



Milo Đukanović

Prime Minister of Montenegro  
Karađorđeva bb  
81000 Podgorica  
Montenegro

**Re: Indictment of freelance Montenegrin journalist Jovo Martinović**

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the [International Federation of Journalists \(IFJ\)](#) and its European group, the [European Federation of Journalists \(EFJ\)](#), representing over 300.000 journalists across Europe, and our affiliate in Montenegro, the Trade Union of Media of Montenegro, we are writing to you with continued grave concerns over the court proceedings of Internationally highly respected freelance Montenegrin journalist **Jovo Martinović**. He was charged with membership of a criminal organisation and with drugs trafficking. Jovo Martinović had been detained on suspicion of participating in a drug trafficking ring since October 22, 2015.

We are shocked by the gravity of his possible sentence being more than 10 years in prison.

The EFJ and IFJ urge the Montenegrin authorities to consider his journalistic work as a possible explanation for his alleged contacts with drug traffickers while many other testimonies in his support have come from prominent journalists all over the world.

Martinović has insisted he is not guilty, saying that his contacts with the other suspects were purely linked to his work as a journalist. His interactions with two of the other 17 suspects in the alleged drug-trafficking were part of his journalistic work.

We urge you to submit as soon as possible the case files and allow Jovo Martinović to defend himself. We demand that Jovo Martinović be out on pre-trial release and that custody is not converted into imprisonment even before the trial has even started.

In line with International standards of the Council of Europe, the courts must take account of his status as a journalist. The criminalisation of journalists who specialise in sensitive subjects poses an imminent threat to press freedom.



We also wish to remind you that the Montenegrin government is required to respond to the alert about the Martinović case that has been registered on the Council of Europe's platform for the protection of journalism back on 13 April, see "[Freelance journalist and fixer Jovo Martinović in custody since October 2015](#)."

He is known for his work on investigative stories, and has contributed reporting and research to many international news media outlets, such as The Economist, Newsday, Global Post, The Financial Times, Die Süddeutsche Zeitung, and VICE media group.

Thank you very much for paying attention to this letter. We also wish to refer to reactions by other press freedom organisations such as the Committee to Protect Journalists, see [letter](#) from April 19 of this year, and by [Reporters without Borders](#) and [BIRN](#)

Sincerely yours,

IFJ President

Philippe Leruth

EFJ President

Mogens Blicher Bjerregård

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'FV', on a light-colored background.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Mogens Blicher Bjerregård', on a light-colored background.

CC

President of Montenegro **Filip Vujanović**

Ombudsmen **Šučko Baković**

Minister of Justice **Zoran Pažin**

Supreme State Prosecutor **Ivica Stanković**

Special State Prosecutor **Milivoje Katnić**

President of the High Court **Boris Savić**

High Court judge **Dragoje Jović**

Head of Mission of EU delegation  
in Montenegro **Aivo Orav**

High Representative of the European Union  
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
**Federica Mogherini**