full membership of the AEJ during the annual congress which is scheduled for 2016.

[Details](#)

6 Nov 2015

### Journalists of Una - Sana Canton should focus more on their work

Journalists of Una - Sana Canton must be united in order to protect their rights and finally begin with reporting regarding problems in their own field, stated journalists during the workshop covering the issues of labor rights of journalists and union organizing, held in Sanski Most.

[Details](#)

state local media houses are in. Few polls conducted on reasonably limited number of samples, proved that local media houses have not been interactive enough with the public and used for citizens' participation in creating public policies. Very few number of media houses had regular contact programs covering local community issues with the inclusion of municipal/town officials, including public utility company representatives as well.

During the global economic crisis, the survival of local media houses is definitely uncertain. If certain facts are taken into consideration, including reduced budgets for marketing campaigns, according to media analytics warnings, which are more and more present in media houses that cover most of BiH territory, local TV houses, radio and press, may persist and provide citizens with better quality program. Because of the effective use of sector of local electronic media, in context of providing basic information to local community, it is important to have pre-established regulatory framework that may provide minimum of conditions for the functionality of local media houses. Along with this, the pre-announced digitalization, in words of experts, represent yet another effort that media houses in Bosnia and Herzegovina must devote, including local media houses as well.

Market of economic communications represents a sector of advanced technologies and its basic characteristics include the development of technologies, presence of "serious" participants, constant introduction of new services, constant development of business models and developed tendency towards vertical and horizontal integrations. As far as the environmental protection is concerned, during the digitalization period, the allocation of regional digital multiplex was foreseen, in order to, above many other things; optimize representation of information dedicated to local communities. Local media that make an effort to subsist in this process must also be innovative and challenging, taking thus all market risks, whether through networking or joining into regional stations. Regardless to the model and due to the fact that many users / consumers, along with plentiful market and in terms of technological access to information, shall still remain faithful to traditional media sources, particularly to radio stations.

This all seems almost unreal when entire problem narrows down to local communities where it should belong in the first place. Regardless to the mean of financial support, local communities are provided with, by municipal/city authorities and they are, in most cases, treated as part of "winning prey distributed among political parties of ruling political coalitions". Therefore, it is completely common that politicians of ruling political parties are appointed to managing positions on local radio and TV stations, including politically based economists, solicitors, vets etc, that know absolutely NOTHING about radio or TV field. In most media houses they take over, they often find uncreative journalists which in the end, cause the decline in listening and disability to take part in the marketing field, which is by then already narrowed down, thus standing minimum chances of being present in their own media market.

According to law provisions, defining financing of local media houses, they are financed in two ways; grants provided by municipality/city/town on an annual level or from the budget of local community taken that they act as part of other activities in the field of culture or sport events for significant local institutions.

"When everything depends on financing by governing officials then the independent work becomes irrelevant term and professionalism as well", stated Pejka Medic, director of JP Radio Gradiska. She emphasized that in case of local radio station she manages, they feel lucky, because "local authorities extract the amount of BAM 198.000.00, on an annual level and impose no political pressure on editing policy in this radio station". "There have been attempts by local political officials to object and disapprove our radio program due to certain issues we publically exposed, however this never present us with the problem that may have eventually endanger professional and objective reporting on issues that citizens are concerned about", added Medic. She stated that the role of local media houses is to pro-



## Events

4 Nov 2015

### Speak-up! Conference about strengthening of freedom of expression and media in accession countries held in Bruxelles

Third Speak – up conference organized by the European Commission (EC) gathered journalists, media analysts, decision makers, governing officials of Western Balkan countries and Turkey, including experts from international, regulator and national organizations dedicated to promotion of freedom of expression aimed to held discussion on accomplished achievements and future challenges in this field.

This year's conference focused on media literacy, professional and ethical standards in mainstream media houses, lack of solidarity among journalists that makes them vulnerable and economical pressure imposed, including obstacles in forming efficient self-regulations and reasons that make working in media unsuitable.

[Details](#)

3 Nov 2015

### BH Journalists supported the IAJ campaign for the termination of failing to punish those responsible for crime/violence against journalists

IFJ launched an annual campaign against impunity for crimes against journalist thus inviting all financial institutions and donor organizations to respect freedom of expression by all media staff and to protect media representatives. This should be one of the key criteria for disposal of developing fund aids to all countries with high level of violence against journalists. The campaign has been supported by all members of the International Association of Journalists throughout the world, including the Association of BiH Journalists.

[Details](#)

30 Oct 2015

### Journalists in fear of their employers

“Brcko District Journalists often deal with various violations of their labor rights and this problem takes larger proportion due to inadequate measures by institutions that fail to prevent violence against journalists, including sanctions of irresponsible media entrepreneurs and arrogant managers”, stated one of the participants during the introductory speech during the workshop on protection of labor rights of journalists, including Union uniting, held yesterday in Brcko District. Participants also emphasized that journalists often decide not to fight for their rights, avoid writing and publishing/posting articles concerning their problems and rarely decide to seek professional aid provided by Union representatives. Ilija Kalajdzic, president of Brcko District Union claimed that most workers are in fear of their employers, including most journalists.

[Details](#)

16 Oct 2015

### Journalists guide for digital contents during crisis

European Journalist Center issued Guide for verification of digital content during crisis.

“In present – day environment, with rumors circling around including false contents, journalist must be in a position to make clear distinction between true and false materials by all means. This pioneer handbook is compulsory material for journalists dealing with various types of contents being available to readers”, explained Vilfred Ruten, director of European Journalist Center.

[Details](#)

vide public with information including all issues that citizens are concerned with directly. She also outlined the importance of contact programs with local community representatives taking part in, including representatives of public utility companies / enterprises. These programs must be aimed to provide citizens with an opportunity to ask those responsible all relevant questions directly and also make their own comments.

At the same time, she said that the situation in every local community is different. Namely, in most municipalities in RS local media houses are fighting for their survival and they blame governing officials for that and also blame indifferent managers and editors, including unwilling journalists to work on daily affairs during the 12 hours period of their own production. Hence the key “obstacle” of local media houses is the fact to work on issues in entities or state, thus neglecting actual issues that are more important to their local communities and people that live there. This is, she reckons, easier way, the way of avoiding conflict with their direct financiers thus completely neglecting public interest which is why local media houses exist in the first place.

## Local media conduct towards local media

### Pay the fare?

By: Šejn Husejnefendić

Professional journalism is hit by serious crisis. Local media, limited with space they float in and experiencing lack of professionalism they found themselves in (half the employees on web sites often have no degrees in journalism), are forced to take part in tough market combat. Just like in any other business, toughest ones prevail and this often means that, beside advertisers, financial means must be sought from (local) governing authorities as well. In this constellation of relationship, media houses, on one hand, fight to keep the public interest alive and fight to provide their staff with monthly wages and keep and increase their reputation and rating in public and, on the other hand, we have various governing authorities on different levels with dependent and economically weak media house being their subjects, so at the end fairness and objective reporting is often sacrificed. The following question emerges: if governing authorities provide media with financial means, what are media houses obliged to do for them in return and to what extent they must be subjects of governing authorities?

*Research* from 2012 included eight (by then) most visited local web sites in Tuzla Canton region, showing that 5 of them applied for grants or public invitations for media co – financing programs, and half of them were actually granted with financial means they had applied for. Pressure on editing policies always existed; over half web sites admitted that there had been repeated pressure imposed on them, regarding posted media contents, while three web sites had to remove or re-correct their posted contents several times. Situation in public media – such as RTV TK was no better considering that their financing was almost completely based on funds granted from the TK Government budget, while the rest was acquired through advertising, hiring out media space or similar earning sources.

### What's the situation like today?

Situation with local media is no better even today. The city of Tuzla dispersed significant financial funds to local media houses – BAM 250.000.00 of tax money from pockets of employed citizens was transferred to accounts of media houses and this action was justified as something that they referred to as “media service aid”. Media tasks indeed includes the monitoring of governing authorities at all levels and it doesn't take much to figure out that providing financial funds, in order to monitor media work, does not ensure and secure media fairness, unbiased



## Events

14 Oct 2015

### “International – based” problems BiH journalists are faced with

Borka Rudic, general secretary of BiH Journalists stated during her stay in Strasbourg, where she participated in large conference of Council of Europe about the freedom of expression, that this association provided relevant international organizations with information regarding the situation in BiH in order to make so called “international – based” problems that journalists in have been facing.

Speaking about present impressions of the conference, she said that the issue of protection of journalists has been at the focus more than ever, including the prevention of all kinds of violence over freedom of expression and journalists’ rights in Council of Europe member countries.

[Details](#)

## Press Releases

22 Oct 2015

### Protest against SOC and Eparchy of Backa with seat in Novi Sad

Board of Directors of the Association of BiH Journalists and Free Media Help Line directed public and strong protest against Serb Orthodox Church officials (origin. SPC) and Information Center of the Backa Eparchy because of the agitating language used and pointed directly against Dinko Gruhonjic, president of the Independent Journalists’ Association of Vojvodina (origin. NDNV), including Nedim Sejdinovic, general secretary of this association.

Information Service of the Backa Eparchy addressed, on behalf of Serb Orthodox Church (origin. SPC) and Lord Irinej Bulovic, Bishop of Backa, issued public reaction to statement issued by IJAV representatives during the TV show “Upitnik” on public media service of Serbia (RTS), where SPC bishop, Lord Irinej had insulted Albanians as nation, using hate speech in public.

[Details](#)

20 Oct 2015

### Protest against the Tuzla Canton Police officials due to inappropriate behavior towards journalists

Board of Directors of the Association of BiH Journalists and Free Media Help Line directed public and strong protest against the police officials and Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tuzla Canton because of their inappropriate conduct towards journalists and threats they journalists may be arrested, if they decide to leave the space marked for public protests and rallies.

Actions taken by the police officials in Canton of Tuzla was in contrast with democracy principles and the fact that the police officials, instead of providing journalists with safe and secure work conditions, including access to this event and adequate conditions for video and audio recording, raged their anger, in fear of their employers, against journalist by displaying inappropriate behavior and conduct, including threats and other forms of disabling journalist to perform their professional duties.

[Details](#)

and objective reporting; instead it creates biased work by the same media houses.

Certain media houses got bigger part of cake (due to their reputation and present rating and media pressure they have been able to create and launch), so radio and TV stations, such as, “Slon” and Public Enterprise “RTV7” received BAM 61.700.00 that is BAM 39.600.00 for the period of last four years (funded by the city of Tuzla only, not including other sources).

Editors of these media houses were asked if they had been put under pressure, in terms of their editing policy and if they considered hard to talk about objective reporting, in terms of those that finance their work. We never got any answers from RTV7 (which we found not surprising considering that the founder of this particular media house is the city of Tuzla and that any talks about being biased, in relation with their founders, seemed senseless. On the other hand, we got dubious answers from RTV “Slon” whose officials stated that “means they receive from the city of Tuzla could hardly cover the three year costs of paper printing”, and the “amount itself in relation with real needs of RTV Slon is insignificant that there could be absolutely no doubts about pressure imposed on their objective and fair reporting, including biasing”. On the other hand, it is a fact that these media houses definitely do not outline problems of local communities in public nor they focus on issues covering current affairs in their own communities (the state local roads and streets are in, lack of traffic lights, lack of garbage bins in the entire Tuzla city area, relationship of city officials towards city suburbs, the problem with loose dogs etc.).

### Web sites on objective reporting

We decided to address web site officials that received amounts equaling tens of thousands of BAM from city of Tuzla grants. “Tuzlarije.ba” received BAM 38.800.00 for the period of last four years ”Tuzlanski.ba” received BAM 18.000.00 for the period of last three years and “Vesta” received BAM 33.000.00 who has been in charge with “Vesta radio” and “TIP.ba”. We asked editors of these media houses, considering that they had received funds from city authorities, if they had been imposed with any kind of political pressure endangering their editing policy. They all replied that there has been no pressure imposed whatsoever at any stage and that their reporting, including reporting on work conducted by city authorities in particular. Reporting, as they claimed, was always “fair, objective and with no political pressure begin imposed”. We however had to outline the answer provided by the Tuzlarije.ba entrepreneur, Mrs. Sabina Mesic, who admitted that there had been certain „pressures imposed, but never from the office of city mayor or those that granted Tuzlarije.ba with financial funds”. These pressures were mostly imposed by “individuals, political parties or associations which simply disagreed or disliked articles we had to post on our web site”.

### Face and front side of local media houses

Local media picture often covers the front side; media that should be objective apply for public money in order to operate more comfortably, but often display depending position in relation with those funding and financing their work, relationship that may not reflect direct pressures, but it is often obvious (comments deleting or simply lack of possibility to make and insert comments of web sites which had been granted with means, avoiding editing of actual and present issues that concern local communities with complete arrogance by governing officials). Journalists, instead of running interviews with their guests and raising “sensible” questions, allow their guests (political officials) to have monologues through entire program sessions. Also, it is less likely that, looking from three years ago till present day, that pressures on media have faded away (particularly due to the fact that same media representatives stated that there were “no pressures” back then and kept repeating this even today and that “fair reporting was their priority”, as they claimed. Perhaps being biased today actually mutated into being fair?





## Job Vacancies

### Sarajevo Media Center seek male or female consultant

As part of activity aimed to develop capacities of this organization, Sarajevo Media Center plan to make evaluation of existing capacities and organization activities, including an estimate of developing necessities and draft strategic plan of financial sustainability for the period between 2016 -2018. For the purpose of these activities, Sarajevo Media Center wants to engage male or female consultant.

Deadline for application is **16 November 2015**.

[Details](#)

### Editor - in - Chief vacancy at Kameleon Radio station

Deadline for application is **19 November 2015**.

[Details](#)

### Sony World Photography Awards

World Photographic Organization announced a contest competition for ninth executive Sony World Photography Awards. Some categories open for competition include nature themes, lifestyle, art, culture, portrait, sport, architecture.

Deadline for application is **12 January 2016**.

[Details](#)

### Open call for film submission for BELDOCS 2016

International Documentary Film Festival BELDOCS invites authors, producers and distributors to submit feature documentary for the ninth edition of the Festival which will be held in May 2016. Submission deadline is **1 February 2016**.

[Details](#)

## Incoming Events

- **Workshop** on protection of labor rights of journalists in BaH cities Srebrenica, Tuzla and Banja Luka
- **Workshops for journalists and representatives of NGOs**, as part of the "Dialogue for Future" project
- **Media Circle** project research
- **Conference on defamation** in Banja Luka.

reject potential investors.

Journalists have pretty simple "choice" to make; either to become a constituent part of local – political "scheme" or try to take and operate in their own way by respecting and obeying journalism rules. Should they decide to go for latter option, they are, by certain but unofficial rule, "tagged" as some little "pains in the butt" and treated as those that have nothing better with their lives to do, but to disturb local existing "harmony" in their own living areas.

Not even those that decide to join the ruling structure can expect certain benefits, because they are often forced to work for smaller monthly wages (salaries) and conduct small favors. Not to mention inferior relations.

This is why, in these situations, local media houses and journalists in BiH are vastly treated as typical spokespersons of elected politicians and considered as their service providers for anything politicians wish for, including almost everything from supporting their local election campaigns to "services" granted to their friends who believe that local community shall become familiar with their "activities" in a very "particular way". It's definitely not easy thing to be a journalist in small communities, especially if one decides to work in harmony and work by rules and on the other hand work against the rules that local authorities consider as "desirable rules".

Any journalist attempting to, under these circumstances, promote responsible journalism should be respected by all means, because this is not an easy thing to achieve. Media community in BiH, especially its mechanism for monitoring relationships towards journalists and media houses, should have particular sensibility, in terms of local governing levels, because these places are exactly the places where real "media dramas" occur and events that are often unknown and hidden to the public.

Problems in small communities should thus become more publically "evident and exposed", because this is the real measure ratio of relations in BiH, as oppose to what is actually happening in large administrative centers and areas.

## Unenviable Journalism

By: *Senudin Safić*

Preparing for topic assignment, I contacted my colleagues engaged with several media houses of Una – Sana canton. Picking through daily affairs of TV and radio house staff was included as well and this is how I discovered about poor technical equipment, lack of investing in infrastructure, almost no educational and training programs and union organizing. However, financing is by far most expressed problem. One way or another, they manage to sustain; courtesy of financial help granted from budget of local communities. Marketing does not seem very reliable at this stage so the focus including the expression of staff in USK media houses is aimed to budget money filling. During the budget planning, both local and cantonal governing authorities often cut out the funds aimed for media houses.

Consequently, in the city of Kljuc, mere survival along with poor program created and plenty uncertainty, as far as average salaries reaching end users is concerned. Local radio station, in the town of Bosanski Petrovac, seems to rely on the Communication Regulatory Agency in BiH mercy, besides problem with inadequate municipal administration. They still operate with no allocated frequency so their work and program can be heard on air in some twenty surrounding and neighbouring houses, some one hundred metres from the radio facilities.

Situation in Sanski Most is better but still far from being acceptable by those working at Radio Sana public enterprise, a media house with long tradition. The number of staff has increased, wages are often late and in this sense Kljuc and Bosanski Petrovac are miles of from Sanski Most. The story of Bihac, in terms of tradition and wages being late is quite similar. Sustainability is pretty difficult due to thin financial aid granted to municipal radio and RTV USK cantonal TV through budget lines. Many things are improvised and employees suffer and are forced to renounce many things. Cameramen and sound technicians from Cazin and Velika Kladusa experience similar problems. Few years ago, local authorities made sure that there would be no public media service in this town. Strikes, rallies, hunger –



## Free Media Help Line

### Present Cases:

**Miralem Merdić** - Municipal Court of Tesanj recently brought a Decision preventing misdemeanor process against Mr. Merdic since the hearing process proved that there was no violation of law conducted by Mr. Merdic.

**Štefica Galić** - Siroki Brijeg Cantonal Court brought a verdict where the appeal by the local prosecutor in case against Ante Lauc and Zvonimir Hodak was rejected and first instance verdict was once again confirmed in full. Free Media Help Line lawyer sent a verdict to be revised to Ljubuski municipal court.

**Siniša Vukelić** - Basic Court of Banjaluka brought a verdict to the benefit of Mr. Vukelic, a local journalist and accordingly fined Oleg Prstojevic with BAM 1.000.00.

**Amra Butković** - Municipal Court of Sarajevo brought a verdict to the benefit of Mrs. Butkovic. Verbal warning No. 01-170/140 was cancelled to P.E. Television of Sarajevo Canton, as respondent and officially marked as illegal. Also, the decision no 01-613/14 also made by the respondent was also put out of force, including the allowance for pay rise numbered 01-1996/09, also described as illegal.

**Sanja Vlaisavljević** - Court proceeding held pursuant to defamation charges, was held at the Municipal Court of Sarajevo on 29 Oct 2015. A new hearing was scheduled for 20 January 2016.

strikes by staff and limited budget altogether failed in convincing local officials to show pity and revive the service.

### Is media privatization solution to these problems?

Answers to this question, including experiences vary. Memories of (In) dependent TV 101, which, few months ago, moved from Sanski Most to Prijedor. While the municipality of Sanski Most administration was paying well and had a complete control over information desk and program of this media house, private TV house appeared as rather reliable partner.

During this period, law breaking seemed acceptable, since the contract with city authorities served as the warrant of bypassing any financial difficulties. When NTV101 decided to combat against local powerful people, it was the end it. Privatization, may serve as solution, but under certain terms, such as disallowing political puppets to have any rule over media space in Una – Sana Canton, referring to people that “found their ways” in terms of getting rich after the Dayton Peace Agreement signing. However, in this turbulent canton, staggered with numerous corruption and bribery cases, where the law was often tailored by politicians, no person can vouch for that. Another problem is the fact that journalists are “used to” not receiving their well – earned monthly salaries, unless turbulent times emerge. Financing problem and the thesis that honest (rather objective and fair) reporting cannot earn enough is to some extent fertile space for auto censorship and this is the situation where local authorities act in best possible way.

Often they hold all strings in their hands since they managed to convince us that “he who bows down t not be beheaded”. How can we expect local radio and TV houses journalists to tell their financiers that they had lived better some 6 or 7 years ago? Should you act professionally towards your job, you shall discover to what extent journalism solidarity may appear limited or even does not exist. It is sometimes easier to bear injustice then to support your own workmate, who, because he or she had spoken the truth, was put in relentless hands of local or cantonal political elite. Our disunity is well used by local officials. Therefore, media houses, financed by the public means, become “tools” in hands of irresponsible politicians in local communities throughout USK and BiH as well.

From recent, or shall we say irresponsible speech delivered by Izudin Saračević, USK prime minister, one conclude that very challenging times are approaching. Politicians had a feeling about this time long time ago and started misusing journalists’ disunity, so they keep walking on beaten pathway towards complete domination. Consequently, certain institutions of USK mark “unacceptable” journalists and announce publically that there would be no statements given.

Article 2, Law on Prohibition of Discrimination determines responsibilities and legal duties obliging to both, judiciary and executive governing authorities in BiH, including companies and individuals performing public functions, to, by using their own reputation, provide journalists with protection, promotion and creation of conditions for equal working.

However, for years, a large number of employees in media in USK choose obedience rather than law.

## Impressum

### Bulletin Board of Editors

Faruk Kajtaz

Siniša Vukelić

Borislav Vukojević

Bedrana Kaletović

Amer Tikveša

### Editor

Adis Šušnjar

### Art Editor

Arman Fazlić

## BH Journalists Association

Kralja Tvrtka 5/5, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel/Fax +387 33 223 818; + 387 33 443 072

e-mail: bhnovinari@bhnovinari.ba;

web: www.bhnovinari.ba



E-journalist is published with the financial support of the Norwegian Embassy