

1.

During 2023, in public prosecution offices, based on submitted criminal charges/reports, **75 cases were opened** in connection with events to the detriment of persons performing tasks of public importance in the field of information, namely 4 in January, 3 in February, 7 in March, 8 in April, 12 in May, 9 in June, 8 in July, 6 in August, 5 in September, 8 in October, 3 in November and 2 in December.

In the abovementioned cases, as of **December 31, 2023**, the following actions were taken:

- in 9 cases a guilty verdict was passed
- in 6 cases, a decision was made to dismiss the criminal charges
- in 8 cases, an official note was made that there is no basis to initiate criminal proceedings
- in 5 cases, proceedings are ongoing before the court based on the indictment of the public prosecutor
- in 3 cases, evidence is being presented at the moment
- in 38 cases, a request was submitted for the collection of the necessary information
- in 6 cases, even after taking measures in the pre-investigation procedure, the potential perpetrator was not identified

The first instance or final decision was made in 23 cases, which is 30.67% of the total number of cases.

2.

In the period from **June 1, 2016 until December 31, 2023**, a total of **522 cases were formed** in public prosecution offices, based on submitted criminal reports, related to events to the detriment of persons who perform tasks of public importance in the field of information.

Out of a total of 522 cases, the decision that there were no elements of a criminal offense for which the prosecution is undertaken *ex officio* was made in 205 cases (39.27%), while in 317 cases (60.73%) there is reasonable doubt that a criminal offense against the safety of journalists was committed.

In the abovementioned 317 cases in which reasonable doubt of a committed criminal offense was found, for which prosecution is undertaken *ex officio*, the following actions were taken:

- **in 85 cases (26.81%) some form of criminal sanctions has been imposed so far or the prosecution has been handed over to a foreign state,**
- in 18 cases (5.68%), the court rejected or dismissed the indictment or acquitted the accused
- in 121 cases (38.17%), evidence collecting procedures, investigation, international legal assistance proceedings or the main trial before the competent court are in progress, and
- in 93 cases (29.34%), the potential perpetrator was not identified even after undertaking pre-investigative actions.

3.

Observing the total number of cases (522), which includes all events known to the public prosecution, as of **December 31, 2023**, the following actions were taken:

- in 63 cases, a guilty verdict was passed
- in 20 cases, the perpetrator was sanctioned by the imposition of the obligation prescribed by the Criminal Procedure Code with regard to deferred prosecution (principle of opportunity), where the obligations were completely fulfilled
- in 1 case, the juvenile perpetrator was sanctioned by the application of a referral order, and that obligation was fully met
- in 4 cases, the indictment was rejected by court decision
- in 2 cases, the indictment was dismissed by court decision
- in 12 cases acquittals were passed
- in 106 cases, a decision was made to dismiss the criminal charges
- in 2 cases, a decision was made that there is no basis to initiate preparatory proceedings against the juvenile perpetrator
- in 97 cases, an official note was made that there is no basis to initiate criminal proceedings
- in 1 case, during the international legal assistance procedure, criminal prosecution was transferred to the competent authorities of another country
- in 15 cases, proceedings are ongoing before the court based on the indictment of the public prosecutor
- in 8 cases, evidence collection procedure is ongoing
- in 1 case, the procedure of international legal assistance in criminal matters is ongoing
- in 97 cases, a request for collection of necessary information was submitted
- in 93 cases, even after undertaking measures in the pre-investigation procedure, the potential perpetrator was not identified

First-instance or final decision were made in 308 cases, which is 59% of the total number of cases.

4.

The following data were collected, by reporting years:

- 2022

In the period from **January 1 until December 31, 2022** in public prosecution offices, based on the submitted criminal reports, **84 cases were formed** in connection with events to the detriment of persons who perform tasks of public importance in the field of information, of which 3 cases were formed in January, 4 in February, 9 in March, 12 in April, 3 in May, 11 in June, 5 in July, 8 in August, 10 in September, 5 in October, 9 in November and 5 cases in December.

In the abovementioned cases, as of **December 31, 2023**, the following actions were taken:

- in 7 cases, a guilty verdict was passed
- in 2 cases, an acquittal was passed
- in 1 case, the indictment of the prosecution was dismissed by court decision
- in 10 cases, a decision was made to dismiss the criminal complaint
- in 21 cases, an official note was made that there is no basis to initiate criminal proceedings
- in 5 cases, proceedings are ongoing before the court based on the indictment of the public prosecution
- in 1 case, evidence collection procedure is ongoing
- in 1 case, the procedure of international legal assistance in criminal matters is ongoing
- in 27 cases, a request for collection of the necessary information was submitted
- in 9 cases, even after undertaking measures in the pre-investigation procedure, the potential perpetrator was not identified

First instance or final decision was made in 41 cases, which is 48.81% of the total number of cases.

- 2021

In the period from **January 1 until December 31, 2021**, **87 cases** were formed in public prosecution offices on the basis of submitted criminal reports related to the events to the detriment of persons who perform tasks of public importance in the field of information. In the mentioned cases, as of **December 31, 2023**, the following actions were taken:

- in 10 cases, a guilty verdict was passed
- in 1 case, the perpetrator was sanctioned by the imposition of the obligation prescribed by the Criminal Procedure Code with regard to deferred prosecution (principle of opportunity), where the obligations were fully met
- in 3 cases, acquittals were passed
- in 19 cases, a decision was made to dismiss the criminal complaint
- in 14 cases, an official note was made that there is no basis to initiate criminal proceedings
- in 2 cases, proceedings are ongoing before the court based on the indictment of the public prosecutor
- in 1 case, evidence collection procedure is ongoing
- in 20 cases, a request was submitted to collect the necessary information
- in 17 cases, even after undertaking measures in the pre-investigation procedure, the potential perpetrator was not identified

First-instance or final decision were made in 47 cases, which is 54.02% of the total number of cases.

- 2020

In the period from **January 1 until December 31, 2020**, **60 cases** were formed in public prosecution offices related to the events to the detriment of persons who perform tasks of public importance in the field of information. In the mentioned cases, as of **December 31, 2023**, the following actions were taken:

- in 6 cases, a guilty verdict was passed

- in 4 cases, the perpetrator was sanctioned by the imposition of the obligation prescribed by the Criminal Procedure Code with regard to deferred prosecution (principle of opportunity), where the obligations were fully met
- in 1, the juvenile perpetrator was sanctioned by the application of a referral order, and that obligation was fully met
- in 2 cases, acquittals were passed
- in 16 cases, a decision was made to dismiss the criminal complaint
- in 8 cases, an official note was made that there is no basis to initiate criminal proceedings
- in 2 cases, a decision was made that there is no basis to initiate criminal proceedings against juvenile perpetrator
- in 2 cases, proceedings are ongoing before the court based on the indictment of the public prosecutor
- in 1 case, evidence collection procedure is ongoing
- in 9 cases, a request was submitted to collect the necessary information
- in 9 cases, even after undertaking measures in the pre-investigation procedure, the potential perpetrator was not identified

First-instance or final decisions were made in 39 cases, which is 65% of the total number of cases.

- 2019

In the period from **January 1 until December 31, 2019, 63 cases** were formed in public prosecution offices related to the events to the detriment of persons who perform tasks of public importance in the field of information. In the mentioned cases, as of **December 31, 2023**, the following actions were taken:

- in 18 cases, a guilty verdict was passed, of which one guilty verdict against a juvenile perpetrator
- in 4 cases, the perpetrator was sanctioned by the imposition of the obligation prescribed by the Criminal Code Procedure with regard to deferred prosecution (principle of opportunity), where the obligations were fully met
- in 3 cases, acquittals were passed
- in 14 cases, a decision was made to dismiss the criminal complaint (of which in 1 case a request was submitted to initiate misdemeanor proceedings)
- in 11 cases, an official note was made that there is no basis to initiate criminal proceedings
- in 1 case, proceedings are ongoing before the court based on the indictment of the public prosecutor
- in 1 case, evidence collection procedure is ongoing
- in 1 case, a request was submitted to collect the necessary information
- in 10 cases, even after undertaking measures in the pre-investigation procedure, the potential perpetrator was not identified

First-instance or final decisions were made in 50 cases, which is 79,37% of the total number of cases.

- 2018

In the period from **January 1 until December 31, 2018**, **57 cases** were formed in public prosecution offices related to the events to the detriment of persons who perform tasks of public importance in the field of information. In the mentioned cases, as of **December 31, 2023**, the following actions were taken:

- in 6 cases, a guilty verdict was passed
- in 3 cases, the perpetrator was sanctioned by the imposition of the obligation prescribed by the Criminal Procedure Code with regard to deferred prosecution (principle of opportunity), where the obligations were fully met
- in 2 cases, the indictment of the prosecution was dismissed by court decision
- in 1 case, an acquittal was passed
- in 17 cases, a decision was made to dismiss the criminal complaint (of which in 1 case a request was submitted to initiate misdemeanor proceedings)
- in 10 cases, an official note was made that there is no basis to initiate criminal proceedings
- in 1 case, evidence collection procedure is ongoing
- in 1 case, a request was submitted to collect the necessary information
- in 16 cases, even after undertaking measures in the pre-investigation procedure, the potential perpetrator was not identified

First-instance or final decisions were made in 39 cases, which is 68.42% of the total number of cases.

- 2017

In the period from **January 1 until December 31, 2017**, **38 cases** were formed in public prosecution offices related to the events to the detriment of persons who perform tasks of public importance in the field of information. In the mentioned cases, as of **December 31, 2023**, the following actions were taken:

- in 3 cases, a guilty verdict was passed
- in 3 cases, the perpetrator was sanctioned by the imposition of the obligation prescribed by the Criminal Procedure Code with regard to deferred prosecution (principle of opportunity), where the obligations were fully met
- in 1 case, the indictment of the prosecution was dismissed
- in 1 case, an acquittal was passed
- in 14 cases, a decision was made to dismiss the criminal complaint
- in 5 cases, an official note was made that there is no basis to initiate criminal proceedings
- in 1 case, during the international legal assistance procedure, criminal prosecution was transferred to the competent authorities of another country
- in 10 cases, even after undertaking measures in the pre-investigation procedure, the potential perpetrator was not identified

First-instance or final decisions were made in 28 cases, which is 73.68% of the total number of cases.

- 2016

In the period from **January 1 until December 31, 2016, 58 cases** were formed in public prosecution offices related to the events to the detriment of persons who perform tasks of public importance in the field of information. In the mentioned cases, as of **December 31, 2023**, the following actions were taken:

- in 4 cases, a guilty verdict was passed
- in 5 cases, the perpetrator was sanctioned by the imposition of the obligation prescribed by the Criminal Procedure Code with regard to deferred prosecution (principle of opportunity), where the obligations were fully met
- in 2 cases, the court dismissed the indictment of the public prosecutor
- in 10 cases, a decision was made to dismiss the criminal complaint
- in 20 cases, an official note was made that there is not basis to initiate criminal proceedings
- in 1 case, a request was submitted to collect necessary information
- in 16 cases, even after undertaking measures in the pre-investigation procedure, the potential perpetrator was not identified

First-instance or final decisions were made in 41 cases, which is 70.69% of the total number of cases.