

24.08.2006

Sarajevo, 30th of August 2006

PRESS COUNCIL MEETING

Sarajevo, 24th of August 2006

Adopted Annex to the Press Code and Recommendations for Media on Treating Gender Issues

Editors Reminded on the Press Code in Period of Pre-election Campaign

Four Cases Discussed

The Press Council of BiH held regular session on 24th of August 2006 in Sarajevo.

At the session were analysed and adopted Annex to the Press Code and Recommendations for Media on Treating Gender Issues and Usage of Gender Sensitive Language in BiH Media, proposed at the June conference in Neum and finalised during July and August in co-operation with the Association "BH Journalists", Gender centres in BiH and the Association Q.

"Editors and editorial staff of print and electronic media in BiH shall, via editorial policy, make effort to assure respect of equality based on **gender, sex, sex identity, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation**", is part of the Recommendations of the Press Council and the Association "BH Journalists".

Baring in mind forthcoming General Elections in BiH, the Press Council of BiH reminds journalists and editors of print media on provisions of the Press Code that should be respected in this period- Article 2 *Editorial Responsibility*, Article 3 *Incitement*, Article 4 *Discrimination*, Article 5

Accuracy and Fair Reporting

, Article 7

Opportunity to Reply

, Article 9

Privacy

and Article 15

Public Interest

. Highlighting extremely important role of media in presenting political subjects and their programs, members of the Press Council have agreed that fair, balanced and unbiased

reporting is very significant for citizens of BiH in this period.

The Press Council has discussed four complaints of public on print media reporting, while two cases were resolved by mediation - complaint of Mr Safet Orucevic on the article "The Higher Up, the Greater the Fall" published in 44th issue of magazine "Nova Sloboda" and complaint of Ms Slobodanka Desancic-Siljkovic on the article "Borders of Crime" published on 9th of August 2006 in daily "Oslobodjenje".

Cases discussed at the Press Council meeting:

- *Complaint of Mr Sulejman Dedic on articles "Nine Months Abused by Paedophile from Dobrinja" and "Frightened by Revenge, Avoids Going Out", and for non-publishing of the public apology of person who accused Mr Dedic for abuse.*

Complaint not upheld. Publication in question published Mr Dedic's denial in the article "Due to False Accusations Sent to Solitary Cell" and headline "After Accusations for Sexual Abuse, Ibranovic Apologised to Dedic", thus enabling opportunity to reply for the other party in dispute.

- *Complaint of Mr Dragan Petrovic on photos of deceased persons in a traffic accident published with the article "Zijad Halilovic Died in Van, Mehmed Halilovic in 'Mercedes'".*

Complaint upheld - breached Article 9 of the Press Code. The Press Council emphasised that publishing of photos from the scene of accident, publishing names of minor victims of violence or victims of sexual abuse, does not characterise professional journalistic reporting.

- *Complaint of Mr Semsudin Ajanovic on the article "We Live in Fear and Under the Stress" published in column "Readers' Letters" of magazine "Nasa rijec" from Zenica.*

Complaint is not upheld. Publication in question published additional article under the title "Large Number of Complaints by Citizens of Zenica", thus confirming statement of Mr Ajanovic that his neighbours' complaints regarding disrespect of house rules were not grounded.

- *Complaint of Mr Alija Behram, Director of RTV Mostar, on the article "Mistakes of A Teacher Nationalist", published in "Nova Sloboda".*

Complaint upheld. Breached Article 2 of the Press Code - Editorial Responsibility and Article 14 Copyright and Authors' Rights since article by Mr Behram was published without his consent or any editorial explanation.