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Belgrade

Report of the Monitoring and Analysis Service of REM

Ex officio procedure	<p>Against: <i>Insajder tim d.o.o., Beograd - Informer TV</i></p> <p>Summary: The Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media received a complaint of the Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA), with a notification concerning the disputed content broadcast on Informer TV on 9 and 10 December 2024, which, according to their opinion, represents hate speech and violation of personal dignity; they demand the initiation of an examination procedure and the imposition of a protection measure in accordance with the <i>Law on Electronic Media</i>. At the request of the Regulator, the media service provider submitted a recording of the programme broadcast.</p>
Report	<p>Based on the complaint of the Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA), the REM Monitoring and Analysis Service was notified about the disputed content broadcast on Informer TV on 9 and 10 December 2024. By viewing the submitted footage, it was determined that it was content in the form of a promotional video (short film) lasting for about five minutes broadcast as part of the <i>Info jutro</i> programme on the above dates. In the programme on 9 December, the video clip was announced in the following manner:</p> <p><i>The recipe for a successful blockade these days has attracted the attention of the media, but also students who are increasingly opening their eyes to the fact that they have been manipulated by troublemakers who are loudest at the protests, while Croatian services have been behind all of this.</i></p> <p>The video clip starts with various opening screens with background, ambient tone (IT tone) recorded at the protests: (don't leet theeem; puuuush, cooome ooon; people, stop...).</p> <p>Three slides of the following content were broadcast:</p>



Those were followed by a short segment from the guest appearance of Miroslav Aleksić, President of the National Movement of Serbia, on TV Nova S and a statement: *Yes, as my colleague Bora Novaković says, Aleksandar Vučić has created a pressure cooker for Serbia in which everything is boiling, without having a single valve that can vent pressure. Along with the footage of the opposition and the police pushing each other in front of the Novi Sad court, the reporter (announcer) invited students to come to their senses: Children, look around, they are manipulating you and leading you on, you are their pawns. Check out what has come to light in the meantime. The Serbian student population has been exposed to the Croatian e-book "Blockade Cookbook", a recipe for a successful blockade, which had been used during the major student protests in Croatia in 2009 (...) This represents a strong influence of Croatian anarchists on the student blockades in Serbia, backed by the Croatian security intelligence agency. The most amenable to their influence are the extremists among the ranks of the present student population, and primarily those who are indoctrinated with radical left-wing and anarchist ideas, such as Mila Pajić, activist of the Stav movement. She is their main asset in the dissemination of these ideas and she has been chosen.*

As an illustration of the text that was read out, the footage from several protests was shown, as well as the paying of tribute to the victims, and the footage of violence in front of the City Hall of Novi Sad. This was followed by sound bites of student Mila Pajić, in which she stresses that pressure can have impact on institutions, the court and the prosecution to change their decisions, and of Dinko Gruhonjić on Srebrenica.

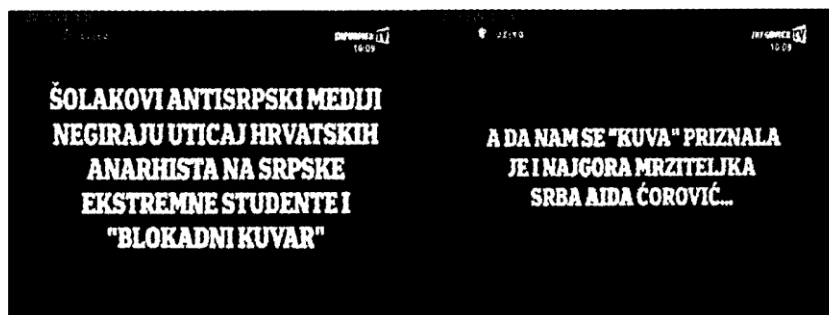


The shots are edited to music which enhances the drama of the footage, and then the text spoken by the reporter: *On several occasions, she has demonstrated clear preference for Croatia and everything coming from that country, including the criminal Operation Storm... It is worth reminding that her mentor is a proven admirer of Dinko Šakić, Ustasha executioner. His namesake and prominent Vojvodina separatist, Prof. Dinko Gruhonjić.*

Dinko Gruhonjić (audio) – *I would say that the reality is such that we can plan a new state that will be called Republika Srpska Vojvodina, since we have so, so many of these people from Republika Srpska buying up apartments across Vojvodina because they know that they did, because they are buying reserve positions. They had this church that is so incredibly horrible, one day a new generation will squat there, those can be good pubs, good fun can be had there.*

Announcer: *The students are increasingly opening their eyes to the fact that they have been recklessly and shamelessly politically manipulated by troublemakers who are the loudest at the protests.*

Then, sequences from several N1 television shows were broadcast, and announced by, among others, the following screens accompanied by dramatic music:



An audio statement by Aida Čorović, activist, was broadcast, with the captions of the statement: *A huge amount of money was given to both Otpor (Resistance) and the entire networks that developed across Serbia (cut). Somewhere, however, in some big kitchens, things are globally, like this, let's say, addressed and brought to a boil.*

Announcer: *And we repeat, behind them and behind these rules by which violence is perpetrated against the citizens, Croatian and who knows what other services stand.*



The footage ended with the shots of the protest in Novi Sad and with clearly audible chants: *Dinko, leave!* (10:05:21 — 10:10:33). A discussion in the studio followed, the guests were representatives of the authorities (a member of the SNS Governing Board and state secretaries from the ministries for family welfare, public administration and local self-government), who mostly criticised the protests and participants (*a couple of dozen extremists, quazi activists, etc.*), and cited examples of efforts by the authorities and the President of the Republic benefitting the youth.

The same video clip (9:34:34 — 9:39:27) and mass protests at the colleges were commented on in the same show the next day by Slavica

	<p><i>Djukić Dejanović, Minister of Education, who was announced in the following manner: Political activists disguised as alleged apolitical students continue to obstruct the work of the colleges with their blockades, while confirming several times that they do not even know against what they are protesting. Furthermore, a member of the anti-Serbian opposition Goran Ješić publicly threatened Boris Dumnić, Dean of the Technical Science College of the University of Novi Sad.</i></p>
Conclusion	<p>The media service provider decided to report unilaterally on the developments in the country, protests over the tragedy in Novi Sad, blockades and dissatisfaction of the citizens, without confronting different opinions and allocating space for opposing views. On several occasions, the MSP resorted to the promotional video format, similar to a campaign, whose aim was to create in the public an opinion that foreign intelligence (in this case Croatian) services and individuals whose political activities were proclaimed as anti-government and anti-Serb, were behind the protests. For this purpose, the statements of individuals that may be assessed as extremist were used, but such statements were not approached with due professional care, and with the comment of relevant social or political actors. They are used for the purpose of discrediting people. Editorial policy may lean towards a certain political option, but if such media formats are broadcast using slanted video and audio editing, with information without evidence proving its veracity, or from irrelevant sources, then we are talking about propaganda that not only disturbs the public, but it is contrary to media regulations and journalistic codes.</p> <p>The content broadcast on <i>Informer TV</i> on 9 and 10 December 2024 was contrary to the Law on Electronic Media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 61, paragraph 1 - <i>In relation to its programme content and in accordance with its programme concept, the media service provider shall:</i> <i>provide free, true, objective, complete and timely information;</i> • Article 70, paragraph 1 — <i>Media services shall be provided in a manner that respects human rights and especially personal dignity.</i> <p>and</p> <p>the Rulebook on the Protection of Human Rights in the Area of Media Service Provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 5, paragraph 1 - <i>The media service provider shall ensure the truthfulness and completeness of information, as well as the veracity and completeness of the ideas and opinions</i>

it broadcasts, especially in the news and current affairs programmes with due care corresponding to circumstances and in accordance with the rules of the journalistic profession.

- **Article 5, paragraph 2** — *The media service provider shall provide information to media service users based on facts obtained from a number of different sources, as well as provide a variety of views, opinions and issues discussed in the public within its news and current affairs programme.*
- **Article 7, paragraph 1** - *When providing information to the public, the media service provider shall ensure objectivity in its information provision that is appropriate to the nature of the information, the area of social life to which it relates and the nature of the programme content in which the information is broadcast, with the highest degree of objectivity required when providing information about the issues referred to in the Article 6, paragraph 1 of this Rulebook.*
- **Article 7, paragraph 3** - *Within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article, the media service provider shall in particular separate factual reporting clearly from opinions or comments, ensure that a personal belief of the editor or journalist does not have a discriminatory impact on the selection of the topic and the manner of its presentation, not broadcast comments of an offensive nature, and shall refrain from manipulating statements, communications, photographs and other content in order to change their basic meaning*
- **Article 8, paragraph 1** - *If information in connection with which a particular person has a justified interest in making a statement is aired in the programme, and especially if allegations of incompetence, immoral or unlawful actions are presented or a dispute involving a conflict of opinions or views, the media service provider shall provide an opportunity for such person to respond to the released information, or participate in the discussion in an equal manner.*
- **Article 8, paragraph 2** - *Within the meaning of paragraph 1 of this article, it is not permitted in particular to broadcast unilateral attacks on a person or conduct prolonged or repeated campaigns in connection with a particular person without relevant new data that would justify prolonged or repeated reporting on the same person, event or phenomenon.*
- **Article 13, paragraph 1** — *If the media service provider uses a video or photograph of a particular person, event or phenomenon when broadcasting certain information, it shall:*

l) ensure that the video or photograph is consistent, in terms of its nature and content, with the information being broadcast;

- **Article 26, paragraph 1** — *The media service provider shall respect the personal dignity (honour, reputation or respect) and the right to authenticity of the person to whom the information broadcast relates.*

I propose the initiation of the examination procedure.

Monitoring and Analysis Service of the REM