

25.06.2003 At its meeting held on 25th of June 2003, out of four cases, Press Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina had adopted adjudications regarding three complaints on texts published in print media, while fourth case was returned to Secretariat for additional explanations and mediation attempts.

Complaints that were adjudicated by Press Council are following:

1. Complaint of Mr. Mile Arsenic, Director of Mlijekoprodukt d.o.o. Kozarska Dubica, regarding article published on 14th of April 2003. in daily "Dnevni avaz" under the title «Two Tons of Powder Milk Confiscated». Complaint referred to publishing of photo of the Mlijekoprodukt product together with text on Ukrainian milk confiscated with antibiotic chloramfenicol. Even though publication in question published denial sent by Mlijekoprodukt, Press Council believes that by publishing of initial article severe damage was caused to the company. "Dnevni avaz" was suggested to send and publish an apology due to the possible damage caused by the article.

2. Complaint by Mr. Nijaz Mesihovic, Professor at the Faculty of Economics in Sarajevo regarding text published on 17th of May 2003. in "Dnevni avaz" under the title "Lagumdžija and Grabovac Got Lowest Grades". Complaint referred to results of the survey by Students Association of Sarajevo University, where among other results is contained an allegation about the complainant's alleged pressure on students to purchase reference books written by him. Having in mind that publication in question did not publish reaction by Mr. Mesihovic, in which was denied any allegation on blackmail of students or obligatory purchase of books, Press Council had decided to uphold the complaint. Breach of the Article 7. (Right to Reply) of the Press Code was stated, due to decision of the publication not to present other side of the story.

3. Complaint of Ms. Safeta Ovcina, Director of BH Radio St. Louise, on article under the title "Disorder in St. Louis", published in column Reactions of the magazine "Ljiljan".

Press Council had accepted the complaint, stating breach of the Article 7. (Right to Reply) of the Press Code. Reason for adjudicating in this way is fact that by publishing of the article "Disorder in St. Louise" publication had given opportunity to Professor Ahmet Hajdarevic to present his view on media situation in this town, while, at the same time, it did not give an opportunity to Ms. Ovcina to reply in the same manner and present her position with regard to accusations from the text. Press Council believes that Ms. Ovcina should be given an opportunity to present her position by publishing of denial already sent to publication in question.

Fourth case was returned to Secretariat for additional information, while in the previous period,

Press Council had two cases successfully mediated.