



REGULATORY
AUTHORITY FOR
ELECTRONIC
MEDIA

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Number: 488/2025/5

Date: 08/07/2025

Belgrade

Report of the Monitoring and Analysis Service

Procedure upon complaint from XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

MSP: SREMSKA TELEVIZIJA DOO., Zlatka Šnajdera 2, Šid.

Complaint: 08/04/2025

Order to rectify the complaint: 24/04/2025

Complaint rectified: 06/05/2025

Recording: 21/05/2025

Subject of monitoring: News and current affairs programme of Sremska televizija, Novosti programme, 06/02/2025

Short description: Allegations of illegal actions of an Orthodox church priest in Šid

Report:

In the headlines of the programme, as the first piece of news: "And how the headlines for tonight's edition: Sremska is presenting the series "Moral downfall of a Šid priest and the machinations he has been conducting for years". The headlines continued with a statement from an unnamed citizen on the subject "how they became tycoons" lasting 25 seconds.

The announcement of the insert itself: *"Has Šid got to the point where debauchery and immorality have taken over the town and how did it happen? In the coming days, we will be covering the moral downfall of a Šid priest and the machinations he has been conducting for years. First, we will hear what the citizens of Šid think about this. (Off-screen voice: Fast cars, immoral behaviour, misconduct. One might think these were the actions of tycoons and criminals, but those who engage in such activities can be found in the ranks of the Church. A Šid priest exemplifies this every day, citizens say.)* A street survey in which several citizens expressed general dissatisfaction with the Church and the clergy without reference to any specific individuals (*A priest drives luxury car, where did he get the money.*) The technical service would like to highlight the fact that the aforementioned street survey was evidently recorded on some previous occasion, considering that all respondents were wearing summer clothing and that the insert was broadcast in the month of February.

Next, in the insert general views were presented on how a member of the clergy should behave, and that he should be a role model for the congregation, concluding that *the same could not be said of a Šid priest*. And it was announced that "this case" would be covered further, even though it was actually not apparent at all what the case consisted of, or to whom

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and what exactly the charges referred. The broadcasting of the aforementioned content was observed once more during the day in question.

In the submitted video for the day in question, another insert on the same subject matter was broadcast, also in the Novosti programme. In the programme headlines, it was announced with the text "Who stole the property of Orthodox churches in Šid".

Announcement of the insert: *Who stole the property of Orthodox churches in Šid? Sremska has come into possession of multiple letters sent to the Eparchy of Srem, in which chairs of church councils request that it be determined who had abused his office and defrauded the church of millions* (a 2m30s insert followed). In the insert, a letter from the chairs of church councils was aired, in which they addressed the Eparchy of Srem requesting that action be taken regarding financial misconduct mentioned in the letter. Broadcasting of the aforementioned content was observed on three more occasions.

In total, in the recording submitted by Sremska TV, it was noted that in the programme of that television, a total of two inserts broadcast a total of six times (one of them twice and the other one four times) related to the content in the complaint, in the Novosti programme. The programme announced that the coverage of the issue would continue in the days to come.

Although in the examined material no one was mentioned by name and surname, the technical service deems that the complainant R. M. was made recognisable because, on the website of Sremska TV, a TV insert was released, where "a letter from Šid priests" was read in which he was identified by name and surname, along with other allegations of illegal enrichment (*It is an open secret that many could envy the Mišić family for their wealth.*) The report from the Sremska TV website also included part of the survey of citizens which had also been aired in the television programme.

The content in question unequivocally presents information regarding which a particular person has a justified interest in responding because it relates to allegations of immoral and unlawful conduct, which means that in terms of the **Rulebook on the Protection of Human Rights in the Area of Media Service Provision**, the MSP is required to provide an opportunity for such person to respond to the released information, or participate in the discussion in an equal manner, which was not done (Article 8, Paragraph 1 - Hear the Other Side rule: 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.).

Conclusion: The content is inconsistent with Article 8, Paragraph 1 of the **Rulebook on the Protection of Human Rights in the Area of Media Service Provision**.

Monitoring and Analysis Service