



**MISSION PERMANENTE DE SERBIE
AUPRES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

26, Avenue de la Forêt Noire
67000 STRASBOURG
Tél : 03 90 22 15 88

No. 207-3/2019

Strasbourg, 24 May 2019

Dear Mr Gruden,

With reference to the alert published on the Platform for the Safety of Journalists and Protection of Journalism of the Council of Europe on 19 March 2019, concerning the violent entry by anti-government protesters into the public TV building, I would like to convey the information provided by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia:

On 16 March 2019 around 15 protesters, together with the member of the Parliament Boško Obradović, violently entered the building of the Radio Television Serbia, demanding to speak at the live programme. Afterwards, other 150 protesters, among them other leaders of opposition parties and movements, as well as the organizers of the protests, entered the building.

During this incident protesters pushed the security officers of the Television and damaged its property.

Police officers prevented the leaders of the opposition parties and movements, Boško Obradović and Dragan Đilas, in an attempt to violently enter the studio from which the programme was broadcasted.

After the protesters had ignored the warning of the police and its call to leave the premises of the Television, the police officers intervened and all the protesters were safely taken out from the building, in spite of their active and passive resistance. During the intervention, about 550 protesters in front of the building were throwing objects at the building and were trying to enter it.

Criminal charges have been filed against three persons for the act of attack on the police officers during their intervention.

Three other persons have been detained and brought to the competent prosecutor's office for the act of violent behaviour during the entry at the Television building, during which one person held a chainsaw at his hands.

For a rude, insolent and ruthless behaviour six persons were sentenced to 30 days of imprisonment, and a request for misdemeanor proceedings was filed against three persons for the same delict.

A report on the participation of one of the organizers of the protest at the violent entry at the Radio Television of Serbia was sent to the competent prosecutor's office.

A criminal complaint has been filed against an unknown person for the act of destruction and damage of property.

Yours sincerely,


Aleksandra Đurović
Ambassador

Mr Matjaž Gruden
Director of the
Directorate of Democratic Participation
S t r a s b o u r g