



safejournalists.net

The Western Balkans Journalists' Safety Index

2021 Narrative Report for Bosnia and Herzegovina

CONTENTS

LEGAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

8

DUE PREVENTION

19

DUE PROCESS

29

ACTUAL SAFETY

37

Introduction

The Western Balkans Journalists' Safety Index (WB-JSI) is a research-grounded tool designed to measure and monitor the changes in the respective social and political environments of the Western Balkan countries, that have a direct or indirect impact on the safety of journalists and media professionals while practicing their profession. The Western Balkans Journalists' Safety Index primarily relies on research evidence collected and analyzed by partners in the [SafeJournalists.net](https://www.safejournalists.net) u skladu sa rigoroznom istraživačkom procedurom. Prikupljeni platform who follow a rigorous research procedure. Collected data on various dimensions of the complex "journalist safety" concept were quantified and grouped into a composite indicator, the Journalist Safety Index, to monitor changes in the seven countries of the Western Balkans over time. Based on the research material, nine members of the Advisory Panel from each of the countries¹ assessed the situation and assigned points for each of the 19 indicators within the following dimensions:

- (1) **Legal and organizational environment** – the existence and implementation of legal safeguards relevant to the safety of journalists;
- (2) **Prevention** – the existence and implementation of a range of preventive measures that have direct effects on journalists' protection and safety;
- (3) **Process** – the behavior of state institutions and public officials towards journalists and the efficiency of the criminal and civil justice system concerning the investigations of threats and acts of violence against journalists;
- (4) **Actual security** – incidents and instances of various forms of threats and acts of violence against journalists and media.

WB-JSI was jointly developed by researchers from the RESIS Institute² from Skopje and partners from the Safejournalists.

¹ Members of the Advisory Panel in Bosnia and Herzegovina were Milkica Milojević, Aida Štilić, Enes Osmančević, Anida Sokol, Jesenko Krehić, Dragana Erjavec, Siniša Vukelić, Zinaida Đelilović and Davor Trlin.

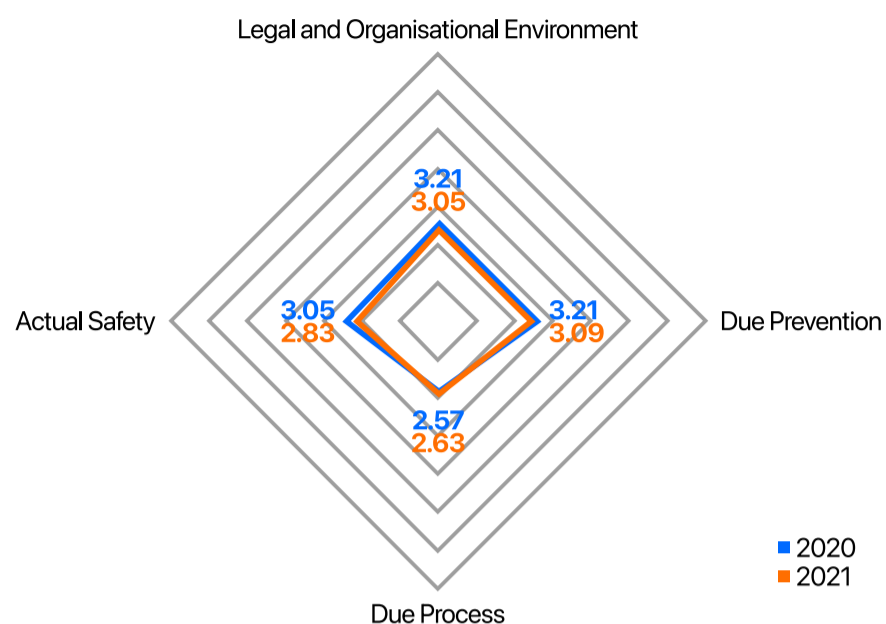
² Researchers from the RESIS Institute (www.resis.mk), Snežana Trpevska, Igor Micevski i Ljubinka Popovska Toševa developed a conceptual framework for the Index and a model for its aggregation, weighting and calculation.

net platform: The Independent Journalists Association of Serbia, The Journalists' Association BH Journalists, The Trade Union of Media of Montenegro, The Association of Journalists of Macedonia, The Association of Journalists of Kosovo, Croatian Journalists' Association, and an independent researcher from Albania³. As such, the Index is the result of a joint effort of the Safejournalists.net platform and covers all specific issues identified by local partners as relevant to their country.

The first (pilot) year for development of the conceptual framework and methodology for scoring, aggregating, and calculating the Index was 2020. This report refers to the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2021 and presents the improvements or deterioration of the situation related to the four dimensions by taking into consideration the assessment for 2020 as the reference year. For more details about the theoretical framework and the process of creating and calculating the Western Balkan Journalist Safety Index and all country reports see: (<https://safejournalists.net/safety-index/>).

³ Blerjana Bino, an independent researcher from Albania for the Safejournalists.net platform.

JOURNALISTS' SAFETY INDEX



	2020	2021		Main new developments in each dimension
1. Legal and Organizational Environment	3.21	3.05	↓	Media legislation is not improved, politicians and representatives of the judiciary continue to put pressure on journalists. The working conditions of journalists are getting worse.
2. Due Prevention	3.21	3.09	↓	A large number of cases of violations of media rights and freedoms are registered. Political influences on the media in BiH are becoming more pronounced.
3. Due Process	2.57	2.63	↑	The number of cases that were resolved in courts in favor of journalists has increased. However, investigations into attacks on journalists are lengthy and often ineffective and institutions are insufficiently transparent.
4. Actual Safety	3.05	2.83	↓	The number of attacks and threats against journalists is the same as in 2020, but the increasingly open and aggressive influence of politicians and political parties on the media is worrying.
Journalists' Safety Index	3.00	2.86	↓	

— SUMMARY

I. LEGAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

- The adoption of amendments to the Defamation Act that would more effectively protect journalists against lawsuits filed by politicians is still pending. More and more, the courts accept SLAPP lawsuits and award very high compensation claims against journalists and the media. Journalists and their legal representatives are often dissatisfied with the imposed defamation penalties, and consider them too severe, while the lawsuits are seen as a form of political pressure.
- As in previous years, politicians and representatives of the judiciary often pressured journalists to reveal their sources of information. Some signs suggest that the telephone communications of some journalists were illegally monitored by the State Intelligence and Security

Agency. No sanctions were imposed on journalists who refused to reveal the identity of the source nor were there any court rulings ordering them to do so.

- Also, no attempts to introduce licenses for the work of journalists have been recorded. The majority of journalists in Bosnia and Herzegovina are members of one of the journalist associations, and many are members of media professionals unions within public broadcasting services. There is still no exclusive journalist union to represent their interests as a partner in dialogue with the authorities. Journalists have little confidence in the existing unions.
- The economic position of journalists and their working conditions are getting worse every year. Journalists work in very bad economic conditions and most have below-average salaries.

II. DUE PREVENTION

- In 2021, 71 cases of infringement of journalist rights and media freedoms were recorded. Most of the cases were about threats and intimidation of journalists, as well as various forms of pressure, often coming from representatives of authorities. The number of threats to journalists made through social networks is on the rise. Prosecutors often render decisions not to conduct investigations due to the absence of elements of a criminal offense.
- There is no special mechanism to provide physical protection to journalists and other persons countering corruption and organized crime. When attacked or threatened, journalists generally turn to the Free Media Helpline (FMHL).
- Gender-based violence and pressures on female journalists have increased compared to previous years, and female journalists are increasingly exposed to hate speech on social networks. Over the last three years, the Free Media Helpline has recorded 60 cases of gender-based violence and other forms of pressure on female journalists.
- Political influences on the media and attempts to restrict freedom of expression continue to be a major problem. Many media owners are directly connected to political and economic power centers, and public broadcasting services are perceived as politically biased. Some politicians have an ownership share in some of the media.
- The treatment of journalists by the police has worsened compared to 2020. Members of the police authority are generally well aware of the rights of journalists, and journalists largely rate positive their cooperation with the police.

III. DUE PROCESS

- Some progress was achieved in 2021, with 11 judgments handed down in favor of journalists. However, investigations of physical attacks on journalists are often lengthy and ineffective, and in some cases, investigations are suspended despite evidence of the attack. Attacks on journalists are not yet recognized as a criminal offense in their own right within criminal codes.
- In 2021, 3 convictions were handed down for hate speech and online threats against journalists. Special laws on the prohibition of hate speech are still no more than proposals of individual deputies in the parliaments. The number of threats via social networks and online violence against journalists is increasing.
- The transparency of competent institutions has not improved compared to previous years. Institutions, especially prosecutors' offices and courts, generally provide very little information on individual cases of attacks, and a journalist and public communication strategy is still not in place.
- No progress was made in terms of systematic monitoring and recording of attacks on journalists. BiH authorities/institutions are repeatedly criticized by the European Commission for not keeping records of attacks on media professionals. Only about 27% of attacks on journalists presented to BiH courts have been resolved in favor of journalists.

IV. ACTUAL SAFETY

- In 2021, the database of Safejournalists.net had a total of 26 registered cases of attacks, threats, and pressure on journalists and media in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of that number, eight cases were about threats and violence against female journalists, three more than in the previous year.
- In 2021, there were a total of 17 death threats, verbal and other forms of threats, and political pressure on journalists and the media. There were also two SLAPP lawsuits.
- Even though the total number of attacks and threats does not differ from the previous year (2020), the increasingly open and aggressive influence of politicians and political parties on the media is a matter of concern. In the latest report by Reporters Without Borders, BiH dropped by as many as nine places on the World Press Freedom Index.
- In 2021, competent institutions proved to be extremely ineffective when it comes to investigating and sanctioning physical attacks on journalists. In

the case of 3 reported physical attacks in 2021, no sanctions were imposed on the attackers, nor was an investigation initiated against them. This confirms the common practice that was evident for years, i.e., the institutions, that is, representatives of the authorities do not take attacks on journalists seriously enough.

- Political pressures on media outlets and organizations are becoming more and more pronounced, especially on local public media.

Legal and Organizational Environment

3.05

Legal provisions related to defamation and their implementation do not produce chilling effects on journalists and media

2.36

Confidentiality of journalists' sources is guaranteed in the legislation and respected by the authorities

3.14

Other laws are implemented objectively and allow the journalists and other media actors to work freely and safely

2.91

Journalists are free to pursue their profession and to establish, join and participate in their associations

3.97

Journalists' job position is stable and protected at the workplace

2.87

1.00
2.00
3.00
4.00
5.00
6.00
7.00



By Law and in practice, there is absolutely no protection of journalists' working position, their sources and their organizations, thereby producing an extreme chilling effect.

By Law and in practice, there is a highest degree of protection of journalists' working position, their sources, and their organizations.

Legal provisions related to defamation and their implementation do not produce chilling effects on journalists and media

Score for 2020: 2.67 / Score for 2021: 2.36

Amendments to the Law on Protection from Defamation, which envisage “stricter” standards, have not been adopted in 2021. There were two cases of lawsuits with large compensation claims, and one temporary court measure prohibiting the media from writing about the private life of judicial office holders. As a new form of pressure, media are often publicly threatened with lawsuits, which are never materialized, as well as with requests to delete published texts and remove other media content. Journalists and their legal representatives are often dissatisfied with the defamation sanctions imposed on them, and consider them too severe. Also, they often perceive the lawsuits as a form of political pressure on their work.

Adopting the Laws on Protection against Defamation at the Entity and Brčko District levels in the period from 2001 to 2003, BiH became the first country in the Western Balkans to decriminalize defamation. However, the number of defamation lawsuits against journalists, editors, and media remains very high. The EC Report on Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2021 states that despite the decriminalization of defamation, politicians continue to use civil suits to intimidate journalists. Defamation Acts in BiH are generally decent and aligned with the EU legislation, although not entirely. The problem, however, is the poor application of the standards of the European Court of Human Rights in proving defamation in practice, vaguely defined provisions in the laws, and insufficient protection of the freedom of expression and journalists. Defamation laws do contain provisions on “damage compensation”, saying that the compensation should be proportional to the damage caused (Art. 11 RS Defamation Act, Art. 10 FBiH Defamation Act, Art. 10 BD Defamation Act). One of the proposals of the media community was to define the ceiling of the damage claims in the defamation acts to protect the media against potential SLAPP lawsuits. The initiative to amend the Defamation law and thus introduce “stricter” standards of admissibility,

— INDICATOR 1.1

tolerance and proof in defamation cases involving public figures comparing to private individuals, which adopted in 2020 by the BiH Parliamentary Assembly, has not yet been translated into the law. Judicial institutions do not maintain a special register of court cases involving journalists, hence the exact number of defamation lawsuits against media and journalists is not known. According to the Free Media Helpline (FMHL) Register, there are currently around 300 active defamation lawsuits. In most of these cases (about 80%), the plaintiffs are politicians and other public officials. In 2021, there were two cases of SLAPP lawsuits involving extremely high claims and so-called court penalties, which threaten the financial viability of the involved media. Journalists and editors of these media, as well as journalists' associations, see such court decisions as politically motivated attempt to stifle investigative journalism. In early 2021, the Sarajevo Municipal Court rendered a interim measures temporarily banning Dnevni avaz from writing about the private life of the President of the Court of BiH, Ranko Debevc. Rationale of the aforementioned court decision does not provide any arguments in support of the private life of the President of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina being the public interest or Daily avaz violating his right to privacy, and the authors of the controversial texts have repeatedly emphasized that they published certain information from Ranko Debevc's private life in order to prove his abuse of the position. This temporary measure was condemned by journalists' associations and regulatory bodies, who warned that it represents a dangerous precedent based on which the courts will in the future give themselves the right to prevent the media from writing about holders of judicial, political and other public functions, referring to the alleged protection of their privacy, while not taking into account whether the published information represents public interest and evidence of possible abuse of position. Some independent media in the country had to stop working because they could not bear the financial burden due to dozens of defamation lawsuits they faced. In the media community, cases such as the popular weekly "Slobodna Bosna", which ceased publication in 2016, are still cited as examples of political pressure generated through defamation lawsuits led to the shutdown of investigative reporting. Some former journalists of the aforementioned media are still paying compensation claims based on lawsuits that were filed years ago.

Confidentiality of journalists' sources is guaranteed in the legislation and respected by the authorities

Score for 2020: 3.14 / Score for 2021: 3.14

Legislation related to the protection of journalistic sources did not change in 2021. However, in the area of "soft non-state law", an important document is the one titled Guidelines for Cooperation Between Police and the Media, which was updated by the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As in previous years, politicians and representatives of the judiciary often pressured journalists to reveal their sources of information. Some signs suggest that the telephone communications of some journalists were illegally monitored by the State Intelligence and Security Agency. The BiH Prosecutor's Office is currently verifying these allegations. In two instances, journalists were asked to delete recorded material. There were no sanctions for journalists who refused to reveal the identity of the source nor court rulings ordering them to do so.

Criminal procedure codes and defamation laws in BiH guarantee the confidentiality and protection of journalistic sources. The confidentiality of journalistic sources is also defined by the Press and Online Media Code of BiH. In the middle of last year, the OSCE mission in BiH published the newly amended and updated guidelines for cooperation between police and the media, that is, the media and the police. The guidelines explicitly state that the police must not use methods of coercion and intimidation of journalists to make them reveal the source of information, as well as that journalists have an obligation to protect the source of information during interrogations and checks by the police. Although these guidelines are not binding, the police respects them and they are very important for educating police officers in dealings with journalists. Although Criminal Procedure Codes stipulate that a journalist may not be heard as a witness for the purpose of protecting the source of information in criminal proceedings, they at the same time criminalize "unlawful acquisition of classified information" and its unauthorized use. During 2021, politicians and representatives of the judiciary continued with the practice of publicly accusing journalists and the media of illegal activity in cases where the media published some recordings, documents and photos that they received from their sources. Legal experts

— INDICATOR 1.2

highlight that in such cases, the issue of public interest must have priority, regardless of legal provisions. This year too, just as in the years before, some prosecutors attempted to find out from journalists who their sources of information are by inviting them to “informative interviews” at the prosecutor’s office. In February 2022, the BiH Prosecutor’s Office notified the Association BH Novinari of the investigative actions being taken to verify the media allegations about BiH Intelligence and Security Agency (OSA) illegally monitoring the telephone communications of certain journalists. In 2021, in two instances the police asked journalists to delete recorded material, but no equipment was seized. There were no sanctions for journalists who refused to reveal the identity of the source nor court rulings ordering them to do so. Despite pressure, journalists generally manage to protect their sources of information and are well acquainted with legal provisions that allow them not to disclose the identity of their sources. Investigative reporters are free to contact protected sources, and they largely hold that all possible risks arising therefrom are part of the “job description”.

Other laws are implemented objectively and allow the journalists and other media actors to work freely and safely

Score for 2020: 3.33 / Score for 2021: 2.91

Every year, defamation lawsuits create increasing financial and political pressure on media outlets and journalists. Media community in BiH is greatly concerned with the courts in BiH increasingly awarding high compensation claims. In 2021, two media outlets from Sarajevo - Avaz roto-press and Žurnal - were ordered to pay approx. EUR 100.000 each in defamation claims, which brought these two outlets on the verge of their survival. These cases demonstrate a worrying change in the practice of BiH courts. Some of the proposals to protect the media against SLAPP lawsuits included definition of a pecuniary damage ceiling and introduction of a special fee for filing a defamation lawsuit, because a significant number of lawsuits is withdrawn.

There was no record of other laws being applied against journalists and the media in 2021, no were there any lawsuits filed by politicians and other officials against journalists based on laws other than the Defamation Act. There was no record of the attempts to restrict freedom of expression based on legal provisions or regulations on the spread of misinformation, fear, panic and the like. However, 6 out of 10 laws governing public order and peace at the cantonal level in the Federation of BiH and at the level of the Brčko District of BiH contain provisions on penalties for spreading fake news, but these are neither unified nor harmonized. In the last five years, the Free Media Helpline for journalists has registered about 40 cases of SLAPP lawsuits against the media filed based on the Defamation Act. Many of these media have faced dozens of lawsuits coming from the same Plaintiff, which clearly shows the intention to destroy the media financially. In most cases, plaintiffs are politicians, ministers and other public office holders. Despite the increase in the number of lawsuits with large damage claims over the past two years, most of which come from politicians and other public office holders, the protection against SLAPP lawsuits has not been given due attention. In 2021, two media outlets from Sarajevo - Avaz roto-press and Žurnal - were ordered to pay approx. EUR 100.000

— INDICATOR 1.3

each in defamation claims, which brought these two outlets on the verge of their survival. These cases point to a worrying change in the practice of BiH courts, which in recent years very rarely approved compensation claims in amounts greater than BAM 10,000. According to media owners and editors, in the light of a very difficult financial situation of most media, nearly every defamation lawsuit is essentially a SLAPP lawsuit. For the sake of legal certainty, the media community is proposing to set the ceiling of non-pecuniary damage in the law, while legal experts seek to introduce a special fee for initiating defamation lawsuits, which they believe would ultimately reduce the number of lawsuits. In 2021, no threats to the rights and safety of journalists reporting from protests were recorded.

Journalists are free to pursue their profession and establish, join and participate in their associations

Score for 2020: 3.97 / Score for 2021: 3.97

In 2021, the situation about the union organization of journalists and their membership in journalist associations has not changed. Also, no attempts to introduce licenses for the work of journalists have been recorded. The majority of journalists in Bosnia and Herzegovina are members of one of the journalist associations, and many are members of media professionals unions within the public broadcasting services. There is still no exclusive journalist union to represent their interests as a partner in dialogue with the authorities. Journalists do not have much trust in the existing professional unions and often believe that union leaders are under the influence of media owners/managers, that is, certain political structures.

Journalists in BiH need not be licensed by the State, and in 2021, there have been no attempts to introduce such licenses. There was no record of attempts to deny journalists the right to report on events on the ground of not having a valid accreditation. Journalists have no problem being recognized as reporters within public institutions, i.e., the government. The freedom of association of citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina is enshrined in the Constitution, and it is more closely regulated in the Associations and Foundations Acts. Under the law, journalists are free to organize themselves in professional unions and associations. Most journalists in BiH are members of journalists' associations, and about 18% of them are members of one of the unions of media professionals operating in BiH. The largest unions in terms of membership are those in public media (79%) - radio and television. Freedom of work and association in the media industry is defined by the existing Entity labor laws, as well as by many other laws (BiH criminal codes, strike acts, public order and peace acts, defamation acts ...). There is no union in BiH that brings together exclusively journalists and fights for their rights. For journalists, this is a big handicap. Although

— INDICATOR 1.4

there have been some informal initiatives to establish such a union, there is still not enough unity and solidarity in the media community to make it happen. Media workers do not have much confidence in the existing unions. In 2021, there was no record of media owners or persons in positions of power pressuring journalists to join their associations. Also, there was no record of parallel or fake media associations being established by politicians or government representatives.

Journalists' job position is stable and protected in the workplace

Score for 2020: 2.95 / Score for 2021: 2.87

The economic position of journalists and their working conditions are getting worse every year. Journalists work in very bad economic conditions and most have below-average salaries. In 2021, the Free Media Helpline received 9 reports about labor disputes and mobbing within newsrooms. Journalists most often report cases of demotion, irregular salary, and contribution payments, salary cuts and work for the "minimum" wage, and attempted pressures and censorship on the part of editors. Seldom do private media have professional unions, while collective agreements for the protection of labor rights do not exist.

Many journalists do not have employment contracts for an indefinite period, and their salaries are mostly below the national average. The basic pay of journalists in BiH ranges from BAM 500 to 1,300. Every tenth journalist (7.2%) has a monthly income of up to BAM 500, and only 4.9% receive over BAM 1,500. Media outlets owned by non-governmental organizations are worst off, with two-thirds of employees on a below-average salary, closely followed by print media, where nearly 60% of journalists have a below-average salary. The best situation is at television stations. Employers often violate the labor rights of journalists by not paying their pension and health insurance contributions regularly or registering them on the minimum wage. In 2021, the Free Media Helpline received nine reports related to labor disputes or mobbing - six more than the year before. Journalists most often report cases of demotion i.e., being transferred to other positions, irregular salary and contribution payments, salary cuts and work for the "minimum" wage, and attempted pressures and censorship on the part of editors. Most women journalists do not feel they are discriminated against economically relative to their male colleagues, but at the same time, they feel their status in journalism is lower relative to their male colleagues due to pro-patriarchal values and a traditional division of labor in private and public spheres. Very few media outlets have internal regulations governing the protection of women's rights, and women journalists generally do not know enough about their rights. The legal provisions governing the work of freelancers are poorly defined and are not in line with the

— INDICATOR 1.5

needs of the market and modern legal institutes and trends. They must pay high taxes to the state, and most of them do not have the possibility of obtaining health insurance. When it comes to exercising their labor rights, they typically turn to the Association BH novinari for support, as well as in the cases of physical and verbal attacks and threats. Seldom do private media have their own (worker) unions. Most journalists believe that these unions are under the control of media owners and act more in the interests of the owners rather than the employees. There are no collective agreements in the private media to protect the labor rights of journalists. In court cases against journalists for their reporting, most media outlets hire lawyers to represent them at the expense of the media outlet and the media outlets are jointly and severally liable with the journalists for what is published. One of the reasons for that is that in most defamation lawsuits, not only journalists are sued, but also editors, i.e., media owners.



Due Prevention

3.09



Journalists and media actors have access to immediate and effective protective measures when they are threatened

Score for 2020: 3.16 / Score for 2021: 2.98

When it comes to investigations into attacks on journalists, the situation has worsened compared to 2020, as evidenced by a large number of prosecutorial decisions not to conduct investigations. There are no special mechanisms or fast and effective protective measures in the institutions to protect journalists, except for the regular procedure of reporting the incident to the police authorities. In 2021, 71 cases of infringement of journalist rights and media freedoms were recorded. Most of them were about threats and intimidation, and various forms of pressure, often exerted by representatives of government institutions. Threats targeted at journalists made through social networks are on the rise. Prosecutors' offices often render decisions not to conduct investigations due to the absence of elements of a criminal offense.

In 2021, BiH institutions once again failed to establish special mechanisms to take urgent protection measures in response to the reported hate speech or death threats addressed to either journalists or ordinary citizens. All such cases are still reported to the competent police authority in a regular procedure, which then further investigates the allegations in accordance with their competencies. The Free Media Help Line (FMHL), which operates within the non-governmental association BH novinari, is the only mechanism available to journalists to directly report threats, attacks, and hate speech and receive free legal advice and legal representation. In 2021, the FMHL received 71 reports of violations of journalistic rights and media freedoms. Most of them were about threats and intimidation, and various forms of pressure, often exerted by representatives of government institutions. Threats to journalists made through social networks are on the rise. In most cases, the attackers went unpunished. Journalists are mostly satisfied with the quick response of the police authorities in such cases. Each reported threat is investigated by the police in accordance with their powers. However, the problem

— INDICATOR 2.1

arises when cases reach prosecutors or courts. According to statistics of the FMHL, in 2021 there were 7 prosecutorial decisions suspending investigations, i.e., not investigating reported attacks and threats to journalists. Prosecutors claim that such decisions are due to a lack of elements of a crime. Prosecutors rarely recognize hate speech in its own right, hence seldom do we see any hate speech punished.

Journalists and other media actors (whose lives or physical integrity are at a real and immediate risk) have access to special protection/safety mechanisms

Score for 2020: 2.99 / Score for 2021: 2.99

There are no changes in terms of ensuring protection for journalists through special protection/safety mechanisms. Under the law, journalists may be granted police protection if this is deemed necessary by the competent authority, but this kind of protection is rarely granted. The risk assessment procedure for granting police protection is unclear and insufficiently defined. There is no special mechanism to grant physical protection to journalists and other persons countering corruption and organized crime. When attacked or threatened, journalists generally turn to the Free Media Helpline (FMHL).

There is no special mechanism to provide physical protection to journalists and other individuals covering/addressing the topics of corruption and organized crime. If police and security agencies and a competent prosecutor deem it necessary, the journalist may be granted police protection. Internal Affairs Acts stipulate that police protection shall be granted in cases when a vulnerable person reports threats. Following this report, members of the Ministry of the Interior shall inform the competent Prosecutor's Office, which ultimately decides on police measures and actions to be taken to protect the life of the vulnerable person. In cases of attacks or threats, journalists mostly turn to the Free Media Helpline, i.e., the Association of BH novinari for support, which then, in cooperation with a team of lawyers, assesses the case, sends reports to the competent institutions, and provides free legal assistance.

Female journalists have access to legal measures and support mechanisms when faced with gender-based threats, harassment, and violence

Score for 2020: 3.13 / Score for 2021: 3.04

Gender-based violence and pressures on female journalists have increased compared to previous years, and female journalists are increasingly exposed to hate speech on social networks. Over the last three years, the Free Media Helpline has recorded 60 cases of gender-based violence and other forms of pressure on female journalists. In addition to verbal and physical attacks and threats, female journalists most often report mobbing, violations of labor rights, hate speech, and incitement. Due to a lack of confidence in the work of the judiciary, but also due to a low level of awareness about gender-based violence, only two-thirds of female journalists decide to report such incidents.

The Istanbul Convention entered into force in BiH in 2014 and parts of it have been incorporated into Entity laws, thus bringing significant improvements although they are not yet fully incorporated into the legal framework. The Protection from Harassment Act was adopted last year at the level of Republika Srpska, and it defines, inter alia, sexual harassment at work that harms the dignity of female workers. It also defines the procedure for protection against harassment at work. However, the gender dimension could have been better considered and defined in this law. In addition to violence, a continuous problem is that laws, bylaws, and individual policies almost generically use masculine grammatical gender, while the feminine gender is assumed. This practice encourages gender stereotypes and degrades the position of women. The BiH Constitution guarantees the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination but does not take account of the gender perspective. Article 40 of the RS Constitution states that "youth, women and the disabled have special protection." Gender perspective and vulnerable groups are not mentioned in

— INDICATOR 2.3

the Constitution of the FBiH, the Statute of the Brčko District, or the constitutions of the cantons, except in the provision which says that the constitutional rules apply equally to men and women and that discrimination is prohibited. BiH has adopted several strategic documents for the prevention and fight against violence against women and domestic violence, as well as the BiH Gender Action Plan (GAP) for the period 2018-2022. At the Entity level, there are Protection Against Domestic Violence Acts but none of them address sufficiently the specific issues of gender-based violence. Female journalists who are victims of threats and violence go through the same legal procedures as all other citizens. Competent institutions do not have a special support system that would continuously provide information to victims of gender-based violence (including female journalists) on how they can report their cases and get help. In 2021, there were no initiatives to establish such a support system. In case of gender-based discrimination or violence, female journalists can turn to the BiH Gender Equality Agency, Entity Gender Centers, the Institution of the Ombudsman in BiH, and non-governmental organizations dealing with gender-based violence. When it comes to attacks, threats, and discrimination they encounter within their newsrooms, female journalists most often turn to BH novinari's Free Media Helpline, which provides them with free legal aid. In the last three years, the Free Media Helpline has recorded 65 cases of gender-based violence and other forms of pressure on female journalists. These were cases of mobbing, violations of labor rights, verbal and physical attacks, defamation, hate speech, incitement, threats... Hate speech and violence against female journalists in online space are rising and intensifying. The share of gender-based violence in online space is 53%, and only two-thirds of female journalists report online violence to media management and competent authorities. The most common reasons for not reporting these incidents are a disappointment in the justice system and the length of court proceedings, while threats in online space are perceived as a "normal form of communication". The case of an analyst and journalist Tanja Topić who contacted the BiH Gender Equality Agency through the Free Media Helpline seeking protection from the verbal attacks she was exposed to by BiH Presidency member Milorad Dodik for investigating the violation of the BiH Gender Equality Act is rather telling. In this case, the Agency distanced itself and, under the pretext of a technical rule on conducting the proceedings before other bodies, did not consider this case.

The practice of regular public condemnation of threats and attacks on journalists and media has been established

Score for 2020: 3.10 / Score for 2021: 3.10

Although there is no regular practice of condemning attacks on journalists, on several occasions in 2021 institutions, following their internal regulations, sanctioned employees who threatened journalists. Political influences on the media and attempts to restrict freedom of expression continue to be a major problem. Many media owners are directly connected to political and economic power centers, and public broadcasting services are perceived as politically biased. Some politicians own their own media.

Even though state institutions and the most influential political parties do not have a regular practice of condemning threats and attacks on media professionals, on two occasions in 2021, the institutions demonstrated a willingness to sanction their employees for threatening and mistreating journalists. A member of the BiH Armed Forces who threatened journalist Eldin Hadžović was found to have committed a serious breach of military discipline, and was hence disciplined by “Suspended promotion and professional advancement for a year”. An official of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH was sanctioned with a salary cut for three months for threatening and insulting the journalist Zinaida Đelilović. In 2021, political and other officials were not only rarely condemning threats and attacks on journalists but were more often in the role of those who attacked journalists and sought to restrict media freedom. As before, politicians were typically condemning the attacks only when they wanted to win the sympathy of certain media, journalists, or the public. Journalists, especially those involved in investigative journalism, are still labeled by politicians and public officials as “foreign goons”, “intelligence agents”, “regime journalists” and the like. Politicians have been very active in 2021 trying to control editorial policies and create media content. As indicated in the 2021 European Commission Report for BiH, serious concerns continue to persist over political pressure, intimidation, and threats against journalists

— INDICATOR 2.4

in BiH. According to the Report, high-level politicians have been resorting to public attacks and disparaging remarks against journalists, analysts, and media workers, particularly women. The authorities continue to downplay the issue and there is no data collection by public institutions on threats and attacks against journalists and media workers." In election years, there is an apparent increase in the number of online portals financed by certain political structures, whose main goal is to destroy the integrity of their political opponents. Many media owners have direct links with political and economic centers of power, while the boards of public broadcasting services are perceived as being politically biased.

Police authorities are sensitive to journalists' protection issue

Score for 2020: 3,65 / Score for 2021: 3,35

While cooperation with the police authorities in 2021 was generally regarded as satisfactory, on five occasions journalists were banned from filming and one journalist was arrested for allegedly unauthorized filming of a building. Therefore, it can be concluded that the attitude of the police towards journalists is worse than it was in 2020. Police officers are generally well acquainted with the rights of journalists, and journalists largely rate positive their cooperation with the police. Police authorities have no special protocols prohibiting harassment, intimidation, and attacks on journalists.

Police officers are generally well acquainted with the rights of journalists and their role in a democratic society. Police institutions do not have special protocols that prohibit harassment, intimidation, and attacks on journalists, and in 2021 there were no new initiatives to introduce such protocols. The only document that does exist is the Guidelines for Police and Media Cooperation, the updated version of which was published by the OSCE Mission to BiH in April 2021 based on international documents and the domestic legal framework. These Guidelines are not binding on police authorities but are currently the only document of this kind to help the police become more conversant with the rights of journalists. In 2021, the police authorities continued to attend regularly the events organized by journalist associations to improve cooperation between the media and police authorities. Media professionals and journalist associations are generally satisfied with their cooperation with the police in 2021. In most cases, the police timely and efficiently reacted to reported attacks and threats to journalists and did their share of work. In 2021, correspondent of "O channel" Vahidin Mujagić was arrested by police officers while he was filming the Oil Refinery in Brod. He was issued a penalty charge notice for unauthorized filming. Also, there were five reports about police officers banning journalists from filming the Lipa migrant camp near Bihać. Journalist and activist Nidžara Ahmetašević was deprived of liberty while filming members of the Sarajevo Canton police issuing parking-related penalty charge notices. Although Nidžara Ahmetašević was not on her journalistic assignment at the time nor did she present herself as a journalist, this case is significant because the police

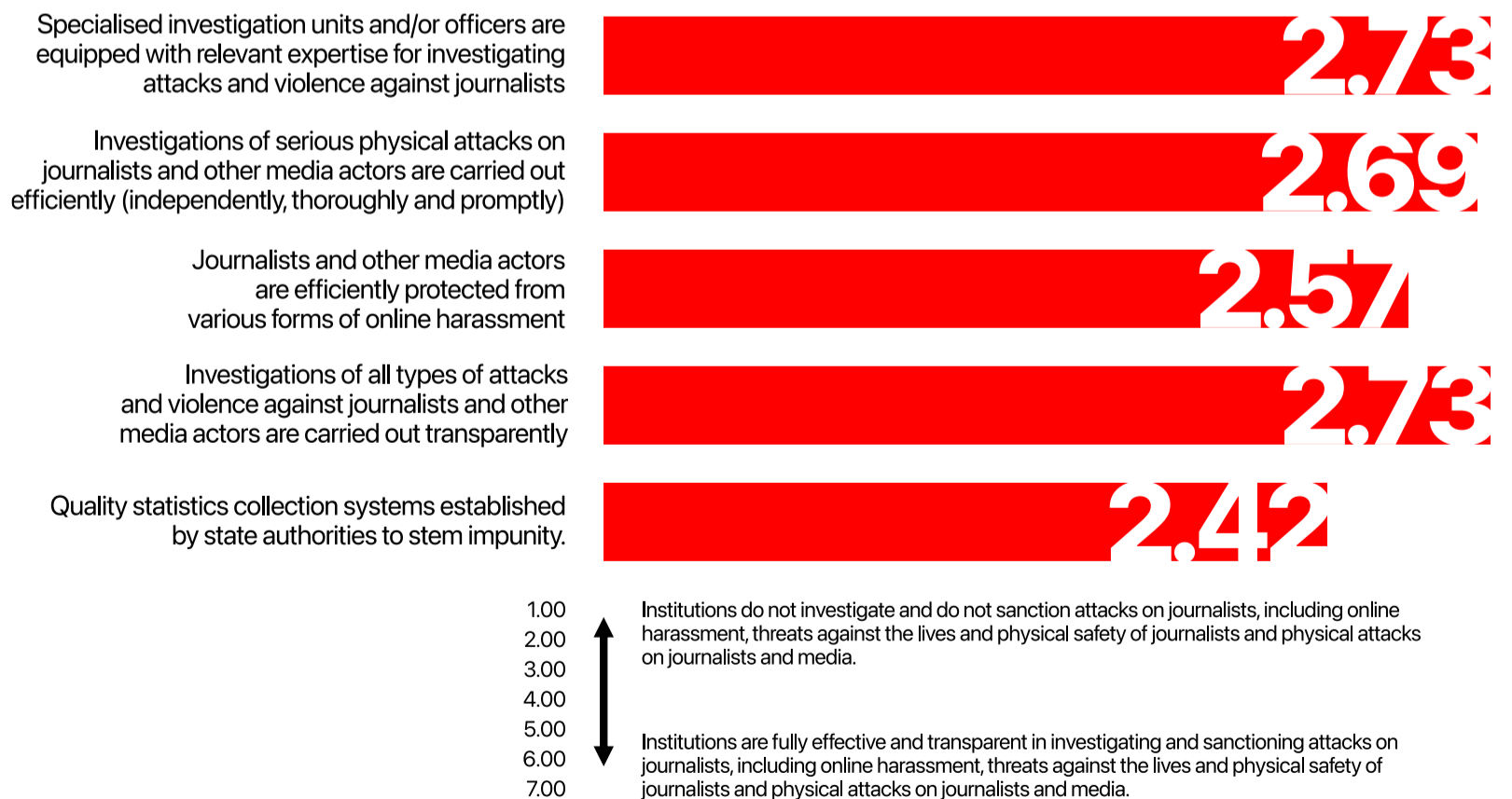
— INDICATOR 2.5

officers demonstrated a lack of knowledge about the right to freedom of filming the police. This lack of knowledge was later confirmed by other police officers who went that far to call it a criminal offense. The internal control of the Ministry of Interior found the police officers involved in arresting the journalist to have committed a gross violation of their official duties. Nevertheless, at the same time, the Sarajevo Canton Ministry of the Interior sanctioned the journalist with a BAM 501.00 penalty charge notice for disturbing public order and peace.



Due Process

2.63



Specialised investigation units and/or officers are equipped with relevant expertise for investigating attacks and violence against journalists

Score for 2020: 2.73 / Score for 2021: 2.73

The situation is unchanged compared to 2020. There are no special investigation teams for investigating cases of attacks on journalists, and journalists are not satisfied with the efficiency of investigations. Investigations often take months, and some cases are not sufficiently investigated.

There are no special units/teams within police and prosecutor's offices dedicated to investigating and prosecuting attacks on journalists. Most competent institutions believe that they have sufficient capacities and good cooperation when it comes to investigating attacks and threats to journalists. As criminal codes and criminal procedure codes contain no special provisions relating to attacks on journalists, the understanding of such attacks by the police and prosecutors varies and depends on the person to whom a particular case has been assigned. Apart from the OSCE Guidelines for Police and Media Cooperation, there are no other types of documents in the police and prosecutor's offices to ensure the protection of journalists, nor to conduct effective and detailed investigations into violence against journalists and violations of media rights and freedoms. Cooperation between competent institutions exists, but the process is often very slow and inefficient. Journalists are often dissatisfied with the efficiency of investigations, especially with the competent prosecutor's offices. When asked about the reasons behind slow and inefficient investigations, the competent prosecutor's offices mostly blame it on the huge caseload and various procedural issues.

Investigations of serious physical attacks on journalists and other media actors are carried out efficiently (independently, thoroughly and promptly)

Score for 2020: 2.61 / Score for 2021: 2.69

Some progress was achieved in 2021, with 11 court cases decided in favor of journalists. However, investigations relating to physical attacks on journalists are often lengthy and ineffective, and sometimes the investigations are suspended despite evidence of the attack. Investigative bodies generally do not focus on identifying the motives and possible sponsors of the attack. Attacks on journalists are not yet recognized as a criminal offense in their own right within criminal codes.

Investigations into physical attacks on journalists are neither efficient enough nor are such cases given priority over other similar crimes in which the victims are not journalists. The police usually quickly identify the perpetrators of the attack, but the problem arises when the case reaches the prosecutor's office or the court. In some cases, prosecutors' offices and courts have rendered decisions suspending investigation/proceedings despite physical attacks being filmed, and the footage being published in the media. In another case, the attackers were prosecuted and sanctioned, but the investigative bodies generally do not investigate motives nor do they seek to identify the possible sponsors of the attack. Often, they lack the knowledge and practical experience to investigate the motives of discrimination. It takes several years to get from an investigation to a final court judgment. Journalists are not satisfied with the efficiency of investigations, especially in the part performed by the competent prosecutor's offices. Yet, some progress has been made in prosecuting threats and attacks on journalists. From January to the end of December 2021, the Free Media Helpline for Journalists won a total of 11

cases, i.e., judgments in favor of journalists, which is, so far, the best score in a single year. Procedural deadlines are exceeded, both in cases involving journalists or the common citizens, and there are no special legal deadlines by which an investigation or a court proceeding involving journalists must be completed. Criminal codes do not recognize attacks on journalists as a criminal offense in its own right. The Association BH novinari and other organizations dealing with media freedom have been lobbying government representatives for years to nominally include the journalistic profession in criminal codes, and thus provide more effective protection for journalists from attacks.

Journalists and other media actors are efficiently protected from various forms of online harassment

Score for 2020: 2.63 / Score for 2021: 2.57

In 2021, 3 convictions were handed down for hate speech and online threats against journalists, which demonstrates certain progress in the work of prosecutors and courts relative to the previous period. The adoption of special Hate Speech Acts is discussed at the level of a proposal among individual deputies in the parliaments. The number of threats via social networks and online violence against journalists is increasing.

The criminal codes of BiH, the Federation of BiH, and Brčko District criminalize “incitement of national (ethnic), racial and religious hatred, discord and intolerance”, while cases of online harassment, i.e. online threats to journalists, are subsumed under this criminal offense. However, these criminal acts are reduced only to inciting or spreading national, racial, or religious hatred, discord, or intolerance. The RS Criminal Code, on the other hand, recognizes as a criminal offense “public incitement and spread of violence and hatred”, and prescribes sanctions for those who spread hatred or call to violence against a certain person or group because of their national, racial, religious or ethnic affiliation, but also other characteristics, such as gender, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity, etc. However, the existing laws do not provide a sufficiently clear definition of online harassment and hate speech. Some politicians and parliamentarians proposed the adoption of special Hate Speech Acts, which would include hate speech on social networks and the Internet in general.

The number of threats to journalists through social networks, i.e., online violence, has increased. Threats are more and more directed at women in academia who are also active in the media, as well as at organizations dealing with the media and journalist safety. Among the cases that most resonated with the general public in 2021 was the arrest of Jasmin Mulahusić, a citizen of Luxembourg, who is being investigated for the crime of spreading national, religious, and racial intolerance. On his Facebook profiles, Mulahusić daily published posts in which he spread hatred and intolerance

— INDICATOR 3.3

against many journalists and media. After journalists pressed criminal charges against him, the Prosecution of Bosnia and Herzegovina launched an investigation against Mulahusić, which is still ongoing. In the meantime, the Court of BiH rejected the proposal for remanding Mulahusić in custody and released him without imposing any bans on him. Upon release, Mulahusić resumed his hue and cry, “naming” journalists on Facebook, although in December 2021, at the request of the investigating authorities, Facebook blocked four of his profiles. In 2021, courts in BiH handed down a total of 3 convictions for hate speech and threats to journalists via social networks. Considering that investigations and prosecution of online threats and harassment were not given enough attention in previous years, it is encouraging that prosecutors and courts have started to deal more actively with such cases.

Investigations of all types of attacks and violence against journalists and other media actors are carried out transparently

Score for 2020: 2.73 / Score for 2021: 2.73

The transparency of competent institutions has not improved compared to previous years. Institutions, especially prosecutors' offices and courts, generally provide very little information on individual cases of attacks. A journalist and public communication strategy is still not in place. Prosecutor's offices and courts do not provide timely and detailed information on the status of individual cases.

Those who make reports i.e., victims of attack usually do not have adequate access to the investigation procedure, except in certain cases when pressure is put on institutions to answer specific requests i.e., official inquiries of journalists' associations or the victims themselves. Prosecutors and courts usually do not provide information on the status of a case in a timely manner, and when they do, they usually provide short answers under the pretext that in the interest of investigation they cannot disclose more information." When it comes to cooperation with representatives of the institutions, journalists and the media most often complain about judicial institutions not being transparent. This is particularly true of the BiH Prosecutor's Office, about whose work they mostly complain. Some institutions, such as the Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor's Office, insist that requests for access to information be submitted to them in person or by mail "due to the authorization or non-existence of the Law on Electronic Seal." There is no common communication strategy that would align the practice of police and judicial institutions in accessing the information on certain stages of the investigation, i.e., prosecution of attacks on journalists.

Quality statistics collection systems established by state authorities to stem impunity

Score for 2020: 2.42 / Score for 2021: 2.42

No progress has been made in terms of systematic monitoring and recording of attacks on journalists. State authorities have not yet established databases with statistics on the number of attacks on journalists. BiH authorities are repeatedly criticized by the European Commission for not keeping records of attacks on media professionals. The 2018 HJPC BiH Instruction on Special Classification of Cases Concerning Journalists has not yet been implemented within the judicial office. Only about 27% of attacks on journalists presented to BiH courts have been resolved in favor of journalists.

State institutions do not have databases with these statistics. Such data are collected only by professional organizations such as "BH novinari", whose Free Media Helpline contains a comprehensive database of attacks, threats, and pressures on journalists. The exception is the Republika Srpska Ministry of the Interior, which has established a special record of cases involving journalists. Cases involving journalists are not yet recorded as a separate category in the judicial case management system (CMS). The 2021 European Commission report on BiH says that "authorities in BiH made no progress on addressing the key priority on guaranteeing freedom of expression and the media, on protecting journalists and media workers against threats and violence by ensuring an appropriate judicial follow-up". Upon a proposal made by BH novinari the HJPC rendered a decision ordering court, prosecutor's offices, and registry offices to keep a separate record of lawsuits and court cases filed against journalists and the media, but this decision has not yet taken root in judicial institutions. According to judicial staff and journalists, registering attacks on journalists would help build a system to monitor re-offenders and those who prevent the free work of the media. According to statistics of Association BH novinari, only about 27% of attacks on journalists presented to BiH courts have been resolved in favor of journalists. Statistics disaggregated by gender, nationality, or other socio-demographic criteria are not available.

IV

Actual Safety

2.83



1.00
2.00
3.00
4.00
5.00
6.00
7.00



There are severe cases of threats and actual attacks against journalists and media organisations, including killings.

There have been no cases of actual attacks, no threats against the lives and physical safety of journalists, nor there have been non-physical threats and harassment against the journalists and media.

Threats and harassment that are not related to physical safety

This may include surveillance or tracking; harassment by telephone; arbitrary judicial or administrative harassment; aggressive statements by public officials; other types of pressures that threaten the safety of journalists while performing their work. These types of threats do not include mobbing and bullying in the working environment.

Score for 2020: 3.10 / Score for 2021: 2.76

The influence of politicians and political parties on the media led to BiH falling by nine places on the World Media Freedom Index in 2021. In 2021, there were 17 death threats to journalists, verbal and other forms of threats reported. Political pressures on journalists and media are increasingly prominent, as well as online incitement and orchestrated campaigns against individual journalists and media on social networks. SLAPP lawsuits are also becoming an increasingly prominent problem.

In 2021, the database of Safejournalists.net had a total of 26 cases of attacks, threats, and pressure on journalists and media in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of that number, eight cases were about threats and violence against female journalists, three more than in the previous year. In 2021, there were a total of 17 death threats to journalists, verbal and other forms of threats, and political pressure on journalists and the media. There were also two SLAPP lawsuits registered. Although the total number of attacks and threats does not differ from the previous year (2020), the increasingly open and aggressive influence of politicians and political parties on the media is a matter of concern. This is also the main reason behind the BiH's decline on the latest Reporters Without Borders World Media Freedom Index by nine places.

The leader of the Serb Radical Party, Vojislav Šešelj, verbally attacked RTRS journalist Nataša Miljanović-Zubac in the show Happy TV, calling her names. Chief State Prosecutor Gordana Tadić accused journalist Avdo Avdić of spreading national and religious hatred and "preparing the ground for execution of all those who interfere with the para-intelligence darkness of BiH", while the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Janez Janša, on his official Twitter account announced that "Avdić would be brought to court for several criminal offenses".

— INDICATOR 4.1

The Serb member of the BiH Presidency, Milorad Dodik, verbally attacked and insulted the analyst and journalist Tanja Topić, labeling her as a foreign mercenary and collaborator of the foreign service.

Journalist Milanka Kovačević reported the director of Radio Gacko for censoring her text and ordering its removal from the website. Portal of the weekly magazine Stav called journalist Evelin Trako a "terrorist", thus putting a target on his back.

Some portals have published offensive texts that spread hate speech against Prof. Dr. Lejla Turčilo and Secretary General of BH novinari, Borka Rudić. Ljubo Vuković, an SNSD councilor in Bileća, sent several text messages of offensive and disturbing content to journalist Jelena Denda-Borjan. Journalist and owner of Face TV, Senad Hadžifejzović, gave a statement at the BiH Prosecutor's Office regarding the threats sent to him on social networks by Jasmin Mulahusić. Several other journalists gave similar statements in this case.

The Sarajevo Municipal Court issued an Enforcement Decision based on which over BAM 212,000 were seized from the account of the company Avaz-roto Press, publisher of the daily Dnevni avaz, on account of awarded court penalties and costs of enforcement proceedings. The Sarajevo Municipal Court issued a first instance verdict sentencing online magazine Žurnal and its editors Selvedin Avdić and Eldin Karić, and the former journalist of this media Avdo Avdić in the total amount of more than BAM 170,000, excluding interest. It includes the defamation lawsuit filed against Žurnal by Gordan Memija. These two court decisions have seriously threatened the existence of two Sarajevo media outlets.

Threats against the lives and physical safety of journalists

This may include calling for the killing of journalists, their friends, family, or sources; calling for physical attacks on journalists, their friends, family, or sources. Threats can be direct or sent via third parties; sent electronically or in direct communication; they can be implicit as well as explicit.

Score for 2020: 2.85 / Score for 2021: 2.85

The number of registered threats against the lives and physical safety of journalists is the same as in 2020. Threats to journalists were also coming from employees of state institutions, who were disciplined. In one of these cases, the Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor's Office issued an order not to conduct an investigation, finding that the journalist's safety was not at risk. Hate speech and threats via social networks are becoming more and more common.

In 2021, there were 6 threats to the lives and physical safety of journalists recorded, the same number as in the year before. Two of these threats came from the employees of state institutions. Under their internal rules, these institutions sanctioned the attackers, thus setting a positive example of intolerance towards threats to journalists.

Zinaida Đelilović, the journalist of the Žurnal magazine, received direct threats from Adnan Čakalović, an official of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH. Čakalović was disciplined by a 15% salary cut for three months. An RS Railways worker threatened journalist Đorđe Vujatović and the cameraman who worked with him on the assignment that he would "break their camera" and "smash it on the floor" if they continued filming.

Journalist Eldin Hadžović received threats via Facebook from the member of the Armed Forces of BiH Vahidin Hota who threaten to slap him and "smash all his fingers with a hammer". Hota was found to have committed a gross breach of military discipline, and as a result, he would not be able to apply for promotion in service for one year. "The Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor's Office decided not to investigate this case, claiming that there are no elements of the crime of "threatening the physical safety of journalists".

In the comment section on his Facebook profile, Marko Aprcović threatened Dragan Bursać that he would "shoot a

— INDICATOR 4.2

bullet in his head if he ever peeks into Montenegro". Editor and owner of the Face TV Senad Hadžifejzović pressed charges against several people for political pressures and threats and for targeting him and his media as "hostile", anti-patriotic, and propagandistic. The BiH Prosecutor's Office has opened an investigation against Jasmin Mulahusić for the criminal offense of inciting national, racial, and religious hatred, discord, and intolerance, including several threats and hate speech against journalists on Facebook.

Actual attacks

This can include actual physical or mental harm, kidnapping, invasion of home/office, seizing of equipment, arbitrary detention, failed murder attempts, etc.

Score for 2020: 3.63 / Score for 2021: 3.28

In 2021, competent institutions proved to be extremely ineffective when it comes to investigating and sanctioning physical attacks on journalists. In the three cases reported in 2021, no sanctions have been imposed on attackers nor was an investigation initiated against them. This confirms the common practice that was evident for years, i.e., the institutions, that is, representatives of the government still do not take attacks on journalists seriously enough.

Only 3 physical attacks on journalists were reported, the same number as in 2020. No sanctions have been imposed on attackers in any of these cases nor was an investigation initiated.

Correspondent of "O channel" Vahidin Mujagić was apprehended by police officers while he was filming the Oil Refinery in Brod. He was issued a penalty charge notice for unauthorized filming and was ordered to delete the recordings. At the SNSD rally, members of Milorad Dodik's security physically prevented the cameraman of the Insider.in portal from doing his job, and forced him to delete all the recordings from the camera. The N1 Television crew from BiH was attacked during the reporting on the events from Cetinje. Reporter Aleksandra Tolj and the cameraman were first stoned, and then a group of young men demanded that the reporter delete the footage.

Threats and attacks on media outlets and journalists associations

Threats can include harassing phone calls, arbitrary judicial or administrative harassment, aggressive declarations by public officials, and other forms of pressure (inscriptions, threatening posts, etc.). Actual attacks include invasion of offices, seizure of equipment, breaking the equipment, vehicles, etc.

Score for 2020: 2.63 / Score for 2021: 2.43

Hacking attacks on news portals are becoming more prominent as a new form of attack on the media. Institutions still do not have enough capacity to identify and sanction attackers in such cases. Political pressures on media outlets and organizations are becoming more and more pronounced, especially with local public media.

In 2021, a total of 6 attacks and threats against media outlets and organizations were recorded. Political pressures on the media are the most pronounced, but there is also an increased number of hacking attacks on news portals.

The Sarajevo Municipal Court rendered a Decision temporarily banning Dnevni avaz from writing about the private life of the President of the Court of BiH Ranko Debevc. Web portals Žurnal, Nomad.ba and Buka, as well as the portal of Independent newspaper from Banja Luka were exposed to multi-day planned DDoS hacking attacks. No attackers were identified in these cases.

The editors of the fact-checking portal Raskrinkavanje.ba reported the journalist of Dnevni avaz Evelin Trako for threatening to “blow them up”. Politicians openly exert pressure and publicly target certain media. In the several-hour long session of the Sarajevo Canton Assembly, deputies openly commented on the programming content and editorial policy of Television Sarajevo (TVSA), while the president of the SNSD and member of the BiH Presidency, Milorad Dodik, publicly labeled BN Television as “part of a joint criminal enterprise against the RS” and “the biggest criminals in RS”.

Original title
The Western Balkans Journalist Safety Index
Bosnia and Herzegovina 2021 – Narrative Report

Publisher
BH Journalists Association



Author
Maja Radević

Legal expert
Dejan Lučka

Media expert
Borka Rudić

Proofreading
Lejla Efendić

Translation
Lejla Efendić

Design
comma.rs

This publication was created with the help of the European Union and Action for Human Rights. The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of the BH Journalists Association and cannot in any way be considered to reflect the positions of the European Union and Action for Human Rights

