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BH Media and journalists in 2019: Where we are and where we head to



Foto: Radiosarajevo.ba

The end of the year has always been a period when we, to some extent, summarize what we had achieved during the period of last 12 months, including both private and professional course and plan. We gave the authors of this E-Bulletin New Year's double edition "the task" to express their views, covering the year of 2019, from the perspective of media and journalism in our country. In other terms, was 2019 better or worse than previous years, as far as journalists in Bosnia and Herzegovina are concerned? What were the major differences; has anything remain the same, what is the present position of BH journalism and what we can expect in the near future?

This was not an easy task for either our female or male colleagues, although every single one of them has, from their own point of view, spoken about media in BiH and various aspects and perspectives of our journalism. What we may consider as common ground for all texts that we shall post in this E-Bulletin edition is the prevailing pessimism, followed by the whole set of questions that have, on daily basis, been burdening media staff in BiH; do we have the strength to resist political pressures and threats, have individual cases (mostly those based on economic and political interests) managed to overcome professionalism in journalism, including objective media and those that we consider "independent" media; how to make a quality – based program if budgets for program contents are insufficient and if journalists are exhausted from overtime work, bearing in mind and taking into consideration that their wages and salaries are insufficient either; what happened to professional ethic and responsibilities and finally, are female and male journalists to be blamed for their own, rather difficult position in our society today?



Događaji

23.12.2019

Jedinstvena metodologija za evidentiranje i praćenje napada na novinare u BiH

20.12.2019.

Sistemska edukacija novinara o zaštiti autorskih prava je neophodna

18.12.2019.

Mediji trebaju biti javna platforma za zaštitu i promociju ljudskih prava

13.12.2019.

Kreirati medijske sadržaje u interesu djece

6.12.2019.

Novinarima omogućiti slobodan pristup informacijama

Saopćenja za javnost

17.12.2019.

UO BH novinari: Javni protest Nihadu Hebiboviću zbog političkih pritisaka na kolumnistu Dragana Bursaća

10.12.2019.

Izmještanje migranata iz USK je događaj od javnog značaja i novinarima moraju biti osigurane informacije o cijelom postupku

8.12.2019.

BH novinari: Rukovodstvo FK Sarajevo i njegovi navijači moraju osigurati slobodan i siguran rad medijskim ekipama

Mediji o medijima

25.12.2019.

Ruska novinarka izgubila posao jer je postavila "neugodno" pitanje Putinu

24.12.2019.

Turska i grupe za ljudska prava osudile presudu u slučaju Khashoggija

24.12.2019.

Morinière: U godini koja je na izmaku širom svijeta ubijeno 49 novinara

16.12.2019.

IFJ zatražio ukidanje odluke o zabrani sindikalnog udruživanja za novinare u Sudanu

Konkursi

Konkurs za nagradu novinara koji izvještavaju o religiji

Rok za prijavu 28.2.2020.

Statistics does speak for itself, as far as media, journalism, but also as far as the relationship of public towards journalism is concerned. In 2019, Free Media Help Line, as constituent part of the BH Journalists Association, registered 56 cases of assaults, attacks, threats and pressures on journalists, including eight cases of death threats alone, 13 verbal and other threats and 10 cases of political pressures.

What is particularly concerning is the number of physical assaults and attacks on journalists and media staff, with nine cases of such assaults and attacks in previous year, that is, three more than in 2018. According to results of the survey and research conducted by the BH Journalists and Friedrich Ebert Foundation, even 21% of examined citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina justified the assaults and attacks on journalists, which was an increased figure by even 14% comparing to 2018. Also, most examinees reckoned that journalist's work had been politically motivated in BiH.

All of the above listed should be the reason for general alarm, concern and worry, particularly when it comes to the future of professional journalism. Will things change and improve or shall we in 2020 still be "analyzing" black chronicles and, in most resigned way, confirm that there are no more free, investigative - based and independent media houses, would vastly depend on ourselves, that is, on female and male journalists.

There are very few journalists that still believe that honest, brave, courageous, responsible and professional conduct, as far as professional journalism is concerned, is good enough to win over arrogant politicians and raw media entrepreneurs and owners that only think of how to make and increase their profit, including certain parts of public audience that consider us "journalism scum" and foreign mercenaries, although our professional work is aimed to serve their interests in the first place. Yes, there are very few journalists who believe in all of this and let's hope that in 2020 their number shall significantly increase. .

Maja Radević, E-Bulletin editor



Them, ours, they are no longer with us

By: *Edina Kamenica*

The year which is closer to its end shall forever keep in itself the memories of some of our colleagues, so they won't be with us in 2020. This unfortunately included people like Asaf Becirovic, a person whose journalist's career and biography included things like "little people" (what a term "little people"! but please let me know what other terms I may use in order to be fully understood) as both weft and foundation. Just imagine how many coffees our good old Asaf had with former soldiers and fighters without their rights, including war veterans and war casualties, members of certain fundamental and other associated associations of war veterans from all geographic and political areas in our country. How many of them cried on his shoulders'; people with wounded and injured legs and people without legs, who had to complain that no one had ever taken them into serious consideration, no one would ever wanted to listen to their requests and these even included their very family members living in their own homes. Of course, Asko was writing about many other different issues, he used to write texts and articles and was making very unusual interviews that many would have read until the end with quasi – smiles on their faces, however, the smile on their faces would have terminated with a bitter feeling in their stomachs.



Serious things can be said in hundred different ways. Many of those sufferers went through our editing office with tons of, in symbolic terms, death penalty verdicts issued against their flats, apartments, garages, basements Etc. They would spread out these papers and documents around Asko's desk; drawing arrows claiming "this is the border of what is mine and what belongs to me". Their neighbors wanted to take exactly that piece of land from men and confiscate it. If only our collocutors knew that at least one glass of their bitterness poured into us, through our ears, through our eyes and through our largest body part, namely our skin.

A glass of honey is rarely drunk by journalists such as Asko, because when you confront the judge because of the text or article you had previously published, printed or posted, in order to defend yourself and that little man, you are often left on your own to utterly respond by yourself only. Now, this little man often turns himself away from you, despite the fact that you try to defend him as your were ready to spill your own blood for their rights. ("What can I do if they promised to give my child a full time job and employment)?

His last field task and assignment, and at that time he had been working for "Start" (local weekly magazine) was somewhat tied to former tobacco



smugglers that he had discovered somewhere in the remote areas around the town of Konjic. I can still remember him with his leg with a wet cloth wrapped around his swallowed leg. While he was jumping of the small rock walls, he flipped over and twisted his ankles. So, the question was how did he manage to get here at all? Asko was

surprised with my question. He was hopping and skipping on one leg and laughing at the same time. After that, everything advanced and progressed to galloping speed, and there she was; four months along with us although I sometimes imagine him sitting in some local pub, with old fashioned – squared table cloth

(Just as the characters from his humorous stories with the anti-heroes sitting at those tables along, I also imagined a smaller coffee cup and a little coffee pot, small note book and even smaller voice recorder. A group of unwilling people, coming from perhaps, particular famous and perhaps motorized brigade pledge their faith and to Tito and Alija so that certain action could have not been executed as it was presented in his book by some of the described generals...



We have to enter 2020 without Mladen Maric. These days when they, apparently, tend to dismiss Trump where on one hand everybody, including himself, claims, that he simply cannot be dismissed, I have several times thought, what Mladen would say about this. One thing is certain: “Parallels” have in our lives designed a parallel life with the official, systematic, structured and starchy life. “Parallels” have, driven by their original and genuine name, just as innocent child does, deepen and engender our views and our worlds. Mladen did not live up to celebrate his jubilee 700th TV program show, because, just like Asko, and being the same age as Asko, speaking fanatically, without any calculations, throwing the truth in the



face, he eventually had to break somewhere, as a result of enormous pressure of the truth itself he had been exposed to (Allow me to express my personal experience: During the late 80's my father was recommended to have an aneurism surgery done his stomach. Dr Besarevic told me then that it was like going into the dark tunnel loaded with explosive. Incidentally, the day when I write these lines is the day when my father passed away and it was 31 years ago).

Sefik Uzunovic and his camera had moved from media crowd

before this endlessly interesting man definitely decided to give up his professional career. Since 1968, he impeccably felt that picture alone, projected on the screen would not attract anyone, unless the scenery was colored with colorful and living colors. Although, it was always nice to see something that resembled us; something that could have not be considered as pure projection or vision; instead something as rather dappled and freckled dry hands that had covered someone's face.

What else, apart from wrinkled face, was underneath the hands? Smile can hardly hide and cannot be hidden; smile always boils out. Uzun always reminded me on old graphic designers from “Oslobodjenje” (daily newspaper), who sometimes appeared unkind, still they have always been always righteous people that had often managed to rectify and correct mistakes by their editors, journalists, lecturers and correctors that were always considered as immeasurably important and that made their trademark on newspapers. There were very few people that were aware of these interesting details.

On December 24th we remained without Mugdim Galijasevic Galija, who became involved in journalism at the age of four, when he carried newspapers on his back and sold them to help his mother and sister as the only male head in the family. Although severely ill, I am convinced

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„It is natural that some of us have to leave while others arrive. However, wouldn't be nice to keep memories about those that used to be part of decent journalists' family for at least a month, or a year, or even ten or fifty years, through perhaps museum sculptures or texts, articles, video shootings, video recordings, photos etc.“



that not a single day has passed before the end of his life without writing something. He also entered the world of literature, but kept repeating that he was, above all, a journalist. Generations of Sarajevo journalists will remember him as someone who burned every day, who devoted himself to every story as if it was his last, who as an editor demanded from his young colleagues not to write inventing life, when life flourished on all sides. A gentleman, a perfectionist, endlessly committed to journalism. Are there any more of them today?

It is natural that some of us have to leave while others arrive. However, wouldn't be nice to keep memories about those that used to be part of decent journalists' family for at least a month, or a year, or even ten or fifty years, through perhaps museum sculptures or texts, articles, video shootings, video recordings, photos etc. Of course, a museum is rather serious project and requires space, people and all of these things actually do exist in our environment. If there is a will – aims can be obtained. This museum could work on self – financing basis in hundred different ways.

So, why not launch a story about it while we still have time; otherwise we shall wake one day, look at our watch and realize that it is way too late for everything.

Just as departures of these people confirm, that it might be too late to tell them, unless we had the chance to tell them while they were alive, that they served as cure, inspiration and the mean that served as warmth for our soul.

Happy New Year 2020: What are the role and chance for journalism where personal interests prevails, rather than true, justice and general public interest?

By: Edin Krehić

Shortly before this text was written, I was sitting at Al Jazeera editing office and my colleague was telling me stories about his personal post – war experiences, when he was traveling by train: he was describing comfort, even if it were about old locomotives and rusty wagons, a train bar with good and low prices and facilities where smoking was allowed and permitted; a place where one would meet girls in train corridors etc. Although he was talking honestly and expressing himself with plenty of optimism that somehow prevailed with the end of the war, all of that was spiced with a little bit of romance and was, to a certain extent, less important than his statement:

“I was certain that the trains and railroads shall be functional and operational once again, but now everything is lot worse than it used to be, so I no longer expect anything good.”

Back in those times we were printing and publishing in “Oslobodjenje” (a local newspaper, which, by the way, was my first professional engagement) countless number of articles and texts covering the issues of railroads, destructions, reconstructions, phantom interest – based lobby groups that would not allow the revival and reconstruction of railroads, because it simply confronted their personal interests. We did publish several texts and articles about completely inadequate and hopeless people being behind it Etc.

And yet, optimism sustained.

Even then, we all hoped for the same; we were young and rather naïve, believing and being convinced that media shall simply rumble throughout freedom, being withdrawn from war wool coats or even before that, from those ideological issues.

However, everything went into opposite and wrong direction.

Linija za pomoć novinarima

Aktuelni slučajevi:

1. Ajdin Kamber, dopisnik Deutsche Welle, Zabrana pristupa informacijama:

Novinar Ajdin Kamber pokušao je dobiti intervju sa premijerom USK. Na kraju intervju nije dobio i izbačen je iz zgrade Vlade USK. Linija za pomoć novinarima i Upravni odbor Udruženja BH novinari uputili su javni protest MUP-u USK i Vladi USK.

2. Adis Mujdanović, portal

Otisak.ba, Fizički napad: Adisa Mujdanovića je fizički napala nepoznata osoba i nanijela mu lakše tjelesne povrede. Linija za pomoć novinarima uputila je dopis Policiji Brčko Distrikta. Policija BD BiH nas je obavijestila da je identifikovala napadača pod incijalima A.R. 1990.godište iz Brčkog i da je predmet poslat Osnovnom sudu Brčko. Poslali smo dopis Osnovnom sudu Brčko Distrikta BiH da nam dostave raspoložive informacije. Obaviješteni smo da je predmet zaveden pod brojem 96 0 Pr 127085 19 Pr i da će biti dostavljen u rad sudiji na dalje postupanje.

3. Dragan Bursać, kolumnista, Politički pritisak:

Nihad Hebibović, savjetnik člana Predsjedništva BiH Željka Komšića, nakon objavljene kolumnne Dragana Bursaća na portalu Radio Sarajevo, kontaktirao istog nezadovoljan objavljenim i pokušao uticati da se kolumna izmjeni. Upravni odbor Udruženja BH novinari izdali su Saopćenje za medije.

4. Ekipa Hayat televizije i Nova BH, Fizički napad:

Snimatelja Nove BH Sedina Lepića fizički je napao jedan od navijača FK Sarajevo dok je Faruku Avdoviću snimatelju Hayat TV grupa navijača oštetila opremu za snimanje. Upravni odbor Udruženja/udruge BH novinari izdali su Saopćenje za javnost.

5. Meliha Kešmer, Radio Slobodna Evropa, Prijetnje smrću:

Facebook stranica "Naš Haber" jučer je kreirala post koji direktno vrijeđa i iznosi neistine na račun novinarke/kolegice Balkanskog servisa Radija Slobodna Evropa Melihe Kešmer. Dali smo pravni savjet novinarki Kešmer. Uputili smo dopis Federalnoj upravi policije. Obaviješteni smo da je predmet dostavljen Tužilaštvu BiH na postupanje.

Independent ones stood no chance, because they were not accepted by either the governing authorities or the opposition, and the old saying claiming that journalism was best social group, was laughed at systematically and in practice and reality, a trade with low wages and late salaries in the environment where personal interests prevailed, rather than true, justice and general public interest.

Is it any different now?

It is very much the same as with the above mentioned trains and railroads.

Independent journalism in former Yugoslavia has been subject to pressure since the early nineties; sometimes it would have been hit directly and (most of the time), it was stroked by economic, financial and similar suffocating. Serbia has definitely been both, the best on one hand, and worse example and case on the other hand, where the number of fingers on one's hand would be too big to list the number of free and independent media houses, whose employees pay a very expensive price for being independent and acting independently. However, this does indeed deserve most sincere respect, so despite the common opinion and consciousness' level that this shall not provide them with free advertisement, they have decided not to pull out or retreat; instead they have decide to post and publish caricature and cartoon of Aleksandar Vucic, the president of Serbia, as in the most recent case where NIN decided to withdraw their headline photo (from the ammunition and arms expo) where Vucic was illustrated and tagged as a target, and this action by "NIN|| was, on the following day, condemned by "Danas" through Corax sight.

For instance Dragan Bursac could best describe the situation in BiH and he cannot even think of all death threats he has been receiving, however, he also has not decided to withdraw from Banjaluka either, where he, along with many offensive language and swearing directed against him, has been receiving on daily basis, has been criticized for writing about Serb war criminals only, apart from the fact that he received „European Press Prize 2018“, awarded for Al Jazeera Balkans article "Third shooting of a boy called Peter" in Konjic.

And he is not the only one. People do take risks with their lives and what changes has that made?

"Center for Media Development and Analyses in Sarajevo" produced the sequel (episodes)

"The Decline of Industry in BiH" for Al Jazeera Balkans, where former regional and world industry giants were listed and at present, losers whose employees were left jobless, without justice they deserved and without any hope whatsoever. Episodes followed including former industry giants such as Čajavec, Krivaja, Bratsvo, Željezara Zenica, Agrokomerc...

Detail: Mine – metallurgy Combine in Zenica had, at certain point in time (in their manufacturing and steel processing facilities in former Yugoslavia) around 63000 employees. Ironworks factory alone had some 24000 employees and they were the key bearers of the entire manufacturing process. Today, there is a company that still exists having the same name, but with merely 300 employees coming from non-manufacturing facilities of former factory. Steel and iron manufacturing was taken over by Arcelor Mittal, an international company and no one seems to care about this.

Or, on the other hand, "Rudi Cajevac" from Banjaluka, a former giant and one of the most powerful factories in former Yugoslavia, used to be one of the leaders in special industry with over 10 000 employees. The factory simply vanished in post-war period during the privatization process. Machinery was either sold out to third parties or was completely devastated.

"The only thing that reminds us what this factory was and what it could have meant and been for general Bosnia and Herzegovinian industry was memories", claimed the narrator of this special TV program. And yet, no one seemed to care about this.

Or: Until late eighties "Bratstvo" had over 10 000 employees and the TV documentary program outlined that at least 33 000 people of Novi Travnik were directly dependant on this giant factory:

"Bratstvo" was an important segment of ammunition factory chain. Dur-

ing the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the city of Novi Travnik was divided between ethnic Croats and Bosniaks. The same destiny and faith would strike the factory as well. After the end of the war, former manager became major owners of “Bratstvo” properties and machinery, with almost no employees at all. Novi Travnik, once a city of youth become a town of old people and what was once an industry giant, ended in ruins and plundered factory halls and facilities. It is only a small piece of what was once an industry giant with some 300 employees and it is owned by the government”. And once again, no one seems to care about this.

“Journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed. Everything else is public relations” (Eric Arthur Blair, commonly known as George Orwell).

Under such circumstances it is extremely difficult and hard, or almost mission impossible, to remain and sustain an independent media house without support by mainly an international organization such as for instance Center for Investigative Reporting (CIN) , which is definitely something necessary and, to some extent, required in a society we all live in. And then, you have to cope with the risk of being locally tagged as foreign mercenary, along with tons of other nonsense statements and accusations, in order to create a smoked screen, rather than to release the genuine truth, and the general public is driven to the bottom of misery and they, with a bitter smile on their faces claim that “anything is better that war and fighting”.

Or, on the other hand, as Hamza Baksic, a historical figure once claimed that young journalists had the opportunity to learn about professional journalism from very few journalists along with French ambassador (whose name faded away and was lost in the sea of diplomatic names, just as other names will vanish). Journalists in BiH have particularly been frustrated with the facts that they can manage to release key evidence and proofs, post them in public; however, not a single person who had been subject to these speculations, would care about this. In fact, they would in return mostly press charges against such journalists and would certainly use the opportunity to offend and insult these journalists publically in most brutal way. This used to happen 15 ago and has anything changed since then?

“One of the most amazing things is that we fool ourselves, expecting dependent people to have independent opinions” (Sigmund Graf).

It was August 21 2011, when I received an email from Murad Bosnaq, a businessman from Dubai whose ancestors had left Mostar when the Ottoman Empire was retrieving from the Balkan region. He sent texts copied from Google about certain things that would soon vanish from our lives. The text contained things such as post offices and checks, but primarily this text focused on the vanishing of books, newspapers and TV.

Is this possible at all?

The analysis was immitigable: there are more and more book readers on, for instance, kindle. Newspapers around the world are going through big crisis, because young people do not buy them anymore and their interests are best illustrated throughout social media sources forcing thus media sources to compete with populism – based clicks, which altogether is often more worse than former yellow tabloids. What about TV?

If radio managed to sustain and prevail due to internet where it found its space apart from cars where it was irreplaceable, the TV should, based on same common sense and logic manage to survive, including journalism, that is, honest professional occupation to indeed remain intact as the “fourth entity”

“The whole world complains about journalism and yet everyone wants to used for personal interests” (Guštav Freytag, 1816 – 1895, a German novelist and dramatist).

Is the situation any better now that it was in the 19th Century? Even our railroads had more trains on them than we have today.

Happy New 2020, a promising year!

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Being a journalist represents a responsibility that not many can take

By: *Brankica Smiljanić*

Being a journalist and writing at present time in my opinion seems an uneasy task to achieve.

In fact, when was this easy task to achieve? As a person, you somehow represent a media by default, you have responsibility to yourself, wider audience you address your work to, people in general and media that you work for which means you must provide information that would, on that particular day, create consciousnesses, awareness and public opinion, that is, create daily agenda. Journalism has, for a good reason, been tagged and marked as the “fourth estate”.

Due to the fact that many online web sites emerged this year, it has not been easy to fight against false news. Web sites with no impressum, or as they have often been referred to by professional journalists, the “portaloids” have created most confusion within the reading audience. Insufficient literacy within viewers and readers throughout the year has left to select and choose whom they shall pledge their trust in, in terms of news being provided by local web sites.

Justifying violence

In this particular context, we simply cannot be surprised with the fact that some 21% of the total population of Bosnia and Herzegovina does justify violence over journalists, which, in comparison with last year data is an increased figure by 17%. This was stated during the marking of World Media Day and this research and survey was conducted by the BH Journalists Association and Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

It is disappointing that public, during this survey and research, claimed most trust into religious institutions (74%) and only 66% to media houses. This was the first time in many years that media were placed on the second spot as far as public trust research and survey is concerned. We could say that this media mistrust derived as result of the emerging of various web sites and with general public being completely unaware that professional journalists had absolutely nothing to do with these kinds of online media sources and that they (local web sites), by their core business nature, cannot represent media sources; instead they may be formed by certain disappointed citizens or political parties that tend to use these online media sources in order to agitate and instigate the decline of journalists’ credibility within wide general public and audience.



Attacks and assaults on journalists during this year

Vladimir Kovačević, BN television journalist and Gerila (local web site) editor –in –chief, was voted journalist of the year and at the same time, he was assaulted and brutally attacked. His life was endangered because of the work he had to do and he did try doing it in best possible way, that is, without autocensure and censoring either. I believe that people justifying violence over journalists did not think about this particular problem when they were interviewed during the public poll, did they or there was something else behind it.

After our colleague was assaulted and attacked, it was no surprise that female journalists were concerned about their safety and were frightened as well, so they began to think how they could protect themselves. It was unbelievable that someone who had been fighting for the rights of others was unaware of her or his own rights or they had not taken this problem into serious consideration, so the fact that female journalists failed to identify and recognize daily stress and gender – based violence as crucial problem, left me completely speechless after all. Inadequate educational level, regarding their own rights, made most female journalists not to decide to report assaults and attacks they experience, including discrimination and mobbing they have been exposed to, all due to their fear that reporting the above would not produce any results, so they have decided to endure abuse by their male colleagues, editors, but also by public audience.

Female Journalists Network founded in BiH

Female Journalists Network of BiH was founded in 2018 and their primary goal was to provide help and aid to all media female staff in terms of raising their awareness regarding their own rights, but also to work on their protection during their working time. Female Journalists Network of BiH united and unified female journalists in their goal to put their problems in the primary position for the first time and accordingly to begin with its solving.

Number of workshops and conferences has been on satisfactory level this year in all cities and towns in Bosnia and Herzegovina covering various and miscellaneous issues, themes, topics and mostly with the focus on reports and reporting ways by journalists. How to inform public audience about certain and important issues without violating moral, ethic and professional journalists' code of ethics? This best illustrated the professional level of journalists' reporters, that is, which journalists did their work in most professional manner and which failed to do so.

“Sensitive” issues and reporting ways

Reporting and writing about “sensitive” issues is not an easy task, particularly when one should take duly into serious consideration, including accuracy as well. Issues such as corruption, LGBT, migrants and children have this year taken most media space throughout the world, and they did not refer to regional reporting space only. These issues attract most attention every single year, besides issues that are politically biased.

Specific reporting way outlined, more or less, that journalists had been driven by “let’s shock the public audience, because there was no other solution”. However, was it really necessary to shock the public audience even at the cost of highlighting the problem even more than required, if, at the very beginning, we all knew that it seemed lot worse to break certain codes of ethic? This has been a moral dilemma of many professional journalists, but it has also instigated many workshops and discussions.

Unsolved case of the murder of David Dragicevic, Pride Parade in Sarajevo, Pazaric case, and many camps for migrants all together loaded media titles. Pointing out to real problems and venues, (apart from information that was hard to get), did not stop journalist to provide general public with

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such information in best possible way this year.

New Media

Despite the fact that many do not recognize civil journalism as professional occupation in the first place, followed by the way of working, I simply cannot resist not to mention them, Some of citizen based journalists have built serious reputations so they cannot be put aside and observe as those that write in bits and pieces.

Instagram people, twitter followers, bloggers, vloggers, you tubers have



increased their participation in media world. Many media houses do not even hesitate of sharing a face book status or a tweet that appears to be interesting and to some extent significant. The way that citizen – journalists address their audience has been open and rather direct without sentences that may lead to a conclusion that they may be smarter and superior than other. For this reason, many citizens may identify themselves with them because their problems represent general public problems and are posted in most simple way.

All in all, media have, throughout whole year, been working best way they possibly can and in this context, I do not include those that are considered as self-declared journalists and commence with their work. Being a professional journalist is not a simple trade, it is not an

essay or a competition of best literary work. Being a professional journalist is being responsible and aware about laws, codes, freedom of speech without censure. It certainly not for everybody and not everybody should be doing it.



Should we blame ourselves: another traditionally bad year for media in BiH

By: Admir Muslimović

It is the end of 2019 and assaults, attacks on journalists and violations of rights regarding freedom of expression in Bosnia and Herzegovina were, once again, a traditional practice in the society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This year was marked by open political pressures, brutal verbal and physical assaults and attacks on journalists and biased and non-professional media reporting. Pressures, assaults and attacks on journalists and obstruction of journalists during their professional assignments, duties and tasks were occurring throughout the whole year and it was humiliating that, apart from condemnations by foreign embassies and their diplomats, including the representatives of non – government associations, these occurrences in 2019 were even justified by local political powerful figures in this country.

Approving assaults and attacks

One of the most outstanding cases last year was the case from March 2019, when Huso Cesir, president of the Municipal Board of Novi Grad Municipality of the Party of Democratic Action (SDA) physically assaulted photographer from Zurnal, a local web site.

This photographer was performing his task and making photos of entrance of Cesir's factory facilities and at this particular period he was taking photos from the pavement on the other side of the street, that is, opposite to factory entrance gate; in other terms, at the time he was standing on a public surface. Despite this and apart from previous assaults and attacks, it was the representatives of foreign embassies and their diplomats that were constantly reacting and responding to these attacks. On the other hand, local governing official authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina failed to react, reply and respond in most appropriate ways.

It is really amazing that instead of condemning this assault, Cesir's political leader Bakir Izetbegovic tended to "ease" this case. During the press conference, Bakir Izetbegovic thus stated in front of media representatives that Cesir actually assaulted camera, he, according to Bakir Izetbegovic did not assault a man, did not assault a journalist and at the end Cesir did not assault a photographer?!

The case of Mirza Gacanin once again displayed arrogant underestimating of professional journalism by the governing official authorities when Mirza Gacanin publically threatened another Zurnal journalist and directed his threats through video recording shooting on the internet. This threat was directed against Zurnal journalist who had been writing about Tito and Dino, two drug cartels. These two organizations have been, according to evaluations and estimate conducted by the DEA, recognized as one of the largest and most influential drug cartels in the world. Local governing officials, including powerful political figures, remained silent about this case as well.

Apart from political pressures, interfering into professional reporting and apart from the fact that many international and local media experts have been warning about this for years, local journalists may have considered themselves partially guilty and responsible for their poor status in our society, since they have for decades (just as in 2019, according to author view), been tagged as political "information providers (informers)", claimed the representatives of the academic society in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Journalists should (to wide extent) blame themselves for the difficult and unpleasant position they have been in, because they, since the war time period, accepted to be political informers, which, under war circumstances, could have been considered as common sense and partially justified. Still, 25 years after the end of the war, this must not be the case respectively. And then, when the political pressure emerged, including assaults or attacks, controlling journalists' independent views or attitudes, they suddenly become to wonder why this happened. In many, significantly more rigid societies, journalists have managed to get away from political assaults, attacks and chains, while in our country and in 2019, assaults, attacks, censures have been common occurrences This has been rather devastating", stated dr. Mirza Mehmedovic, senior lecturer at the Journalism Department of the Faculty of Philosophy with the University of Tuzla.

This was exactly the reason why professional journalism in BiH, according to relevant international reports, regarding the index of media sustainability, was constantly declining. This index for 2018 and 2019 reached the lowest standard since 2006. Media in Bosnia and Herzegovina were in 2019 (almost according to copy – paste based scheme) not criticizing governing official authorities and negative social occurrences. They were mostly characterized by non – objective reporting, non – critical reporting and biased reporting which was clearly visible in private media houses. The close ties between media entrepreneurs (owners) and political parties and political leaders were also a common occurrence in media field.

"Most of the existing media houses in Bosnia and Herzegovina represent political party bulletins and serve as political party spokespersons,

„The case of Mirza Gacanin once again displayed arrogant underestimating of professional journalism by the governing official authorities when Mirza Gacanin publically threatened another Zurnal journalist and directed his threats through video recording shooting on the internet. “

claimed Enes Osmancevic, a reputable communication expert and professor at the University of Tuzla.

“Leading political parties have for years been trying to take over public media houses, have been trying to have them controlled and were successful in their quest. Present interference by political factors and dismissing of managers and editors on public RTV broadcasting services and Entity broadcasters, was intolerable if we wanted to have the establishing of non-biased and independent RTV system whose true owner would be general public audience that after all financed their work, since they should also serve public interest and broadcast programs that must be the very best of their own kind. Unfortunately, public RTV services and especially RTRS, as the Entity public service broadcaster, have for years been serving particular political party and agitating biased reporting through curved and distorted diopter of the ruling and political short – sights.

Reproach could be addressed to RTV FBiH as another public service Entity broadcaster that, before anything else, have been favoring ruling political parties”, claimed Mr. Osmancevic.

Public mistrust

The fact that the number of citizens justifying the assaults and attacks on journalist has increased (according to public poll) should be taken into serious consideration, as it seemed very worrying. Most BiH citizens (subject to survey), that is, some 79% of examinees reckoned that “any assaults and attacks on journalists and media representatives should not be acceptable”, while at the same even 27% of examinees in Republika Srpska and 17% in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina justified the violence, that is, agreed with assault and attacks on journalists.

In comparison with 2018, the results represented a concerning increase amongst citizens (by 14%) that justified violence over journalists in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This was just a little part of the result of survey and research conducted by the BH Journalists and Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

Even 63% of examinee citizens questioned the objectivity of BiH media and the reasons for this could be sought in systematic line of factors that have been influencing the work of media in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Financial independence is one of the great problems of media houses in our country. There are very few media houses in BiH that manage to ensure and provide their own financial means required for normal functioning. Their existence and work often depend on the will of local officials and decision makers, regarding direct financing of allocation of financial grants aimed for media houses. The position of financial dependability that always contain the requests of political loyalty and serving certain political, ethnic, national, economy or other kinds of lobbies, instead of serving the public, question the public reputation of such media houses their reliability and authenticity and public trust in media programs and contents they broadcast. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, or let's say in a non-democratic environment, a single and independent journalist ends up as a collateral damage, since his voice cannot be heard and his rights to freedom of media reporting are ran over in front of political party officials, in front of real believers and firm members of exalter - based political collectiveness. This is a trend that had negative influence and impact on professionalism in media; it has enforced non – sovereignty of professional journalism comparing to politics and it has limited every attempt of public reasoning or critics through threats, pressures, scaring and suffocating of freedom of expression during 2019, the year that we shall soon say farewell to.



Quo Vadis, journalism?

By: Mladen Bubonjić

Two plus two equals four, unless ordered differently. In fact, it has been ordered differently on daily basis and not only that; it is ordered and literary implemented in reality and in practice. Even those that do take these orders seriously have begun to truly believe that two plus two did not equal four; in fact they have persisted in their conviction and belief.

This is just a short summary and a brief description of the situation in most media houses in Bosnia and Herzegovina. To make things worse, this is not about alternative media houses that have been put on margins of media specter; instead this is about mainstream media houses, including public service broadcasting media houses as well. Fundamental principles of professional journalism have been “thrown in the dust”. Media scene in BiH is driven by sprained common sense and logic that overcome deontology – based principles of professional journalism, that is, a common sense that make you believe in “us”, rather than believing your own eyes.

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What happened to principles?

During the “post-truth” period that permeate countless opportunities required to provide information, an ordinary recipient of media content in BiH consequently becomes somewhat crazed by the “facts” that reveal “conspiracies of word-wide powerful figures” and “quarrels between local traitors” that use media sources in order to collapse and destroy all “good and valuable things” in a society; the position of powerful figures, nepotism, corruption, bribery, firm stereotypes, hate, hypocrisy, spinal fragmentation that corrodes the society as raw rust. This is not an overview of media scene in BiH for this year; this is media and social reality that, for a longer period of time, keeps Bosnia and Herzegovina on the bottom of the list of countries, as far as media freedoms and principles of professional journalism are concerned.

Like a frog in a boiling pot, the public in Bosnia and Herzegovina notice the existing, constant manipulation, spreading fear and hate, including spinning of news and information. As a result of permanent violation of professional standards, norms and deontology principles of professional journalism are no longer capable of identifying and recognizing the lies that, from day to day, excessively “haul a barbell” to already “democratically blind” population. With “everything is a lie”, it is hard to separate “grain from tare”.

What happened to fundamental principles of journalism? Do we really have to, as in “duck school”, do the “quacking” over and over again, “quacking” about authenticity, reputation, competences, independence of sources, accuracy and classified information, context, balanced and entire overviews, common public interests, practical benefits for individuals, importance of venues, reporting about venues without applying personal impressions, conclusions, qualifications, characterizing, uses of colored language, metaphors, unambiguousness, clear, precise, detailed and concrete information? Don’t we have a feeling that professional journalism should be reset to “default settings” after all?

Of course, not all media houses in BiH have gone the wrong way. There are media houses that have been very responsible and tried to keep up with and follow all professional standards. However, there is an impression that media that interpret professional standards and deontology “in their own way”, have outvoted media that make reports in professional and responsible way and manner. Not only do have they outvoted them; in fact what happened was, that because of such media, wide and general public audience believe in the perception that “all media are the same” and this belief and conviction has long ago emerged in public. And what happens as a consequence? During the survey and research of public opinion, we conclude with rather worrying percentage of public audience that on

„How can we fight against this? It is going to be very difficult? On one hand, it is necessary to change and alter the views and conducts by journalists that seemed to have forgotten what they had been studying while they were university students (if they studied at all in the first place).“

one hand, are not bothered with assaults and attacks on journalists or they, on the other hand, even support assaults and attacks on journalists; tiny, little “hits on heads”, just so they do “not wonder around” and so they can know what to do and how to behave.

The fact that, instead of professional and responsible journalism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we face the domination on journalism based on conformism, ethnic principles, mediocrity, ignorance, nepotism and opportunistic interests that has for year been positioned as mainstream option, is indeed devastating. Cringe to ethnic and political elites and low – level propulsion and impulse of masses, journalists, editors and media houses (of course, not all of them) have significantly contributed in sustaining the state of latent antagonism that has been eroding our society. Media that fail to follow “ethnic and national matrix” are mostly been placed aside or put on margins, mostly in an online specter and unfortunately, they cannot manage to reach more notable percentage of wider public audience and number of their viewers.

Putting target on a forehead

Taking into consideration that social and political situation, but also media “swamp is getting smaller but with more and more crocodiles in it”, one could find hard to presume that the situation would change and improve in the forthcoming year. It would be rather naïve to believe that during the following and the election year, mainstream media houses shall bound and obey professional and deontology – based principles of journalism, giving up, at the same time, all the privileges and financial benefits that “mean agitating journalism” may present them with. Once again, we shall most probably witness the implicit putting of target on foreheads of certain journalists that are disliked by ethnic and national views, along with the followers of such attitudes, as far as political elites and their media puppets are concerned. Polarization in media sphere, but also in community, shall still be present as well. Mainstream media houses that function and operate according to ethnic and national matrix shall still be spreading fear and hate and shall still continue with their “contribution” in extending the overall misery and preserving solid and firm stereotypes.

How can we fight against this? It is going to be very difficult? On one hand, it is necessary to change and alter the views and conducts by journalists that seemed to have forgotten what they had been studying while they were university students (if they studied at all in the first place). It is necessary to reset them back to “default settings”, which means that they must be reminded about the importance of democracy development of a society to obey and follow professional and deontology – based principles of journalism. On the other hand, public audience must exit their “echo - chambers”; they must look the world with the eyes of “others”, try to realize that there are different views and attitude around that must also be respected. Unfortunately, this shall not happen in the near future and fact that journalism in Bosnia and Herzegovina is on a crossroad that do not contribute, but it also make things even worse in terms of raising, strengthening and reinforcing the pillars of democracy, is indeed devastating.



Media are “frayed and worn out”, journalists are tired, budgets empty

By: *Brankica Rudan*

Many believe that the state and face of any country is best reflected through media. I personally reckon that if you go to fruits and veggies market in any town and watch the TV of that town; you will surely have the whole picture of that town.

If you do that in Sarajevo, you will meet its very sad side.

Media are frayed and worn out and the market is poor. If we make further analysis why things are just like that, we shall, once again, encounter mostly common and consumed public views claiming that everything bad is “government’s fault”. The state of public consciousness is based on the following premises: no individual can do anything and the general and public responsibility is thus shifted and transferred from one party to another, all based on the “it is their fault” principle!

Television media in BiH not only lack in creativity process; moreover, program contents of TV shows are almost identical on all TV channels in BiH. We therefore have morning programs, daily news, brief news, but also “the most expensive” journalists’ varieties where analysts are invited as TV show guests, including miscellaneous experts, professors, doctors and other which depend on the subject and topic. Journalists are thus provided with filled TV scheme and program and their guests get free media promotion. We have pretty much everything except educational, useful, relaxing, encouraging and motivating program contents.

I remember that my friend (a journalist as well) decided once to watch Central Daily News with mute sound and after having news watched with no sound at all he concluded that TV hosts (people that run the TV news program) seemed very “frowned, angry and appeared as if they had been constantly quarrelling and fighting someone”.

Radio stations, along with dynamics and hosts’ talent, have been competing with each other (depending on taste of their listening audience) on who had better music songs. Radio is also similar to TV in these terms. One could, once in a while, hear some original jingles that would make us laugh and then radio station would keep playing this jingle until it became very boring, so every single being may learn it by heart.

There are no more serious TV talk show programs in BiH media, including humor and funny programs, featuring programs, entertaining shows, educational and school programs as well. What happened to all quizzes that made vast contribution to our common knowledge and skills? All of that is somehow reserved to our neighbors from both, East and West.

Can one say that sitting in the car, turning his camera on and claiming that he had a show is serious media program? Does anyone know to what direction media houses in BiH are heading to and what happened to serious productions? All of these issues left me with no answers expect that some new times have certainly emerged; the times of new declining values.

There is still another side of the coin that can, to some extent and at least tend and attempt to “justify” why journalists work like they do. Budgets are insufficient, working conditions are more or less poor and inadequate, and enthusiasm has decreased due to low wages and salaries and working conditions as well. Hyper productions and quantity therefore appear as a consequence and have their prices. The fight for survival has become more and more apparent and evident, and it is obvious that most of journalists’ professional work is done according to previously received and strict orders, including either political orders or according to the demand of the market, where marketing piece of action that we had been fighting for and that has been provided by our sponsors or friends of the media show that have been feeding us by their investing is crucial for media sustainability and survival.

As a result of all of the above listed issues, interpersonal relationships in most media houses have worsen as well. The other party is always con-

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sidered as “someone biased or a controlled puppet” and editing offices often have so called “clans. It has become noted and rather common that a male or female colleague (workmate) would often refuse to help or “give a hand” to her/his colleague, justifying her/his actions by claiming that “it is not part of their job description”, which clearly displays a complete absence of team work.

Frequent spinning need for fast and quick information, combined with cheap production, have resulted in electronic and printed media being in a very awkward position with often posting / releasing of faulty, wrong, incorrect and inaccurate information and quotes emerging as final outcomes. This is where we also encounter nonsense because we live in times where every information, provided through modern technology sources, can easily be checked and confirmed, though we must not forget the fact that much information are deliberately and intentionally posted wrong and incorrect, in their quest of attaining media sensationalism. The number of media houses in all fields (printed, electronic or other) that seek sensationalism is on an increase on almost daily basis. Whenever we turn our attention to, people talk about moral and ethics, despite the fact that these two have almost vanished in our reality. Although frankly speaking, there are very few honored exceptions which can still be found in this, rather dark media environment.

The latter does indeed represent the beacons of often victims in terms of assaults and attacks on journalists. General public almost never finds out what happens with assaulters and attackers, since they are not arrested and even if they are, they are set free within very short period of time.

Politicians are often main stars in local media and news are often addressed by one party only, which is followed by reply from the other party, again followed by denial from the first party and then again response from the second party etc. In two or three days, all these quarrels and fights enter the brain area reserved for distant past, because new and new information burst every minute and every second. Generally media is, as a result of professional principle which requires the addressing of the other side, somehow less and less interested in the genuine truth; instead, it is more notably interested in taking care of both sides (preferably in sequels and for as long period of time as possible), leaving thus their listening or viewing audience to make conclusions regarding certain person or venue.

Biggest critics whether one would admit it or not, can be noted on social media sources. Like (click) in our environment is very cheap. This is where we express our opinions, views, stances, stands, share and disperse our emotions, analyze, reply, respond, answer, make comments, like, demonstrate, bring and post filthy stuff in public, share humor and funny photos, make fun, laugh; simply we master the area of social media.

Where is the key that unlocks media and lead them to liberty direction? Actually, we have this key and its name is freedom and courage. We are free only as much as our courage is good enough to fight for media liberties and freedoms.

Let's hope that 2020 would bring us more courage and better working conditions for the independent media and journalists.



A year of black chronicles filtrated information and auto censorship

By: Amra Mušinić Husić

When we talk about media situation in BiH during 2019, it is obvious that political pressures, auto censures, followed by numerous threatening and threats, but also physical assaults and attacks on journalists, in large scale marked the year of 2019. Therefore, the situation in 2019 had not changed in comparison with previous years in this sense. The role of media has always been to release news, release audio - visual contents with the purpose of informing, educating and entertaining general public audience. In order to have all of these met and fulfilled by professional journalists'

It seems that many journalists, both male and female, appeared as if they had not been aware of the fact that by accepting and admitting someone else's work, without previous permission of that author and without quoting the sources, they directly violate the law on copyrights.

Unfortunately, editing policies of public broadcasting services has evidently become dependent on the will of official governing structures. Apart from many private media houses that serve particular political factors, public broadcasting services (from local to state levels) often fall into this trap, because their primary goal is to inform the public in most objective and independent way. Lack and absence of the law on transparency of media ownership, media financing and commercial advertising policies, have additionally worsened the situation. Journalists are therefore the first casualties under such circumstances followed by the general public audience.

During the period of last few years, female and male journalists have been exposed to clearly visible political pressure. This has especially concerned those that have been fighting for independence and objectivity and they have consequently often stood as open targets for local politicians (under such circumstances) to be shot at; they have often been criticized for comments they have made or posted; they have often been suggested how they should have been making reports Etc. Many journalists have also been deprived of availability and access to information or have frequently been disallowed to take parts during press conferences. Female journalists have been targets to sexist comments and have thus experienced direct or indirect threats and conditionings. If outer factor have not produced the above listed situations, unfortunately, male and female journalists would have accordingly become victims of mobbing, harassment, disturbance and depriving of or violation of their fundamental labor rights in media and editing offices they have been working for.

Overtime work, irregular, snatch or inadequate payments, unsettled labor status, censure and exploitation of journalists, have definitely resulted in the decrease of quality of media program contents. If there is no censure deriving from outside editing office, it is often rooted inside the editing office itself. Under the circumstances where female and male journalists are put under constant pressure and if they are financially dependent, including pre – set deadlines for given tasks and assignments and limited resources require for quality based work, journalists are left with no choice but to become subjects to auto censure.

Besides, as special methods or additional pressure and censorship imposed to journalists' work (including both female and male journalists), defamation charges are constantly used to discredit journalists. These court processes usually last too long and additionally exhaust media resources, but also exhaust media professionals.

We have no clear and concrete information regarding the number of threats, assaults and attacks imposed on female and male journalists in BiH, although we have witnessed an increased number of serious and constant assaults and attacks on journalists. We have no information regarding the presence of harassments and mobbing in certain editing offices (but also in the fields) and we neither have the information about the number of professional journalists that have for years been working without pension and retirement funds that had to be paid in by their employers, which is legal request and obligatory by the appropriate labor laws for any employer in BiH, which again must include health insurance and medical care payments as well.

We are unaware about how many media workers have worked without legally valid contracts either. Also, there is Free Media Help Line for all journalists. However, many media workers do not want to report assaults or attacks they have experienced, because they often do not take these assaults or attacks seriously. These and similar assaults and attacks have become a regular occurrence in our society, so after certain period of time, we have begun to believe that threats, assaults and attacks were simply parts of regular job description that applied to all professional journalists. Apart from this, journalists tend to neglect their fundamental labor rights, although their rights are violated and sometimes journalists are unfamiliar and completely unaware of their fundamental labor rights. They are, in many cases, not even members of experts associations and work unions

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Journalists challenged to preserve and keep their personal integrity and the integrity of professional journalism

By: Azra Berbić

During the digital era that we all live in, professional journalism has been facing bigger and more intense challenges than ever before, particularly as far as checked, confirmed, objective and non – biased reporting is concerned. Challenges on daily basis, with media tending to be the first to release and share the news; the need for an increasing interaction of those that consume media contents, have resulted in a complete neglecting of ethical and professional journalism principles, especially when it comes to media houses releasing and sharing their contents through web sites. Although traditional media houses somehow still manage to resist these trends; television houses and printed media houses have slowly (but surely) been falling into the trap of a one - way and sensational - based reporting.

„In Bosnia and Herzegovina, this problem has additionally been outlined, taking into consideration the fact that there were no legal framework that would legally define and set (in either framework) the way that online media should be legally operating, working and functioning in our country.“

False news, sensationalism, agitating...

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, this problem has additionally been outlined, taking into consideration the fact that there were no legal framework that would legally define and set (in either framework) the way that online media should be legally operating, working and functioning in our country. This way enables the amount of copy – paste shared news (that we see every single day) to increase; where the quality scope for certain media is measured through sharing, commenting and transferring contents that had been previously created by some other sources.

The contents without any objectivity in them have increased and these contents are basically aimed only to attract the attention of as much audience as possible, through their sensational titles and headlines. They do not actually provide real and true picture on text or article contents either. Releasing unchecked, false news and disinformation has, to a certain extent, become a rule and media that work like this takes any responsibility for this kind of news, nor do they bear the consequences or sanctions for this, because there is simply no systematic solution to this problem.

Bearing in mind that media operating, but also the functioning of those that consume and make comments about media contents in an online space, is still not regulated by particular set of laws and there is no institution that would, in most appropriate and adequate way, control, monitor and supervise the work of online media sources and that would eventually, impose sanctions when required. There are many web sites in an online field that pay absolutely no respect to any standards or principles of professional journalism. Furthermore, they do not even pay respect and obey fundamental moral principles either.

Vast number of “editing offices” found their entire work on posting disinformation, false and incorrect news, sensational contents, creating thus agitating and instigating contents with the purpose of encouraging hate speech Etc. These “editing offices” obviously work as puppets, serving the interests of particular political parties. There are many online media sources, including some traditional ones with an unknown entrepreneurs and owners, editing offices, members of the editing offices, head office address and they even and very often post texts on their web sites without names of the authors of these texts. Due to limitless opportunities to conduct the copy – paste practice and apply it to the work of your own online web site, the authors’ rights, including the rights of other media staff and media houses that are severely violated on daily basis.

It seems that many journalists, both male and female, appeared as if they had not been aware of the fact that by accepting and admitting someone else’s work, without previous permission of that author and without quoting the sources, they directly violate the law on copyrights.

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Unfortunately, editing policies of public broadcasting services has evidently become dependent on the will of official governing structures. Apart from many private media houses that serve particular political factors, public broadcasting services (from local to state levels) often fall into this trap, because their primary goal is to inform the public in most objective and independent way. Lack and absence of the law on transparency of media ownership, media financing and commercial advertising policies, have additionally worsened the situation. Journalists are therefore the first casualties under such circumstances followed by the general public audience.

During the period of last few years, female and male journalists have been exposed to clearly visible political pressure. This has especially concerned those that have been fighting for independence and objectivity and they have consequently often stood as open targets for local politicians (under such circumstances) to be shot at; they have often been criticized for comments they have made or posted; they have often been suggested how they should have been making reports Etc. Many journalists have also been deprived of availability and access to information or have frequently been disallowed to take parts during press conferences. Female journalists have been targets to sexist comments and have thus experienced direct or indirect threats and conditionings. If outer factor have not produced the above listed situations, unfortunately, male and female journalists would have accordingly become victims of mobbing, harassment, disturbance and depriving of or violation of their fundamental labor rights in media and editing offices they have been working for.

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Female Journalists Network BH as concrete help

Women in journalism are additionally exposed to harassment, insults, offences, verbal assaults and threats in both, work field, as well as within their editing offices. In patriarchal system upon which the work of media is founded, men mostly take up the most of managing and editing positions as constituent parts of managing structures. This naturally does produce the reflection on media contents where for years subjects, themes and issues covering the rights of women, have insufficiently been presented. This year, the initiative on establishing a “Female Journalists Network of BiH“ was finally implemented, since it represented serious, positive and affirmative step forward in the near future and shall ensure more powerful protection of female journalists in both, local community and our society, as well as in their editing offices. “Female Journalists Network of BiH” shall providing female journalists with special help, legal aid, counseling, addressing and advocating towards all relevant institution of legislative, executive and court governing levels.

Therefore, female journalists shall have the liberty and safety to address the Female Network in the first place, because they will know that it will be the place where they can receive urgent, efficient and concrete help and support.

Both, journalists’ community, as well as state governing institutions and relevant legislative bodies, must equally work hard in order to improve the status of female and male journalists in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Journalists shall be responsible to attain necessary and required information regarding their rights; they shall have to demand and request their rights and to fight for them in both, collective and individual terms and ways. Journalists should also impose pressure in public, regarding the required laws that would, in more efficient ways, define and set up the issues related to work of media houses and media professionals. Also, quality – based and effective implementation of the existing legal provisions would be necessary and required, but also, faster response by state and governing institutions, agencies and courts that shall impose measures and decisions that concern female and male journalists would also be necessary.

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