



SOLIDARITY FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL



REPORT
ON THE ATTACKS ON
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS
IN SERBIA FOR 2022

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CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. MOST FREQUENTLY THREATENED RIGHTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS	7
3. SELECTED ATTACKS	8
3.1. Attacks on the freedom of assembly of environmental activists	8
3.2. Unfounded lawsuits against the activists	14
3.3. Attacks against activists working on dealing with the past	16
3.4. Attacks on the freedom of assembly of LGBT activists	20
4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	25
ANNEX I: The most important attacks 2020 – 2022	27
ANNEX II: List of the attacks	30

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Places of attack on human rights defenders in 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

On November 7, 2020, the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights – YUCOM launched the first interactive [map](#) of the attacks and pressures on human rights defenders in Serbia. For three years, obtained data on increasingly worse position of activists were included in relevant documents of international institutions such as the resolutions of the European Parliament, progress report of the European Commission for Serbia, the Joint Declaration of the Joint Consultative Committee of Civil Society between the EU and Serbia, and others. The third year of data collection has once again confirmed the negative trends regarding the position of human rights activists. Attacks have been more and more often recorded outside of Belgrade, which confirms the assumption that in previous years the public was not aware of a large number of incidents that occurred in the local communities due to the lack of media coverage from the field.

The increasing public awareness of how serious those issues are, is primarily the result of networking of local organizations and individuals who, with joint forces, resisted to a greater extent intense attacks of the state and who, using social networks, broke through the media blackout. The smaller number of attacks (43) which has been re-

corded this year on the Map of Incidents is a consequence of the methodology which, for practical reasons, records group attacks as individual cases. As YUCOM's team assessed according to the obtained data, the number of citizens, either activists or bystanders, whose lives were affected by these attacks reaches at least 12,000.

Looking through the statistical review available on the map, among other details, the public can gain insight into the data on victim's gender and residence, or whether directly the person or his/her colleague or a family member suffered the repression. Data on the attacker, type of the attack and type of threatened right are also available. Based on all data obtained so far, it can be concluded that during 2022 the most threatened were the so-called umbrella rights, freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of assembly. The report aims to provide local and international stakeholders simple access to the current situation and information on the positions of the human rights defenders in Serbia, which have not been available so far on similar regional or international maps.



Police Cordon on Šodroš, Photo:
Aleksandar Jovanović

Photo: Aleksandar Jovanović
mojnovisad.com

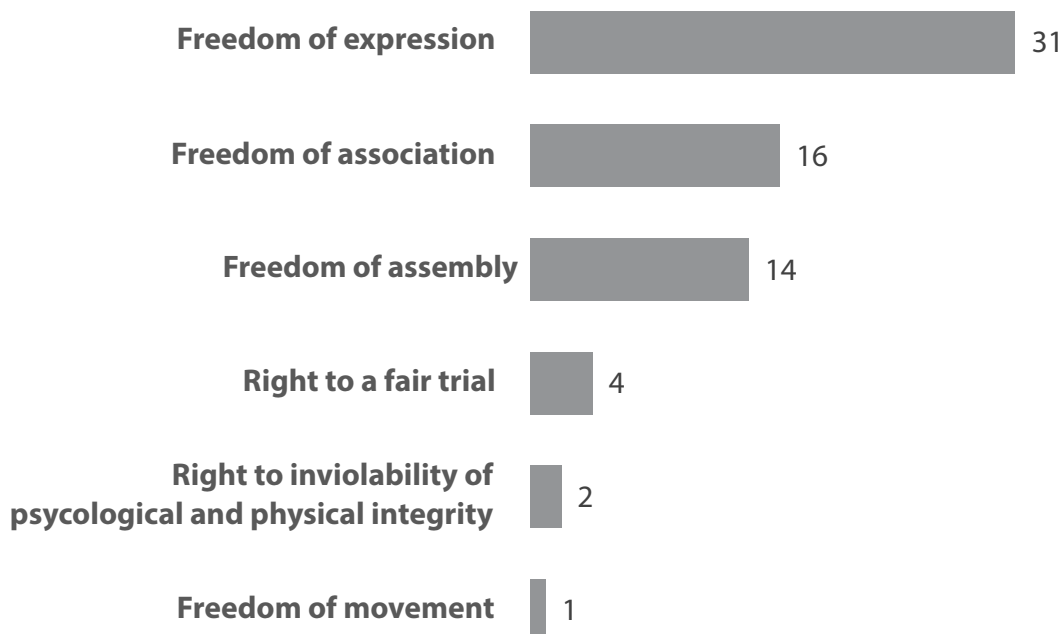
2. MOST FREQUENTLY THREATENED RIGHTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

As in previous reports on attacks on human rights defenders, three basic human rights that were violated the most in 2022 are singled out, namely three freedoms – freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of assembly. The recurrence of these rights as the most threatened ones is not surprising, since those rights are particularly related to activism – if you want to send a message to the general public, you need to join forces with allies who share the same values so that message can be heard, to gather in order to make the number of supporters of the idea and the message itself visible, and all this would not be possible without the right to freely express your opinion. This is precisely why

the pressures on these three freedoms are the most intense.

Initiating SLAPP proceedings and negative media campaigns, freedom of expression is attacked, freedom of association through unfounded inspections and various types of legal proceedings, while actions or inaction of the police in cases of protests threaten to freedom of assembly. Public officials frequently give statements that openly insult activists and organizations actively affecting all three freedoms and it usually precede attacks and pressures, whether they come from state authorities, individuals or pro-state media.

TYPE OF THREATENED RIGHT



3. SELECTED ATTACKS

3.1. Attacks on the freedom of assembly of environmental activists

10 years ago citizens would be resigned if the topic on environmental pollution was introduced. Eventhough serious pollution issues have been present in Serbia for decades, mass civil protests have been organized recently. Due to major global changes and accumulated local issues, environmental issues are becoming more important. In 2022, organizations, informal groups and activists were exposed to physical attacks, excessive use of force, detention, custodial torture, misdemeanor proceedings and defamation through social networks.

Among the most important incidents are the attacks and pressures related to the mining of Starica mountain above the city of Majdanpek. On June 5, 2022, Chinese company "Zidjin Mining Group", the owner of the mining and smelting basin "Bor", started [mining](#) it, without previous announcement. According to [company's statements](#), the mining is performed as an order of the inspection, in order to prevent the possible crash of part of the mountain. Activists of the informal group [Ne Dam Nu Dau](#), who already on June 15, formed a camp on the Starica mountain in order to prevent mining, have stated that, on several occasions, they were the target of threats and physical attacks by employees of company "Zidjin Mining Group" and their security forces.

Activist Irena Barbulović stated that on August 20, 2022, members of the company's security forces [dismantled](#) the camp and removed the activists from the site. According to the activist Mladen Vid-

ić, during a visit to the mountain on September 5, accompanied by journalists, they had been physically [attacked](#) by employees of the company, who after the police arrived, left the scene. In [its statement](#), the police department in Bor denied that a physical conflict had occurred at that time. Another [attack](#) occurred on September 9, when, according to activist Nenad Miladinović, employees in Zijin beat them with their hands and feet. On that occasion, Zijin also [stated](#) that since the beginning of mining on June 5, aggressive NGO activists have been constantly disturbing employees, provoking incidents, destroying equipment, and intimidating workers, which resulted with the estimated financial loss at around \$600,000 so far.

The next incident occurred on September 14, when, according to activist Petar Đurić, employees in Zijin [threatened](#) to blow up the mountain, and security forcec ordered everyone from the camp to evacuate. In its second [press release](#), Zijin stated that on September 25, a group of campers injured an employee and burnt a drill, worth 520,000 euros.

Since September 26, 2022, several activists from the Starica mountain have received orders to appear as citizens at the police station of Majdanpek to provide them with statements regarding the alleged beating of employee of Zijin and burning the drill. The organizations Ne damo Nu Dau and the Environmental Movement [reported in public](#) that activists were subjected to psychological and physical torture, and several were detained for up to 30 days. The Platform of Three Freedoms stated in [its press release](#) that the detained persons were prevented from contacting their attorneys and family and demanded the Protector of Citizens to immediately reacte. In the statement of the Envi-

PHYSICAL ATTACKS

Threats/Acts of intimidation/Blackmail  17

Physical attack (Beating, Violence, Injuries)  6

Deprivation of liberty  6

ronmental Movement, alongside with demanding the dismissal of the head of the Police Department Bor, as well as all the policemen who participated in extorting statements, [photos](#) of the injuries of activist Dragan Dmitrović, were also published. Activist Nikola Dragošanić also went public with [allegations](#) that he suffered torture and police inspectors were slapping, punching and kneeling him in the ribs for five hours.

Several important incidents occurred when organizations and activists opposed to the construction of the project colloquially called Novi Sad on the Water. Activists gathered around the initiative [Šodroš survivor camp](#) in Novi Sad started protests at the

beginning of June 2022 after part of the trees had been cut down in order to start constructing the bridge, which is part of the disputed project.

They have been camping for several months and [blocked](#) the access to Šodroš, requesting that this green oasis, as a habitat for rare species of birds and plants, to be removed from the plans for constructing the bridge. Activists have claimed that Chinese company CRBC does not have all required permits to perform the work and demanded the work to be suspended, all documentation to be published, misdemeanor and criminal proceedings for illegally cut trees to be initiated and Šodroš to be formally protected.





Private security forces detain participant of the protest in front of Banovina building in Novi Sad

Photo: 021.rs

On July 21, 2022, before adopting the General Urban Plan (GUP) for Novi Sad, they and group of other organizations organized a [protest rally](#) in front of Banovina building in that city. More than 13,000 citizens' objections to the GUP draft, which should enable the implementation of the "Novi Sad on the Water" project and the destruction of the coast, including Šodroš, were rejected. When demonstrators tried to enter the session of the City Assembly of Novi Sad, [private security forces](#) and the police, using excessive force, interfered. The Ministry of the Internal Affairs [stated](#) that thanks to the effectiveness of the police, the demonstrators were prevented from entering the session and "causing chaos". President Vučić [commented](#) that the police were mild, and the mayor of Novi Sad, Miloš Vučević, said that the police "essentially did not use force" and that the demonstrators were ["vagabonds with nothing to do"](#). Due to the violence at the protest and the adoption of the GUP, a week later, a "Revolt against the mafia" [protest](#)

was held in front of the police station in Papa Pavla, when a referendum was requested in order to enable citizens to express their opinions on the General Urban Plan of the City of Novi Sad.

The Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Novi Sad [initiated](#) 14 proceedings for the criminal offenses of violent behavior and assault on an official person against the participants of the protest held on July 21. Criminal proceedings have not been initiated against members of the private security forces despite several criminal charges being filed. As informal groups of citizens and organizations [stated](#) that the goal of a large number of criminal and misdemeanor charges is to discourage and intimidate citizens in expressing their opinions and that it is a matter of political persecution and application of law and justice in a very selective manner.

On October 19, 2022, the police in Novi Sad used excessive force and [detained](#) at least 10 activists who have been camping and blocking access to Šodroš for several months. The activists were arrested when



The police detain the participants of the protest in Šodroš

Photo: Aleksandar Jovanović/mojnovisad.com

CRBC workers attempted to fence off the area where they will perform the work. During the intervention of the police, three activists were injured. According to the statements of one activist, the policeman who hit her several times refused to give her the identification number, and his colleague said that they didn't have numbers that day. Another activist [stat-ed](#) for N1 Television that a policeman inflicted visible injury on her face with a shield after she fell to the ground. The third activist showed visible injuries on his neck. According to the [Report](#), Three Freedoms under the Magnifying Glass, the ambulance declined their request to come and provide urgent medical care to injured persons, saying that activists had to address the police first. All detained activists were released in the evening.

One of the organizations actively engaged in defending Šodroš, [the Youth Student Action \(OSA\)](#) and its activist Brajan Brković were the targets of numerous attacks before. OSA activists were the subject of a smear campaign when on February

18, 2022 [in the statement](#) of student parliaments of the University of Novi Sad it was announced that OSA is responsible for the hate graffiti "Hang Serbs on the Willows, #Fight for yourself! OSA Novi Sad" near the Freedom Bridge in Novi Sad. Shortly after the graffiti appeared, on the same day the pro-government media reported on it and student parliaments of the Novi Sad University condemned it. OSA activists [believe](#) that a group close to the ruling Serbian Progressive Party, which participated in attacks on citizens gathered at environmental protests, is behind the attempt to attribute the authorship of hate graffiti to them.

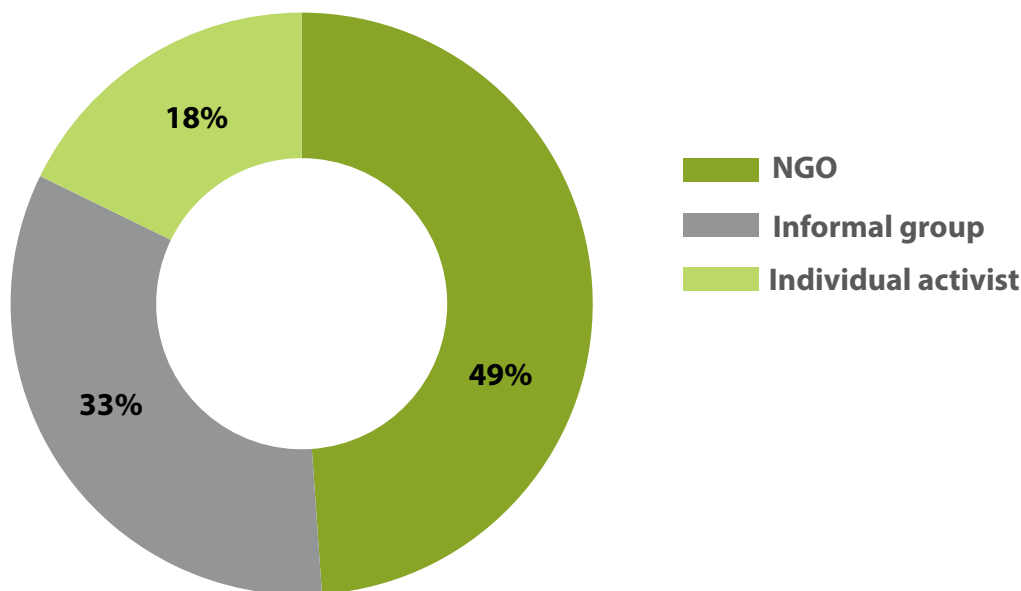
Activists of the Youth Student Action (OSA) were physically attacked on February 18, 2022, while they were trying to remove disputed graffiti, as well as on February 26, 2022 after "Yes to Bridge, But Elsewhere" [protest march](#). [Unknown persons](#) coming out from the gray Passat car and carrying metal bars, threatened the activists. But as the at-

tackers were surprised by the number of activists, they withdrew. Activists pointed out suspicions that unknown persons acted according to the orders of the ruling Serbian Progressive Party and the mayor of Novi Sad, Miloš Vučević.

During 2022, non-governmental organizations were most often the victims, but an increasing number

of attacks were directed at informal groups and individuals. The largest informal group consists of citizens involved in local protests. Attacks on the organizers and participants of environmental protests continued in 2022. The police filed requests to initiate misdemeanor proceedings against more than 200 citizens who had participated in the blockades starting from November 27, 2021. In most cases,

VICTIMS OF THE PRESSURES AND ATTACKS

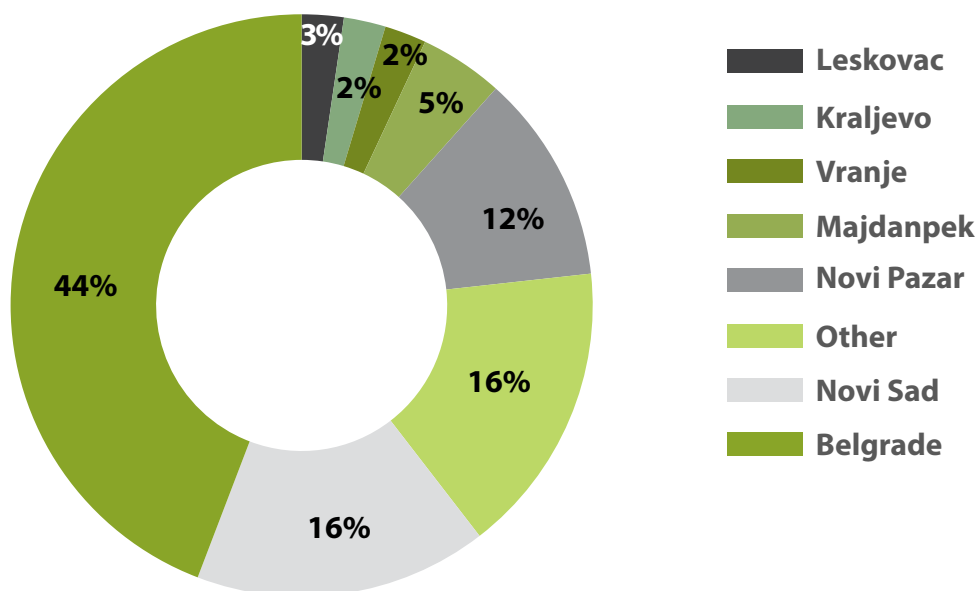


citizens have been charged with organizing public gatherings without registering them first, often due to publishing posts on social networks and calling for protests. After the initial success of the first two blockades demanding the Law on Referendum and People’s Initiative and the Law on Expropriation to be withdrawn, they continued with demands related to the ban on the exploitation of Lithium in the Jadar river valley. Misdemeanor courts often initiated proceedings, even though they were supposed to reject police requests. Namely, the Law on Public Assembly clearly defines an organizer as someone who invites, prepares and organizes a gathering, while the defendants in those police requests were often charged solely with inviting, which is not even prescribed as a separate offense. This police practice of targeting citizens who share invitations on social networks or those who are more active in assemblies, has continued in the manner to limit not only freedom of assembly, but also freedom of expression. The threatened penalty of 150,000 RSD (Serbian Dinars) can be

replaced by a penalty of 60 days in prison in case it has not been paid within the stipulated deadline.

Civil society organizations, including the Lawyers’ Committee for Human Rights – YUCOM, as well as various local attorneys at law throughout Serbia have offered legal aid to citizens, as well as to represent them before the courts. Over 340 citizens have been provided with legal aid and support in paying mandated fines. Proceedings have been conducted in Belgrade, Pančevo, Aranđelovac, Novi Pazar and other cities throughout Serbia. During 2022, a higher percentage of incidents outside of Belgrade was noticed comparing to the previous two years. However, the chart does not include all 50 cities and municipalities where misdemeanor orders were issued and misdemeanor proceedings were initiated against participants in ecological blockades, because in those cases as the place of residence of the victim there were registered only the places of organizer’s protests.

PLACE OF RESIDENCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE ATTACKS



In the case of Srđan Vukša, an activist from Kovin and a participant in the environmental blockades, whom YUCOM's attorneys at law represented before the court, [the first final judgment of acquittal](#) was reached, which the Misdemeanor Appellate Court also confirmed. The Misdemeanor Appellate Court confirmed the conclusion of the lower court that inviting citizens to a protest via social networks is not enough for someone to be considered as an organizer, but that it is necessary three conditions to be cumulatively fulfilled: inviting, preparing and organizing. Other final judgements of acquittal followed. In most cases, the police filed requests to initiate misdemeanor proceedings against citizens just because they had shared posts calling for a protest, which is not even prescribed as a misdemeanor.

Several thousand citizens who participated in the blockades received misdemeanor orders for walking on the road in over 50 municipalities and cities in Serbia based on the Law on Road Traffic Safety. A large number of citizens submitted requests for a court decision and part of the citizens have already received [acquittals](#) due to the fact that they were identified through video recording illegally conducted by the police.

Residents of Rekovac who organized blockades in order to prevent the exploitation of Lithium were

threaten to be sued and received warning from the company "Balkan Research LCC Belgrade – New Belgrade" for the alleged damage of 140,000 euros caused by the road blockade. In the [warnings](#) from June 2022, it is stated that the damage arose as this company was forced to pay penalties due to delays in performing work for companies which it rented equipment and workers from.

Three unknown perpetrators [beat](#) Eco Guard activist Miroslav Perović at the entrance of his building in Belgrade, and afterwards he was transferred to the VMA for emergency health care. Perović is one of the activists fighting against the work of the stone quarry in Kosjerić and who has already received threats related to this issue. The police took Perović's statement regarding the attack. The residents of Gradina have been organizing barricades for months to prevent the work of the quarry, identified as a danger to the water source and the environment. Don't Let Belgrade D(r)own reacted to the beating of Perović with [a press release](#) demanding from the authorities to stop the violence against the citizens of Gradina and Kosjerić.

3.2. Unfounded lawsuits against the activists

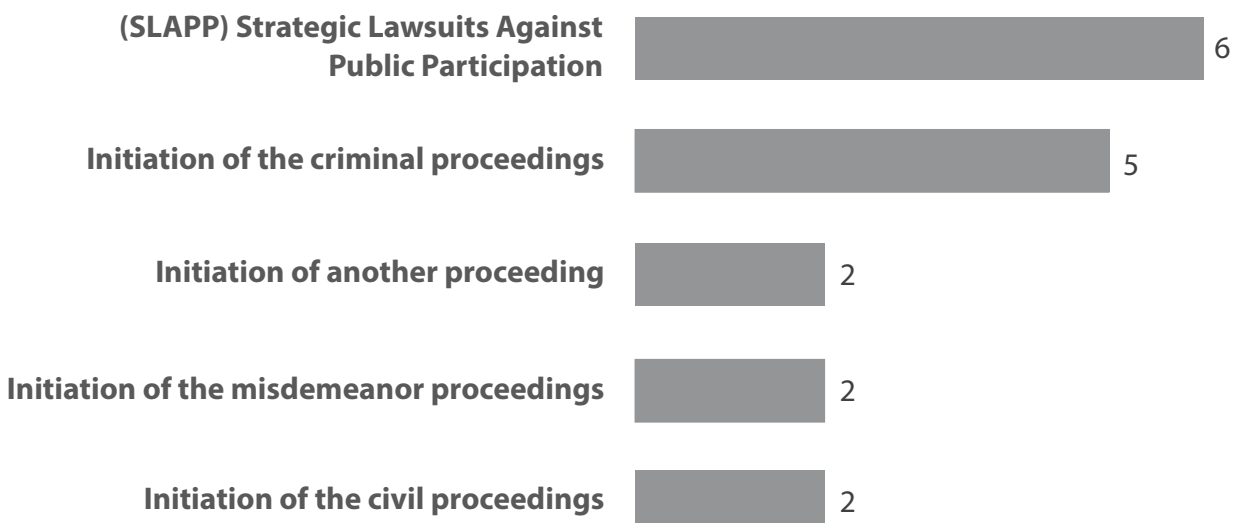
Strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP) are a relatively new phenomenon in our judicial practice but they have already become an increasingly serious problem. It is about lawsuits for damages due to damage to honor and reputation, which represent a serious pressure for the survival of independent media, organizations and activists. The essence of the request is not for it to be adopted, but to induce the defendant party to mobilize its financial and human resources to defend against the request and intimidate activists with high monetary damages and fines. Regardless of the final outcome, this kind of court proceedings potentially lead to self-censorship and reduce the ability of organizations and activists to adequately respond to urgent social problems. Often using intermediaries close to the authorities, the authoritarian state can thus slowly exclude independent media, organizations and activists from the public discourse without a need to implement more repressive measures.

In our practice, SLAPPs also appear as private criminal lawsuits for insult, damage to business reputation and creditworthiness, as well as lawsuits for damages to the reputation and trademark of legal entities. Mis-

demeanor proceedings related to the Law on Public Assembly, as well as criminal proceedings, are often initiated with the same aim. The fact that Serbia was nominated among three leading SLAPP countries in Europe at [the 2022 European Anti-SLAPP Conference](#) in Strasbourg also emphasizes how serious the problem is and to what extent it goes. The most common target of SLAPP lawsuits was the independent media. As a rule, claims seek amounts of millions. The map of incidents does not include all SLAPP proceedings and other attacks and pressures against journalists, but only situations when journalists found themselves in the role of human rights defenders.

The result of [a series](#) of SLAPP lawsuits against activists in Novi Pazar from 2021 are two convictions against Aladin Paučinac for the criminal offense of insult, which the High Court in the city confirmed. In addition, before the Basic Court in Novi Pazar, the civil proceedings for violation of honor and reputation against Dr. Faruk Pljakić were concluded, and the defendant has been obliged to pay a sum of money in the name of damages. Against these verdicts, during 2022, the attorneys at law of the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights – YUCOM, who represent Paučinac and Pljakić, filed three constitutional appeals, complaining about the violation of freedom of expression and the right to a fair trial. Other proceedings against ac-

LEGAL ACTIONS CHARACTERIZED AS ATTACKS OR PRESSURES IN 2022



tivists from Novi Pazar, whom YUCOM's attorneys at law represent, are still ongoing.

The director of the hospital, a public official and a member of the Serbian Progressive Party, filed over 30 lawsuits for defamation of honor and reputation against activists, citizens and doctors, who publicly announced and protested as they were dissatisfied with the epidemiological situation and with the way how the director manages the hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic. The case of Aladin Paučinac has shown the practice of simultaneously initiating different types of proceedings against the same person, and in addition to private criminal lawsuits for insult, civil lawsuits were filed against Paučinac for damages due to injury to honor and reputation, together with proceedings, initiated for holding public gatherings without registering them first. In addition to several verdicts against Paučinac, the court also passed a decision on replacing the unpaid fine for the criminal offense of insult with a prison sentence of 50 days.

[The lawsuit](#) of Miodrag Andrić, the Head of the Police Department in Šabac, has joined the lawsuits which Millennium Team filed against the Don't Let Belgrade D(r)own Movement. On November 27, 2021, Antić ordered the police to withdraw from

the bridge in Šabac, afterwards peacefully gathered citizens were attacked by a bulldozer and a group of masked attackers. Veselinović was sued in a lawsuit for damages due to injury to honor and reputation because he was recording a police officer while he was ordering the police to withdraw. As to remind, in two [lawsuits](#) Millennium Team requested compensation for material damages in the amount of 12 million RSD (Serbian Dinars) from the Don't Let Belgrade D(r)own Movement because the movement criticized the work of this company in several public statements and made allegations about the company's relations with the high state officials.

The owners of the company Galens, Sanja and Nebojša Petrić, have initiated a number of criminal and civil proceedings against Dragana Arsić from the Movement "Defend the forests of Fruška gora (LDFFG)" and Nikola Arežina from the association "Fruškač", for the criminal offense of damaging of business reputation and creditworthiness, for violations of honor and reputation, for compensation for material damage and for disturbing the possession. The total value of the lawsuits in civil proceedings is around 2,000,000 RSD (Serbian Dinars), while the criminal offense is punishable by up to one year in prison. These associations



Dragana Arsić in front of the courtroom

Photo: 021.rs

organized protest walks with the aim of drawing public attention to the devastation of the Fruška gora National Park, in which the Petrić couple has been allegedly involved. In [the press release](#) which Movement “Defend the forests of Fruška gora (LD-FFG)” and the association “Fruškać” sent to media, it is stated that it is an “attempt to exert pressure and intimidate these organizations, but also to discourage other citizens and associations and cover up irregularities in the territory of the protected area of the Fruška gora National Park – Potes Kesten, where the Petrić family repeatedly violated the law”. In one of the court proceedings, on May 17, 2022, [the public and journalists were excluded](#) after the plaintiff’s attorney at law alleged that one of the citizens had photographed her.

Part of the efforts at the level of the European Union and the Council of Europe in the fight against SLAPPs is to create a clear definition on what this term includes. In addition to the traditional procedures related to the violation of honor and reputation, misdemeanor and criminal procedures, which are often conducted with the same goal of exhausting organizations and activists, can have an even more serious effect. On October 28, 2022, Ljiljana Nešić, president of the organization “Women for Peace”, received order from the police to report to in order to collect information as the Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Leskovac had ordered it. In the police order, which Ljiljana Nešić responded to, there was no indication of a possible criminal act, but it was stated that when she comes she needs to bring evidence of the financing of the organization “Women for Peace”, as well as evidence of their mission. According to her knowledge, the file was submitted by the responsible person of the organization that received funds from the local budget as the local authorities decided, although that organization does not work according to the standards required for working with women victims of violence. Namely, the organization “Women for Peace” published that the financial resources from the City of Leskovac, intended for establishing an office to help victims of domestic violence, was allocated to an organization headed by a convicted abuser. After openly criticizing the actions of the local authorities in July, Ljiljana and her colleagues have received several [threats](#), insults and cyber attacks. In addition, several criminal charges were filed against the organization, which were dismissed as unfounded. The international organization Frontline Defenders reacted publishing [a press release](#).

In 2021, YUCOM’s attorneys at law took over to represent organizations, injured party in the Media Dossier case. In 2022, 6 organizations filed criminal charges against Daily “Serbian Telegraph” and unknown persons from the Administration for Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism. The First Basic Public Prosecutor’s Office and the Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Belgrade dismissed them all.

The First Basic Public Prosecutor’s Office in charge of the criminal offense disclosure of trade secrets had conducted preliminary investigations, interviewed the editor and journalists of Daily “Serbian Telegraph”, and concluded that there was no material element of the criminal offense, i.e. causing or the possibility of causing material damage, since it has been related to non-profit associations. It is a legal gap which disables civil society organizations to enjoy criminal-legal protection in this respect. It is interesting that during the proceedings the Administration for Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism declared that the disputed data are not a secret, while the civil society organization claimed the opposite.

Comparing to the actions of the First Basic Public Prosecutor’s Office in Belgrade, the response of the Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Belgrade regarding the file for a criminal offense from Art. 98 of the Law on Personal Data Protection does not contain an explanation, nor an instruction on the legal remedy, since this prosecutor’s office concluded that the organizations that filed the criminal charges do not have the status of injured parties.

3.3. Attacks against activists working on dealing with the past

Organizations and activists whose field of work is dealing with the past are the most frequent targets of attacks and pressure on human rights defenders in Serbia. Whether the targets were activists who were labeled “traitors and mercenaries” in the 90s or young people who have relatively recently started working in this field, their cases often have strategic importance for human rights. In 2022, activists were exposed to physical attacks,



Inspecting the premises of the festival “Mirdita, good day!” after a report of a planted bomb

Photo: N1

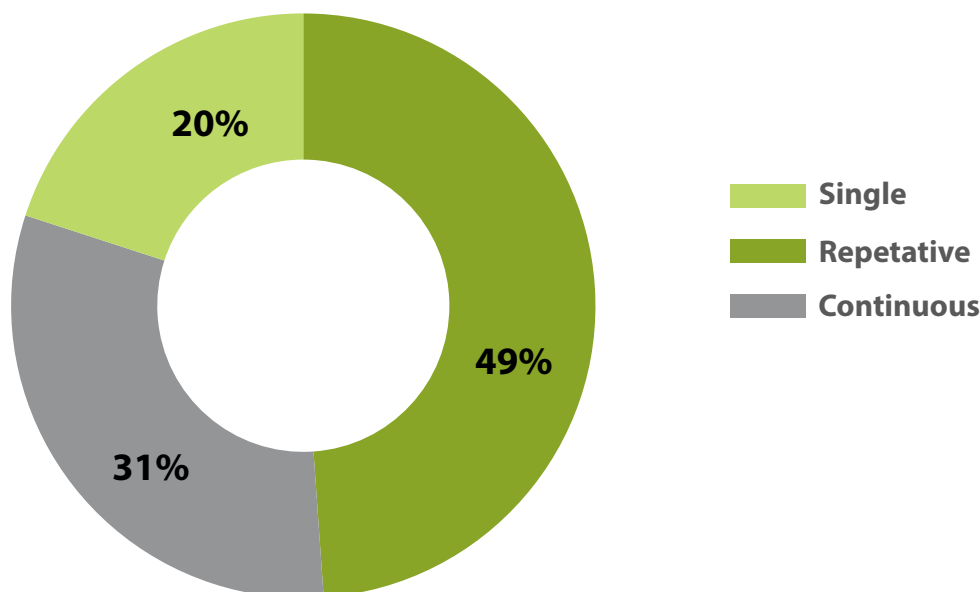
threats, misdemeanor proceedings, defamation, and property damage.

During the traditional festival of cultural exchange between Kosovo and Serbia “Mirdita, good day!” attacks and pressures are common aiming to ban or stop the festival. The opening of the festival “Mirdita, good day!” at the Center for Cultural Decontamination was briefly interrupted on May 25, 2022, after [a report](#) of a planted bomb. After the premises of the Center had been inspected, the police determined that this was a false alarm and the organizers could continue with the event. A small group of citizens gathered in front of the Center to protest against the festival. On May 24, 2022, the coalition “Nada”, consisting of two political parties – DSS and POKS, demanded a ban on the festival, stating that it is harmful for the interest of Serbia and that it promotes the independence of Kosovo. As they state: “At this festival, in a perfidious and insidious way, under the veil of cultural events in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, the secession of so-called Kosovo was promoted, undermining our constitutional and legal order.” The announcement of the coalition “Nada” was accompanied by the performance “Mirdita, good night”. Youth members of political party DSS organized it in front of the premises of the Center for Cultural Decontamination.

During 2022, as in the previous period, the data showed that most attacks are repetitive or take place continuously. A suitable indicator of this bad practice is a non-governmental organization “Women in Black”, that has been performing anti-war actions since the 90s, which is why they were among the first who had been labelled as domestic traitors and foreign mercenaries. In 2022, misdemeanor proceedings were initiated against “Women in Black” for organizing an anti-war rally, and their office was again the target of vandals attack. On February 26, 2022 “Women in Black” organized the rally [“Stop the war in Ukraine”](#) in Knez Mihajlova Street in Belgrade, on the occasion of the Russian Federation’s invasion on Ukraine, which began two days earlier. For this misdemeanor, a fine of up to 2 million RSD (Serbian Dinars) is threatened for “Women in Black” as a legal entity and up to 150 thousand RSD (Serbian Dinars) for Staša Zajović as a person in charge. A day earlier, the activist of “Women in Black” reported to the competent police station about organizing this action. The legal deadline for reporting a public gathering is five days before the day of the event, except when it is a spontaneous gathering, which was the case here.

On July 12, 2022, the organization “Women in Black” was the target of an attack by a person who presented himself as a postman and who poured

CONTINUITY OF PRESSURES/ATTACKS



red paint over their premises. This is the third attack on the premises of this organization since October 2021. In its Facebook [post](#) the organization “Women in Black” stated that the attack took place only one day after they commemorated the Genocide in Srebrenica and that none of the previous attacks have been prosecuted. They asserted that behind this attack, done by an unknown perpetrator, “the state institutions legitimize allowing and dosing violence against all those they see as political dissidents”. In the majority of attacks on the organization “Women in Black”, the police did not identify the perpetrators, but even in cases where they were known, they avoided criminal responsibility.

A large percentage of victims of attacks are women and women’s organizations, which is not sufficiently visible due to the option “not applicable”, which refers to situations in which attacks are directed at organizations, but not at certain female activists. After being detained for throwing eggs at a mural which glorified the convicted war criminal Ratko Mladić at the end of 2021, Aida Ćorović was again the target of [an attack](#) on January 3, 2022 in Belgrade.

Young men, who were guarding the controversial mural, attacked Ćorović, insulted her and poured

coca-cola on her, while filming the attack. Ćorović reported the attack, but she doesn’t expect anything to happen because she is convinced that President Aleksandar Vučić and the Minister of Internal Affairs Aleksandar Vulin are behind the attack. She accused these two of complicity, if something more serious happens to her. Ćorović stated that five days earlier she and the cameraman of the Dutch RTL had been doused with fanta soft drink.

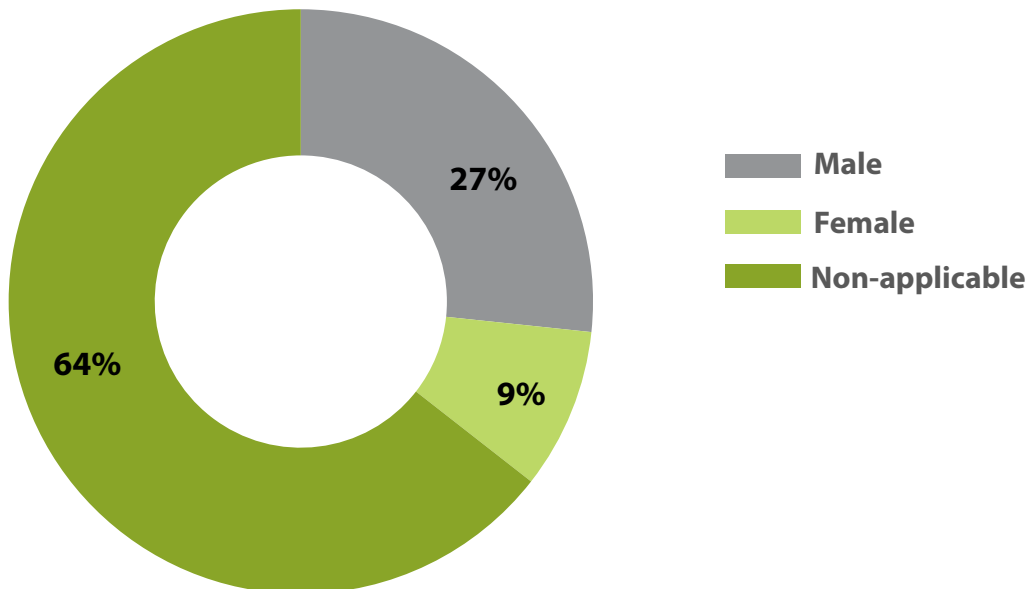
The target of the attack was also Nataša Kandić, the president of the Humanitarian Law Center (HLC). On August 18, 2022, Aleksandar Šapić, Mayor of Belgrade, [commented](#) at the City of Belgrade Assembly session that the Humanitarian Law Center filed the criminal complaint against the newly elected city councilor Svetozar Andrić, on suspicion of having committed war crimes. He stated that Nataša Kandić “accuses the Serbian people of genocide on all grounds”, that in her opinion “the Serbian people and the Serbian state are blamed for all the wars of the 1990s” and that she “insists Serbs to be declared as a genocidal nation”. According to the HLC, Svetozar Andrić participated in the establishment of [the Sušica camp](#) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where, according to the International Red Cross, [1617](#) persons of Bosniak nationality were killed.



“Stop the war in Ukraine” protest

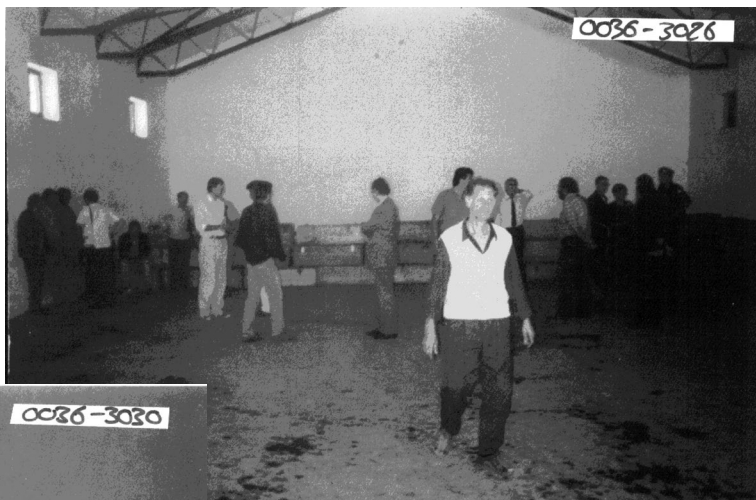
Photo: Women in Black

GENDER OF THE TARGETS OF THE ATTACKS



The interior of the Sušica camp, in whose establishment Svetozar Andrić allegedly participated

Photo: ICTY evidence



3.4. Attacks on the freedom of assembly of LGBT activists

The state of the rights of the LGBT community best demonstrates how fragile the progress in the field of human rights can be. Despite numerous shortcomings in legislation and practice, it seemed that at least the freedom of assembly had been irreversibly won, and that LGBT citizens were only one step away from realizing other human rights. Due to President's unilateral and arbitrary [decision](#), they were denied the exercise of numerous rights from a registered same-sex union, and afterwards the right to freely gather and emphasize to the citizens the need to improve their position. Attacks on LGBT activists included physical attacks, threats, initiation of misdemeanor and criminal proceedings and damage to property.

In 2019, Belgrade was assigned to organize [EuroPride 2022](#), in competition with Barcelona, Lisbon and Dublin. Prime Minister Ana Brnabić also gave

full [support](#) to the candidacy. However, the preparations and organization of EuroPride 2022 were accompanied by an atmosphere of threats and attacks. First, on August 12, 2022, during [a sermon](#), Bishop Nikamor of Banat uttered a series of insults against the ethnic origin and sexual orientation of Prime Minister Ana Brnabić. Nikamor said that he swears and will curse anyone who participates in Europride, as well as that he would use a weapon if he had one. Brnabić [referred](#) to Nikamor's statement and called for stability and solidarity in spite of differences. She stated that the Serbian Orthodox Church is a pillar of society and that she will never say a word against the church, but she failed to react to the incitement to violence against the EuroPride participants.

On August 15, 2022, the target of the attack was Sofija Todorović, director of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, who was also involved in the organization of EuroPride 2022. [A tweet](#) was published on the Zavarivach profile characterizing Sofija Todorović as "an operative, the organizer of the faggot parade and the Merdita

festival in Belgrade, the bearer of the silver flower of Srebrenica, and a prominent NGO activist". In the tweets' replies, Sofija Todorović was addressed with insults that abound in hate speech against national minorities and misogyny. In his answers, Zavarivach stated that "there is material for Todorović to be prosecuted here" that she is "a moral wreck", and that "the shovel which would be used to throw her out of Serbia should be burned". The quote of this tweet calls, among other things, for Todorović to be arrested, sentenced to life imprisonment, and to be shot. On her profile, Sofija Todorović stated that this is not the first time she has suffered attacks from this account and called for its suspension. Despite the reports, the account and the disputed tweet are still available.

The most significant attack on LGBT rights was [to ban](#) the walk which was part of the EuroPride 2022 event. The walk, scheduled for September 17, 2022, was banned on September 13 by the decision of the police station Stari Grad due to the possibility of a conflict with counterdemonstrators who opposed the holding of the walk.

In addition to the EuroPride 2022 walk, the [anti-globalist](#) family walk was also banned. The security assessment that was the basis of the ban was marked as top secret. The ban was preceded by [the announcement](#) of President Aleksandar Vučić on August 27 that EuroPride 2022 would be canceled, as well as a series of contradictory statements by him, [the Government of Serbia](#), [Prime Minister Ana Brnabić](#), and [Minister of Internal Affairs Aleksandar Vulin](#), that this event might still take place. After the president Vučić made this announcement, a large gathering of ["Church rally to Save Serbia"](#), an opponent of EuroPride 2022, was held. Numerous institutions, organizations, and individuals from [the EU](#), [the Council of Europe](#), [the United Nations](#), [civil society organizations](#) and [political groups](#) reacted to the announcement and ban. The organizers filed a complaint with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and then [a lawsuit](#) with the Administrative Court. In one of the rare cases, the Administrative Court [rejected](#) the lawsuit promptly and upheld the ban. The organizers announced that despite the ban, they would hold the walk.

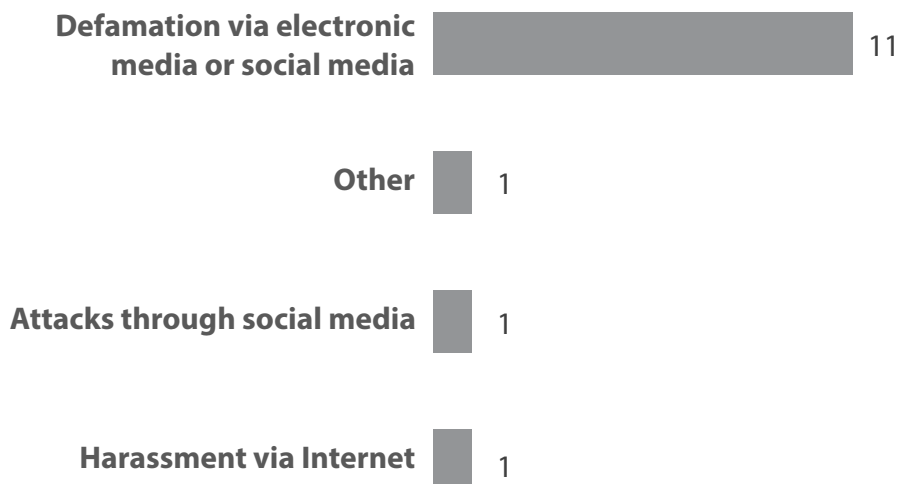




EuroPride 2022

Photo: Vesna Lalić/Nova.rs

TYPES OF ELECTRONIC ATTACKS



In agreement with the police, the route of the walk was shortened and changed, it was directed from the Constitutional Court to the Tašmajdan Stadium, where the concert as part of EuroPride 2022 was scheduled. This compromise allowed the organizers to claim that the walk after all [was held](#) and to the police that they only [ensured](#) the participants to arrive to the concert. Groups of counterdemonstrators also gathered in the same area. The Minister of Internal Affairs, Aleksandar Vulin, was also present. Several incidents and physical attacks on the participants, journalists, and the police were recorded during and after the walk, and at least 31 people were [detained](#). Another 21 people [were arrested](#) on October 10 for attacking the police.

During 2022, individuals were responsible for the majority of attacks, which in most cases were not identified and prosecuted. The police and the media were awarded second and third inglorious places. Various and contradictory statements by state officials and other political actors have contributed to ignite atmosphere of hatred and intolerance towards members of the LGBT community. Hate speech and misinformation about the nature of EuroPride 2022 was spreading through social networks, and a citizen's petition was organized to ban the event. Other photos and videos from EuroPride 2022 have been uploaded with the aim

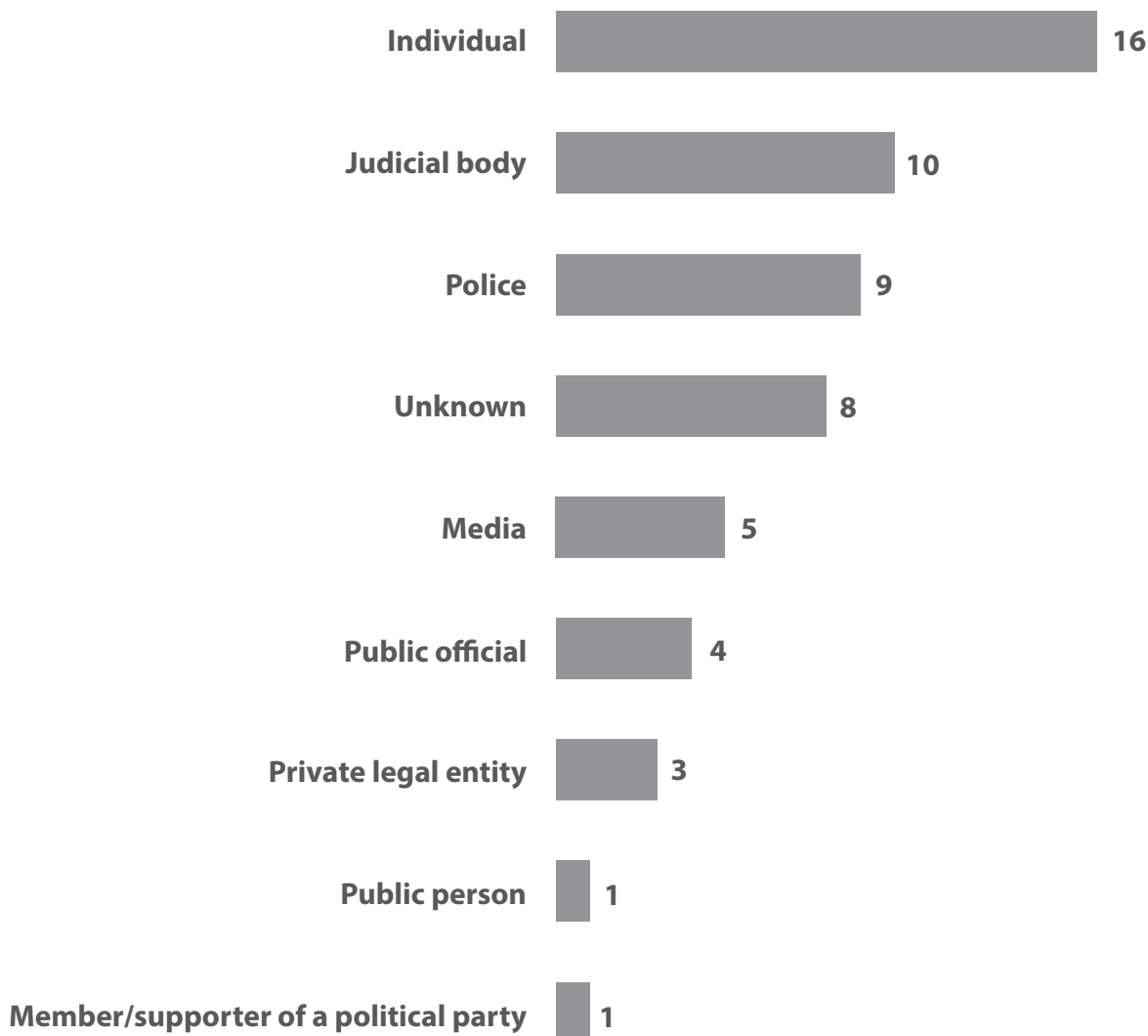
of discrediting it. Previously, two EuroPride 2022 billboards were demolished on August 31. On September 27, the association "Da se zna" announced that it [recorded](#) 14 attacks, 8 of which were physical, during EuroPride on September 17, 2022. A group of LGBT activists from Albania were [physically attacked](#) while they were returning from the event.

After the walk was held as part of the EuroPride 2022 manifestation, photos of two participants of the walk, characterized as offensive, were shared on social networks and in the media. In one is a young man draped in a rainbow flag with a crown of thorns on his head like Jesus Christ, and in the other a young man lifting his skirt and showing his buttocks in front of the St. Marko's Church. In [a statement](#), the organizers distanced themselves from individual participants who acted contrary to the instructions, that is, the laws of Serbia, and expressed their regret if there had been a violation of national or religious feelings. In [a statement](#) on September 22, 2022, Minister of Internal Affairs, Vulin stated that criminal charges will be filed against certain participants of EuroPride 2022, and that a certain number of people will be banned from entering Serbia. After the announcement, criminal charges [were filed](#) against two people for inciting racial, religious and national hatred and intolerance, while eight people were banned from entering Serbia, allegedly for "insulting public morals".

A good indicator of the real state of LGBT rights is the multi-year impunity for attacks on the Pride Info Center (PIC). The PIC has been the target of at least 15 attacks in the past three years. On August 16, 2022, vandals painted its window with the words “STOP FAGOTTS” straight before Europride. Just two months earlier, on June 6, the premises were [covered](#) with neo-Nazi “Belgrader Jugend” stickers. The Commissioner for the Protection of Equality condemned the attack, while the Ministry of Internal Affairs announced that the prosecution stated that there had been no elements of a criminal offense. The Protector of Citizens initiated [investigative procedure](#) to assess the legality and regularity of police work regarding this case. The PIC announced that in all cases of attacks, the po-

lice only once detained the attackers, but that they were not punished on that occasion. The Pride Info Center was also the target of an attack on February 17, 2022. The man [broke into](#) the premises of the center, breaking inventory and threatening employees. After the security interfered, the man was thrown out of the Pride Info Center premises, and the police arrested him afterward. On that occasion, the Pride Info Center called on the state to guarantee security to members of the local LGBTI + community and “tens of thousands of visitors” who will, as it is stated, stay in Belgrade from September 12 to 18, when EuroPride will be held in the Serbian capital. Belgrade Deputy Mayor, Goran Vesić [condemned](#) the attack.

DATA ON THE ATTACKERS



4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The trend of violating activists' rights to peacefully protest, associate and express their opinions continued during 2022 without a competent reaction from state authorities. Quite the opposite, as we can see from the statistics, it is precisely the state bodies and officials who directly threaten these rights of activists.

A year after a group of hooligans in Šabac had attacked the citizens gathered at an environmental protest with a bulldozer and sticks, the Protector of Citizens reacted, concluding that in this case the police acted "belatedly, negligently and ineffectively", and recommended disciplinary proceedings to be initiated against responsible police officers. The reaction of the Protector of Citizens, although very important, has come almost a year after. As the time is passing, there is a risk that this case will pass without sanctions or with a very mild sanction.

Public officials and pro-government media have continued the smear campaign against civil society activists and organizations with the aim of maintaining a hostile atmosphere towards anyone who stands up for respecting human rights and the public interest. During the election campaign at the beginning of 2022, we could also hear from numerous right-wing presidential candidates and political parties that they have been advocating

for the abolition of the possibility of financing non-governmental organizations from abroad and limiting their activities. Many local activists in smaller towns suffer serious consequences due to this kind of treatment in the form of the inability to find a job, but also social pressure and certain exclusion from society. Local media are completely unapproachable to these people and they are not allowed to report on CSO' activities. The number of SLAPP cases has been rapidly growing, threatening financial and criminal penalties, with incomparably greater financial capital, and the political power to defeat any form of civil resistance.

Two and a half years after the excessive use of force by the police at the protests in Belgrade in July 2020, not a single indictment has been filed, although the Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia has confirmed excessive use of force in 8 cases. The excessive use of force and allegations of torture during 2022 against environmental activists are a serious cause for concern. In these cases, not only the rights to freedom of assembly, association and expression of opinion are threatened, but also the right to freedom and security and physical and mental integrity.

The overall perception of activism in Serbia in November 2022 leads us to the conclusion that, except in certain, incident cases, there is neither

institutional nor political will to protect activists from attacks and pressures. On the contrary, if there are even indications that one of the citizens engaged in activism has committed a criminal or misdemeanor offense, which is most often the result of civil disobedience, state authorities react quickly and promptly.

Lack of action leads the citizens to become passive and the decreasing number of people who are ready to demand their basic human rights on the street, because going to a protest and speaking publicly entails serious consequences for an individual's life. Citizens hide in their "four walls" and leave those in power to lead the country. The bravest ones, who still act in the public sphere, are forced to devote more and more time to "their problems" as a result of being engaged in activism such as SLAPP proceedings, moving their focus from the aim they were united for to their personal defense.

Due to all of the above, the list of recommendations from this report, with minor differences, are being copied for the third time intending to emphasize that these recommendations are not just a wish list, but an obligation of the state to protect the basic human rights of its citizens.

- To urgently stop the practice of deterioration of the achieved standards of human and minority rights.
- To urgently investigate all allegations of police torture, inhuman and degrading treatment of activists and take disciplinary measures against responsible officials.
- ▶ To urgently stop the practice of labeling individuals and organizations committed to the promotion of human rights as traitors, both by the executive and legislative branch. Public officials and the media, which are mainly financed by projects from public funds, have to stop the practice of running negative campaigns against activists and civil society organizations.
- ▶ To continuously work on creating a favorable social climate for human rights defenders by taking concrete measures that would enable attacks on human rights defenders to be prosecuted in criminal proceedings, while respecting the rights of victims guaranteed by the Criminal Procedure Code.
- ▶ To continuously work on creating a favorable social climate for human rights defenders by taking concrete measures that would enable civil and administrative proceedings in which human rights defenders appear as parties, which can be linked to their activities in the field of human rights, to be led in compliance with all procedural guarantees and international standards in this area.
- ▶ Administrative supervision over the work of the associations, as well as activists who perform other activities, should be performed in accordance with the law when there is an appropriate legal basis, and in such a way that it does not interfere with an individual or organization in the process of work or implementation of activities.
- ▶ To provide a legal framework for protection against abuse of rights in civil lawsuits and individual criminal proceedings conducted against activists contrary to the purpose which the right was recognized and established for (SLAPP proceedings).
- ▶ To acquaint all state administration bodies, legislative, executive and judicial authorities with the Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Social Bodies in Promoting and Protecting Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and Obligations that Serbia has under this Declaration.
- ▶ To refrain in legislative activities from restricting the work of civil society organizations, imposing unjustified obligations or discrimination of any kind.

ANNEX I: The most important attacks 2020 – 2022

Misuse of anti-terrorist legislation to intimidate human rights defenders (case “The List”) – July 2020

This case is one of the most aggressive state attacks on the right to freedom of association since the network “Solidarity for the Rights of All” has been established. The Administration for Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism appeared in the role of the attacker, while 20 individuals and 37 civil society organizations were affected. Finances were unfoundedly reviewed and negative media campaign, using the financial data obtained in this control was led. Although numerous domestic and international organizations spoke out and condemned Serbia’s actions in this case, irreparable harm has been made to the organizations in the form of undermining confidence in their aims, operations and disposal of financial resources.

Causing severe physical injuries to the activist Milan Vujić – August 2020

Milan Vujić, an activist from Novi Sad, was beaten on the street in Novi Sad, after commenting on local elections and one political party on the social network Twitter. A member of this political party beat him, causing serious physical injuries. A year and a half after the crime had been committed and the perpetrator’s had confessed it, he was sentenced to 6 months of conditional sentence.

Three attacks on the premises of Don’t Let Belgrade D(r)own initiative – September 2020

Don’t Let Belgrade D(r)own initiative faced a large number of attacks in 2020. Certain fact is characteristic here – as many as three attacks on the premises of this organization happened within a week after former deputy mayor of Belgrade, Dragan Vesić, openly attacked them on the social network Facebook, calling them a “gang gathered around a group of citizens”. Unknown attackers tried to enter the premises of the organization through the terrace, took away the flags and wrote graffiti on the walls. Don’t Let Belgrade D(r)own initiative then informed the public that the police did not want to come to the scene and react to its addresses.

Court proceedings against Desimir Stojanov Desko, activists of the initiative “Defend the Rivers of Stara Planina” – in 2020

Significant pressure on organizations and individuals involved in environmental protection during 2020 were numerous misdemeanor proceedings against activists of the “Defend the Rivers of Stara Planina” (DRSP) regarding public gatherings organized to protect the rivers of Stara Planina from constructing small hydropower plants (SHPP) during previous years. Desimir Stojanov Desko, president of the local community Rakita and activist of DRSP initiative, is the most famous example with over 60 initiated misdemeanor proceedings related to the Law on Public Assemblies and the Law on Public Order and Peace and two criminal charges

SLAPP lawsuits against activists in Novi Pazar – 2020 – 2022

After the hospital in Novi Pazar had been led in an extremely poor manner during the epidemic, many citizens expressed their protest against the actions of the director of the hospital, Meho Mahmutović, who is both a public official and the member of the ruling party. Referring to the protests held in front of the hospital, as well as numerous posts on social networks and a press conference held by disgruntled doctors employed at the General Hospital in Novi Pazar, the appointed director of the hospital initiated over 30 proceedings – civil and criminal proceedings against doctors and activists who had been criticizing his work. Apart from their number, what is typical for these proceedings is the fact that they are all conducted in Novi Pazar and that the High Court in Novi Pazar is competent in the appeal proceedings. Therefore, it is not surprising that activists have already lost several of these proceedings in regular court proceedings. Two cases of insult are currently before the Constitutional Court of Serbia, and the activist Aladin Paučinac stands out as the victim suffering the most pressure, as at least 6 different proceedings have been initiated against him.

Assault on Irfan Ugljanin – February 2021

After being threatened with death in November 2020, Irfan Ugljanin, a civic activist and president of the Pazar Civic Movement, was attacked on February 1, 2021, in a restaurant in the center of Novi Pazar, resulting with bodily injuries. Shortly after the attack, the police arrested three persons, who assaulted Ugljanin.

Attack on Green Patrol journalists and the NGO OSNA – April 2021

Members of the Green Patrol, an independent production that operates within the “Vojvodina Green Initiative”, and activists of the NGO OSNA were attacked on April 9, 2021, while filming a show on the Danube embankment in Futog. On that occasion their camera drone was damaged and seized. The attackers were persons closely related to the work of the company “Svetorog” LLC., whose illegal work was the subject of this show.

Special edition of the daily “Serbian Telegraph” on media and non-governmental organizations – August 2021

As a part of the tabloid “Serbian Telegraph” edition, on August 23, 2021, the special “Media Dossier” was published, announcing on the cover “Western megaphones have received millions”. In addition to several media that are primarily targeted – Krik, Birn, Cins, the text, as they say, refers to “discovering who finances the media and the NGO fighters for democracy and freedom”. 10 non-governmental organizations were singled out and there is information in the text on founders, legal representatives and most frequent donors of these non-governmental organizations. Since the published information about certain organizations is not publicly available, but only to the business banks of these organizations, due to the existence of a well-founded suspicion that there was misuse of data obtained in the case of “List” from 2020, a criminal complaint was filed against the NN person and the editor-in-chief Daily Telegraph, which the prosecution rejected.

Bulldozer attack on environmental activists in Šabac – November 2021

There was a blockade on the old bridge in Šabac due to the protest against the Law on Expropriation and the Law on Referendum and People’s Initiative. During the blockade on the old bridge in Šabac, the police pulled back, and a bulldozer tried to break through the blockade, in order to enable buses with SNS supporters to pass. The participant in the protest, Dragan Milovanović, climbed on a bulldozer, and after a short fight with the man who was defending the driver, he managed to stop the construction machine. After that, a group of masked young men got out of the limousines, allegedly owned by the municipality of Šabac, which were going behind the bulldozer, and with batons and hammers attacked the peacefully gathered citizens. Several citizens called the police on the spot, but their calls were interrupted by the police. Several citizens who blocked the bridge in Šabac with tractors were detained and released after the protest in front of the police station. In November 2022, the Protector of Citizens determined that the police acted “belatedly, negligently and ineffectively”.

SLAPP Lawsuits by Galens owners against environmental activists – January 2022

The owners of the company Galens, Sanja and Nebojša Petrić, have initiated a number of criminal and civil proceedings against Dragana Arsić from the Movement “Defend the forests of Fruška gora (LDFFG)” and Nikola Arezina from the association “Fruškač”, for the criminal offense of damaging of business reputation and creditworthiness, for violations of honor and reputation, for compensation for material damage and for disturbing the possession. The total value of the lawsuits in civil proceedings is around 2,000,000 RSD (Serbian Dinars), while the criminal offense is punishable by up to one year in prison. These associations organized protest walks with the aim of drawing public attention to the devastation of the Fruška gora National Park, in which the Petrić couple has been allegedly involved.

Misdemeanor proceedings against the organizers and participants of the blockades – February 2022

Police submitted requests for initiating misdemeanor proceedings for organizing public gatherings without notice against several dozen citizens who participated in the blockades starting from November 27, 2021. Previously, at least 1,000 citizens who participated in the blockades received misdemeanor warrants for walking on the road in over 50 municipalities and cities in Serbia based on the Law on Road Traffic Safety. A great number of these misdemeanor proceedings ended in acquittals thanks to civil society organizations who organized legal aid.

Excessive use of force against peaceful demonstrators in Novi Sad – July 2022

On July 21, 2022, before adopting the General Urban Plan (GUP) for Novi Sad, a group of organizations organized a protest rally in front of Banovina building in that city. When demonstrators tried to enter the session of the City Assembly of Novi Sad, private security forces and the police, using excessive force, interfered. The Ministry of the Internal Affairs stated that thanks to the effectiveness of the police, the demonstrators were prevented from entering the session and “causing chaos”. President Vučić commented that the police were mild, and the mayor of Novi Sad, Miloš Vučević, said that the police “essentially did not use force” and that the demonstrators were “vagabonds with nothing to do”.

Banning EuroPride 2022 – September 2022

The walk as part of the EuroPride 2022 event, scheduled for September 17, 2022, was banned on September 13 by the decision of the Stari Grad police station due to the possibility of a conflict with counterdemonstrators who opposed the holding of the walk. In addition to the EuroPride 2022 walk, the anti-globalist family walk was also banned. The security assessment that was the basis of the ban was marked as top secret. The ban was preceded by the President Aleksandar Vučić’s announcement on August 27 that EuroPride 2022 would be canceled, as well as a series of contradictory statements by him, Prime Minister Ana Brnabić, and Minister of the Internal Affairs, Aleksandar Vulin about the possibility of this event to still take place. The Administrative Court of Serbia confirmed the ban, despite there were 4 decisions of the Constitutional Court on the unconstitutionality of this practice in previous cases of banning the Pride Walk.

Arrest and torture of activists from Starica mountain – September 2022

Since September 26, 2022, several activists from the Starica mountain have received orders to appear as citizens at the police station of Majdanpek to provide them with statements regarding the alleged beating of employee of Zijin and burning the drill. The organizations “Ne damo Nu Dau” and the Environmental Movement reported in public that activists were subjected to psychological and physical torture, and several were detained for up to 30 days. Court proceedings are still ongoing.

Arrests and the use of excessive force against activists on Šodroš – October 2022

On October 19, 2022, the police in Novi Sad used excessive force and detained at least 10 activists who have been camping and blocking access to Šodroš for several months. The activists were arrested when CRBC workers attempted to fence off the area where they will perform the work. During the intervention of the police, three activists were injured.

ANNEX II: List of the attacks

Date	Title	Victim	Attacker	Type of attack	Type of threatened right
January 4, 2022	Attack on Aida Ćorović	Aida Ćorović	Individual	Threats, Acts of Intimidation, Blackmail	Freedom of Expression
January 10, 2022	Lawsuits by Galens owners against environmental activists	Dragana Arsić, Nikola Arežina – Movement Let's defend the forests of Fruška gora (LDFFG)	Private Legal Entity	Criminal Proceedings initiated; Civil Procedure initiated	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Association
January 20, 2022	Ana Brnabić's new attack on environmental organizations	Environmental organizations	Public Official	Defamation via Electronic Media or Social Media	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Association
January 24, 2022	Aladin Paučinac convicted of Insult	Aladin Paučinac	Judicial organs – Public Prosecutor's Office, Enforcement Officers, Public Notary	(SLAPP) Strategic lawsuit against participation in public policies	Freedom of Expression; The right to a fair trial
February 1, 2022	Misdemeanor proceedings against the organizers and participants of the blockades	Human rights defenders and activists	Judicial organs – Public Prosecutor's Office, Enforcement Officers, Public Notary	Misdemeanor Proceeding initiated	Freedom of Assembly
February 3, 2022	Slandering the participants of environmental protests	Human rights defenders and activists	Media	Defamation via Electronic Media or Social Media	Freedom of Assembly
February 16, 2022	Smear campaign against Brian Brkovic	Brajan Brković – Youth Student Action (OSA)	Media	Defamation via Electronic Media or Social Media	Freedom of Expression

Date	Title	Victim	Attacker	Type of attack	Type of threatened right
February 17, 2022	New attack on the Pride Info Center	Pride Info Center	Individual	Threats, Acts of Intimidation, Blackmail; Property damage	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Association
February 18, 2022	Attack on Youth Student Action (OSA) activists	Youth Student Action (OSA)	Individual; Media	Physical Assault (Beatings, Violence, Injuries); Defamation via Electronic Media or Social Media	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Association
February 26, 2022	New attack on Youth Student Action (OSA) activists	Youth Student Action (OSA)	Individual	Threats, Acts of Intimidation, Blackmail	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Association; Freedom of Assembly
February 28, 2022	Aladin Paučinac was convicted for insult for the second time	Aladin Paučinac	Judicial organs – Public Prosecutor's Office, Enforcement Officers, Public Notary	(SLAPP) Strategic lawsuit against participation in public policies	Freedom of Expression; The right to a fair trial.
March 1, 2022	New lawsuit against activists of "Don't Let Belgrade D(r) own" initiative	Dobrica Veselinović - "Don't Let Belgrade D(r) own" initiative	Police	(SLAPP) Strategic lawsuit against participation in public policies	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Assembly
March 2, 2022	Attack by Sovereignists on non-governmental organizations	Group of NGOs	Member/a sympathizer of a political party	Defamation via Electronic Media or Social Media	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Association
March 15, 2022	Attack on activists of "Kreni-promeni" initiative in Vranje	"Kreni-promeni" Initiative	Individual; Unknown	Threats, Acts of Intimidation, Blackmail; Property damage	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Assembly
May 17, 2022	Exclusion of the public from the trial of Dragana Arsić	Dragana Arsić, Nikola Arežina – Movement Let's defend the forests of Fruška gora (LDFFG)	Judicial organs – Public Prosecutor's Office, Enforcement Officers, Public Notary	(SLAPP) Strategic lawsuit against participation in public policies	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Association

Date	Title	Victim	Attacker	Type of attack	Type of threatened right
May 25, 2022	False bomb report at the festival "Mirdita, good afternoon!"	Youth Initiative for Human Rights	Individual; Unknown	Threats, Acts of Intimidation, Blackmail	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Association
June 6, 2022	Neo-Nazi stickers on the premises of the Pride Info Center	Pride Info Center	Individual; Unknown	Threats, Acts of Intimidation, Blackmail; Property damage	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Association
June 15, 2022	Threats against Naim Leo Beshiri	Naim Leo Beširi – the Institute for European Affairs	Individual	Threats, Acts of Intimidation, Blackmail; Uznemiravanje putem interneta	Freedom of Expression
June 26, 2022	Intimidation for pointing out irregularities in border police work	Mirko Medenica - Center for Applied History	Police	Threats, Acts of Intimidation, Blackmail	Freedom of Expression
June 29, 2022	Threats of lawsuits against citizens in Rekovac	Citizens of Rekovac	Individual legal entity	Civil proceedings initiated	Freedom of Assembly
June 30, 2022	The arrest of the actress in Kraljevo	Milena Božić	Police	Deprivation of liberty under the supervision of state authorities	Freedom of Expression
July 6, 2022	Unpaid fine for insult was replaced by a prison sentence to Aladin Paučinac	Aladin Paučinac	Judicial organs – Public Prosecutor's Office, Enforcement Officers, Public Notary	(SLAPP) Strategic lawsuit against participation in public policies	Freedom of Expression
July 12, 2022	Throwing red paint on the premises of "Women in Black"	Women in Black	Individual; Unknown	Property damage	Freedom of Expression Freedom of Assembly
July 21, 2022	Excessive use of force against peaceful demonstrators in Novi Sad	Group of NGO's	Private legal entity; Police	Deprivation of liberty; other; Physical Assault (Beatings, Violence, Injuries)	Freedom of Assembly

Date	Title	Victim	Attacker	Type of attack	Type of threatened right
July 22, 2022	Threats to the organization "Women for Peace"	Women for Peace	Individual; Unknown	Email hacking; Threats, Acts of Intimidation, Blackmail	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Association
July 22, 2022	Attack of the weekly Pečat on non-governmental organization	Group of NGO's	Media	Defamation via Electronic Media or Social Media	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Association
August 1, 2022	Misdemeanor proceedings against Women in Black	Women in Black	Judicial organs – Public Prosecutor's Office, Enforcement Officers, Public Notary; Police	Misdemeanor proceedings initiated	Freedom of Assembly
August 12, 2022	Attack of Bishop Nikamor on "EuroPride 2022"	EuroPride 2022	Public figure	Threats, Acts of Intimidation, Blackmail	Freedom of Assembly
August 15, 2022	Attack on Sofija Todorović on Twitter	Sofija Todorović – Youth Initiative for Human Rights	Individual	Attacks through social networks; Defamation via Electronic Media or Social Media; Threats, Acts of Intimidation, Blackmail	Freedom of Expression
August 16, 2022	Faruk Pljakić was sentenced by the final verdict for insult	Faruk Pljakić	Judicial organs – Public Prosecutor's Office, Enforcement Officers, Public Notary	(SLAPP) Strategic lawsuit against participation in public policies	Freedom of Expression; The right to a fair trial.
August 16, 2022	Attack on the Pride Info Center	Pride Info Center	Individual; Unknown	Threats, Acts of Intimidation, Blackmail; Property damage	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Association

Date	Title	Victim	Attacker	Type of attack	Type of threatened right
August 17, 2022	Attack of the Srbin.info portal on Naim Leo Beširi	Naim Leo Beširi - the Institute for European Affairs	Media	Defamation via Electronic Media or Social Media	Freedom of Expression
August 18, 2022	Attack of the mayor of Belgrade, Aleksandar Šapić, on Nataša Kandić	Nataša Kandić - Humanitarian Law Center (HLC)	Public Official	Defamation via Electronic Media or Social Media	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Association
September 5, 2022	Threats and attacks on activists on Starica mountain	Activists on Starica Mountain	Individual	Physical Assault (Beatings, Violence, Injuries)); Threats, Acts of Intimidation, Blackmail; Property damage	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Assembly
September 13, 2022	Banning EuroPride 2022	EuroPride 2022	Police	Initiating some other procedure	Freedom of Assembly
September 17, 2022	Attack on EuroPride 2022 participants	Participants of EuroPride 2022	Individual; Unknown	Physical Assault (Beatings, Violence, Injuries);	Freedom of Assembly
September 21, 2022	Beating of an Eco Guard activist in Belgrade	Miroslav Perović – Eko Guard	Individual; Unknown	Physical Assault (Beatings, Violence, Injuries);	Freedom of Expression; The right to inviolability of mental and physical integrity
September 22, 2022	Criminal charges and entry bans for EuroPride 2022 participants	Participants of EuroPride 2022	Police	Criminal proceedings Initiated; Initiating some other procedure	Freedom of Movement; Freedom of Assembly

Date	Title	Victim	Attacker	Type of attack	Type of threatened right
September 26, 2022	Arrest and torture of activists from Starica mountain	Activists on Starica Mountain	Police	Physical Assault (Beatings, Violence, Injuries);	Freedom of Expression; The right to inviolability of mental and physical integrity; The right to a fair trial
October 18, 2022	Arrests of activists in Šodroš	Activists in Šodroš	Police	Deprivation of liberty	Freedom of Assembly
October 28, 2022	Criminal complaint against Ljiljana Nešić from "Women for Peace"	Ljiljana Nešić	Judicial organs – Public Prosecutor's Office, Enforcement Officers, Public Notary	(SLAPP) Strategic lawsuit against participation in public policies	Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Assembly
November 1, 2022	Criminal proceedings against the participants of the protest against the GUP in Novi Sad	Group of NGOs	Judicial organs – Public Prosecutor's Office, Enforcement Officers, Public Notary	Criminal proceedings initiated; Misdemeanor proceedings initiated	Freedom of Assembly
November 10, 2022	Attack on Initiative A11 in the National Assembly	A11 Initiative for economic and social rights	Public Official	Defamation via Electronic Media or Social Media	Freedom of Association