



Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the
United Nations Office and other International Organizations
Geneva

No. 01/273/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 independence of judges and lawyers, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, dated on 17 September 2025, has the honour to transmit herewith the letter from H.E. Mr. Ervin Ibrahimović, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and 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, 18 November 2025

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
GENEVA



Montenegro
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Minister

Podgorica, 17 November 2025

Ms. Margaret Satterthwaite, Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers

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

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

United Nations Human Rights Council Special Procedures
G e n e v a

Dear Ms. Satterthwaite,

Dear Ms. Khan,

Dear Ms. Lawlor,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 17 September 2025, requesting comments and observations on the information and allegations contained in the letter concerning on line and media attacks against Mr. Veselin Radulović, lawyer, and Ms. Tea Gorjanc Prelević, director of the Montenegrin human rights organization "Human Rights Action".

The Government of Montenegro highly values the attention you dedicate to the situation of judges, lawyers and human rights defenders worldwide, including in Montenegro, and to the improvement of conditions for their work and independent functioning. We have been consistently and will continue to support your engagements that have a pivotal role in strengthening the rule of law and ensuring that those who protect human rights are able to carry out their duties free from any pressure, interference or intimidation.

As a member state of the United Nations, a NATO member, and a candidate country for accession to the European Union, Montenegro continues to invest additional efforts to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework that guarantees the protection, promotion and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, recognizing at the same time the essential role of civil society in consolidation of public institutions and democracy. We, therefore, remain fully committed to safeguarding the civic space for the free, independent and unhindered engagement of all its actors.

The Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination ensures protection for all persons from discrimination, as well as from all forms of degrading conduct, harassment and hate speech, whether in the workplace, in public spaces, or in the digital environment.

In accordance with the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination every individual is entitled to dignity, respect and equality of treatment across all domains of public and social life.

Furthermore, Article 7 of the Law defines harassment as any unwanted conduct grounded in a personal characteristic which has the purpose or effect of undermining the dignity of an individual, particularly where such conduct creates an atmosphere of fear or an intimidating, hostile, humiliating, offensive or degrading environment. In this regard, behavior that impairs personal or professional dignity, irrespective of whether it is manifested through verbal expressions, gestures or actions, constitutes a form of discrimination and is expressly prohibited under the law. Article 9 of the Law further recognizes hate speech as a specific and aggravated form of discrimination.

The Government of Montenegro, through the Ministry of Justice, in its capacity as the institution mandated to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, closely followed developments pertaining to the case referenced in your communication, in which you expressed interest and which you brought to the attention of the competent authorities, recalling the state's obligations arising from the international law. Given that lawyer Radulović submitted several criminal complaints, which Mr. Radulović duly communicated to the public in Montenegro, the Ministry exercised particular caution so as not to take any action that could, directly or indirectly, affect the course of potential judicial proceedings.

The Ministry of Justice further recognizes that the public discourse surrounding this case has been marked by serious accusations made by both sides. The Ministry has repeatedly emphasized the need to ensure full respect for the integrity of lawyers and the legal profession as a free and independent profession guaranteed under the Constitution of Montenegro, as well as the integrity of State institutions.

In this regard, the Government underlines that freedom of expression, as guaranteed under the ICCPR, must be fully protected, even where expression may be provocative or offensive. At the same time, the Ministry recalls that the exercise of this right is subject to limits grounded in the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality, in line with international human rights standards.

The Government reaffirms that the presumption of innocence, the independent and unhindered functioning of lawyers, judges and human rights defenders, and freedom of expression are essential pillars of the rule of law. The Ministry of Justice will continue to act in a manner that upholds and safeguards these principles, irrespective of the individuals involved or the identity of those who may be responsible for their violation.

As a responsible and reliable UN member state, Montenegro will continue to further support the work of the Human Rights Council Special Procedures mandate holders, including through regular and substantive communication in good faith, thereby further advancing the human rights situation in Montenegro.

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

Ervin Ibrahimović, MSc.

Minister

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'E' followed by a horizontal line and a diagonal stroke.