



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

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No. 178/2020

Strasbourg, 5 May 2020

Dear Mr Gruden,

In response to the Alert published on the Platform for the Safety of Journalists and Protection of Journalism of the Council of Europe on 1 April 2020, concerning the case of journalist Ana Lalić, I would like to convey the following information received from the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia:

On 1 April 2020 the Ministry of the Interior received a written notification of the Vojvodina Clinical Center that an article titled "Vojvodina Clinical Center Poised to Collapse: Nurses Without Protective Gear" by journalist Ana Hegediš, alias Ana Lalić, had been published on the "Nova" Portal. After having scrutinized the content of the article, the competent public prosecutor qualified this as a criminal act of "causing panic and unrest".

On the same day, on an Order of the Basic Court in Novi Sad, police searched her apartment and temporarily seized a laptop and two mobile phones.

On 2 April 2020, with a previously obtained written approval of the competent public prosecutor, Ms Lalić was detained up to 48 hours for an interrogation relating to the above mentioned suspected criminal act. On the same day a criminal charge was sent to the competent public prosecutor.

On 2 April 2020 Ms Lalić was interrogated by the competent public prosecutor and then released. The temporarily seized devices were returned to her lawyer.

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