



**PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

No. 01/121/OHCHR

The Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures Branch, and, with reference to Joint Communication from Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Special Rapporteur on the right to education and Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, dated on 8 March 2024, has the honour to transmit herewith the original letter from H.E. Mr. Filip Ivanović, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro.

The Mission would highly appreciate the kind assistance of the Office in forwarding the letter to the esteemed recipients.

The Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures Branch, the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 3 June 2024

OHCHR REGISTRY

- 6 JUN 2024

Recipients :.....*SPB*.....

Enclosure :.....

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



Montenegro
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Minister

Podgorica, 8 May 2024

Dear Ms. Khan,
Dear Ms. Xanthaki,
Dear Ms. Shaheed,
Dear Ms. Lawlor,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated on 8 March 2024, requesting detailed information regarding the judicial proceedings involving Mr. Boban Batrićević, a civil society activist, researcher and columnist.

On September 12, 2023, the High State Prosecution submitted the request to the Misdemeanour Court to initiate misdemeanour proceedings against Mr. Boban Batrićević under Article 19 of the National Law on Public Order and Peace. Upon reviewing the case, the head of the High State Prosecutor's Office determined that there were no elements of an offense in the request for initiating misdemeanour proceedings, therefore instructing the prosecuting state attorney to cease further action against Mr. Batrićević.

During the hearing held on March 26, 2024, the prosecuting state attorney followed the mentioned mandatory instruction and withdrew the misdemeanour prosecution against Mr. Batrićević regarding the specific offense. Consequently, pursuant to Article 196, Paragraph 1, Point 5 of The Misdemeanor Law, The Misdemeanor Court decided to terminate the misdemeanour proceedings against Mr. Batrićević on March 26, 2024.

In terms of safeguarding the rights of individuals, including civil society activists, to exercise and defend their right to freedom of expression without fear of harassment and reprisal, I would like to highlight that the new Media Law Proposal, to be adopted by the Parliament of Montenegro, includes certain provisions to cover journalists for the first time, encompassing category of columnists like Mr. Batrićević. Notably, it bolsters source protection, stipulating that journalists are obligated to reveal their sources only upon a court order, at the request of the state prosecutor, and solely in cases vital for national security, territorial integrity, public health, or individual protection in instances of media content publication without consent. Additionally, the Media Strategy for 2023-2027 and the inaugural Action Plan for 2023-2024 outline an array of measures aimed at strengthening freedom of expression, alongside efforts to improve the socio-economic standing of media professionals and provide safe working environments for journalists.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions.

2. It also highlights the need for regular audits to ensure the integrity of the financial data.

3. Furthermore, the document emphasizes the role of transparency in building trust with stakeholders.

4. The final section concludes by stating that these practices are essential for the long-term success of any organization.

5. The second part of the document focuses on the implementation of robust internal controls.

6. This section details the various mechanisms in place to prevent fraud and mismanagement.

7. It also discusses the importance of employee training and awareness in maintaining these controls.

8. The document further explores the challenges associated with enforcing these controls in a dynamic environment.

9. Finally, it offers practical advice on how to adapt these controls to changing business needs.

10. The third part of the document addresses the issue of data security and privacy.

11. It outlines the key principles of data protection and the steps to ensure compliance with relevant regulations.

12. The document also discusses the potential consequences of data breaches and how to mitigate them.

13. Furthermore, it highlights the importance of regular security audits and updates.

14. The final section of this part concludes by emphasizing the need for a proactive approach to data security.

15. The fourth part of the document discusses the role of technology in modern business operations.

16. It explores the benefits of automation and digital transformation in increasing efficiency.

17. The document also addresses the challenges of integrating new technologies into existing systems.

18. Furthermore, it discusses the importance of cybersecurity in protecting digital assets.

19. The final section of this part concludes by stating that technology is a key driver of innovation and growth.

20. The fifth and final part of the document discusses the importance of leadership and organizational culture.

21. It highlights the role of leaders in setting the vision and direction of the organization.

22. The document also discusses the importance of fostering a positive and inclusive organizational culture.

23. Finally, it concludes by stating that strong leadership and culture are essential for achieving long-term success.

24. The sixth part of the document discusses the importance of stakeholder engagement.

25. It outlines the various ways in which organizations can engage with their stakeholders.

26. The document also discusses the benefits of stakeholder engagement in terms of improved decision-making.

27. Finally, it concludes by stating that stakeholder engagement is a key component of corporate social responsibility.

In concluding, the Government of Montenegro remains a constructive partner in strengthening freedom of expression, as a fundamental value of democratic societies, based on respecting diversity of opinions and fostering media pluralism.

Please accept, dear Special Rapporteurs, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dr. Filip Ivanović

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Filip Ivanovic', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ms. Irene Khan
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Ms. Alexandra Xanthaki
Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights

Ms. Farida Shaheed
Special Rapporteur on the right to education

Ms. Mary Lawlor
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders