



European
Federation of
Journalists



30 March 2017

To

Mr Dusko Markovic

Prime Minister

Republic of Montenegro

Re: The case Jovo Martinovic

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing on behalf of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the world largest journalists' organisation representing over 600.000 members in 140 countries, the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) representing more than 300.000 members in Europe, to once again make representation on behalf freelance journalist Jovo Martinovic of Montenegro.

Together with our affiliate the Trade Union of Media of Montenegro (SMCG), we wish to recall our letter of 2 September, in which we raised our concern over the arrest of detention of Mr. Martinovic for membership of a criminal organisation and drug offences, despite compelling evidence which shows he was only doing his job as an undercover investigative journalist.

While we welcome his conditional release at the beginning of this year, the fact that such serious charges have been confirmed and he has been committed to trial due to continue on 11 April is extremely disturbing and seriously undermines the fight against organised crime which threatens public safety across Europe.

We note that, in your reply to the alert submitted to the Council of Europe about Martinovic's case, your Government claims that his charges are not connected with his professional activity as a journalist. We beg to disagree as we believe that the journalist, who has a proven record of a brave and reliable professional held in high esteem by his colleagues in Montenegro and a host of international news organisations, would have no track with any criminal activity other than to expose it at great risk to his safety.

We deeply regret that Mr Martinovic is targeted for accusations of the very crimes he worked so hard to denounce and eradicate by shining the light on the ways of criminal gangs so that they can be brought to justice. There is now a serious risk that, not only a journalist may end up with a lengthy jail term, but also others will be deterred to follow in his footsteps in undertaking the kind of investigative journalism which plays an important public interest role.

We stand by Mr. Martinovic and would still urge your government to ensure that the court of justice will be allowed to do its work with integrity and independence without political interference and pressure from those keen to justify at any cost the prosecution of a journalist whose sole intention was to do his level best as a journalist and help European authorities to tackle a serious crime.

With Kind Regards,

Mogens Blicher Bjerregård

EFJ President



Philippe Leruth

IFJ President

