



SAFEJOURNALISTS.NET

To: Mr. Alfred Peza
Director General
Albanian Radio and Television

20 July 2023

Dear Mr. Peza,

I am writing on behalf of the [SafeJournalists Network](#), that gathers more than 8,200 members in the Western Balkans, including journalists from Albania, we act upon violations of journalists' rights, endangering their safety and limitation of media freedoms. We follow very closely developments in the media scene in Albania. We are concerned by the recent events at RTSH regarding staff layoff without due diligence.

In the past week and following your election as General Director of RTSH on June 13th, 2023, we have received formal complaints and credible sources about a potential breach in due process concerning the dismissal of media staff, but also of hiring new staff without due process. As you might be aware the associations of journalists in Albania and the European Federation of Journalists have also reacted on this.

While we understand the need to restructure and conduct programmatic changes at RTSH, we are still concerned about the process of dismissal and the effect it has on employees. Based on the Law Nr. 97/2013 on "Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania" (Article 103 and 105) we are aware of your role in directing the general administration of the RTSH activity and bearing its editorial responsibility as well as appointing and dismissing RTSH staff. However, we would like to reiterate that this should be done by ensuring that journalists and media labor rights are respected, due process is followed and in full transparency.

For RTSH to maintain its credibility and the trust of its employees and the public, it is crucial that the General Director clarify the basis of these staffing changes, demonstrating that proper channels and procedures were followed as required by law.

Based on the Law no. 119/2014 "On the right to information" and in the interest of the public, we would like to learn more from you about this. Are journalists, editors, and other media and administrative staff laid off, and if yes, how many have been laid off, under what conditions and for what reasons? How many new people have been hired and if yes, have adequate procedures respecting the law and RTSH statute been followed, avoiding potential conflict of interest?

Also, if you are planning to do that, please inform the public about it, because RTSH is a public service for all citizens who have the right to know such information and reasons for possible laid off.



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Each attack on journalists is an attack on public interest, democracy and rights of all citizens.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Marija Babic

On behalf of

BH Journalists Association

Trade Union of Media of Montenegro

Croatian Journalists Association

Association of Journalists of Kosovo

Association of Journalists of Macedonia

Independent Journalists Association of Serbia