

**Brussels, 05 June 2024**

**Government of the Republika Srpska  
Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska  
Ministry of Justice of the Republika Srpska  
Trg Republika Srpska 1  
78000 Banja Luka**

**To: Sir Dragan Lukač  
Minister of Interior Affairs of the Republika Srpska**

**To: Sir Miloš Bukejlović  
Minister of Justice of the Republika Srpska**

**Re: Support for Nataša Miljanović-Zubac, female journalists from Trebinje**

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the world's largest organisation of journalists representing over 600.000 members in 179 unions worldwide, hereby fully supports our colleague Nataša Miljanović-Zubac from our Bosnian affiliate the BH Journalists Association - BHJA.

The IFJ defends the rights of journalists and promotes their interests worldwide. We constantly monitor the situation of journalists with a view to denouncing any violations of journalists' rights and press freedom anywhere and by whomever.

To this end, we are wholeheartedly supporting Nataša Miljanović-Zubac in her quest for justice and to protect her from the threats she has faced for many years. Since the arson attack on her car on 15 June 2022, the authorities have done nothing to protect her. At that time, Natasa Miljanovic-Zubac was disowned by her management, thereby the threats against her. Our colleague has been on sick leave for almost 20 months because of the threats. These threats have continued ever since:

- On 20 November 2022, in the late evening, infrared rays were directed her living room wall;
- On 23 December 2022, infrared rays were directed at her body, just outside the house;
- On 30 December 2022, she was intercepted as she was leaving Trebinje in the direction of Dubrovnik, or Herceg Novi. The businessman Stefan Bokonjić, known as Leki, blocked her path, got out of his car and insulted her. He allegedly objected to her 'slow' driving. She was driving within the speed limit and the fixed camera that records speed ;
- On 26 March 2023, outside the front door of the house where she was staying, there was a doll with its severed head covered in red paint;
- On 1 October 2023, on the same front door, there was a message written 'Dead mouths don't talk';

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**Fédération Internationale des Journalistes, International Press Centre,**

Résidence Palace, Block C, 155 Rue de la Loi, B-1040 Brussels

Tel: +32 2 235 2200 Fax: +32 2 235 2219 E-mail: [ifj@ifj.org](mailto:ifj@ifj.org)

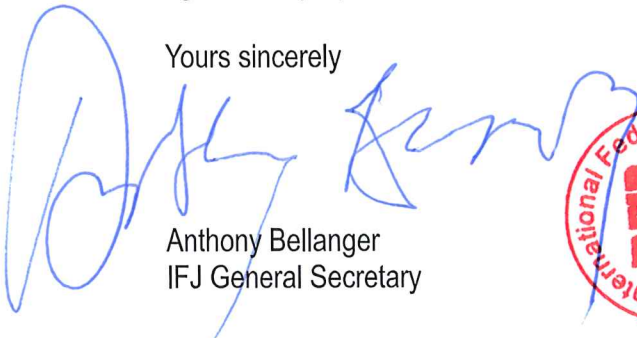
- On 14 March 2024, there was an attempt to extort and intimidate her.

Her numerous requests for protection have gone unanswered by the relevant authorities. Beyond the financial aspect of these procedures, we are concerned about the psychological and physical consequences that these threats may have on her. Despite numerous alerts to the Council of Europe, its vital protection is still not guaranteed.

We therefore urge the authorities to do the right thing for Nataša Miljanović-Zubac by providing her with protection commensurate with the threats she is facing. In addition, we urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that the courts do their job and find the perpetrators of these threats, which have been going on for almost two years.

We hope that you will consider our letter of support for our colleague Nataša Miljanović-Zubac and we look forward to the immediate cessation of the threats and the intensification of legal proceedings against the perpetrators.

Yours sincerely

  
Anthony Bellanger  
IFJ General Secretary

