

Date: Sarajevo, 13.03.2017

**APPEAL
TO MEDIA, CITIZENS AND INSTITUTIONS**

THE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION OF THE PRESS COUNCIL IN BIH

is issuing an Appeal
to media editors, citizens and institutions responsible for law enforcement

The Complaints Commission of the Press Council in BiH most seriously warns the public, media and all institutions responsible for law enforcement about the lately noted constant practice of brutally spreading hate speech, threats of murder and liquidations, as well as the creation of inter-ethnic and overall social tensions, through the media in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Hate speech is not freedom of speech. It is a criminal deed and as such is subject to criminal liability! The citizens need to be aware that by posting hate speech, threats and incitements as web portal visitor comments, they expose themselves to criminal liability.

The Commission appeals to **security agencies, the police and prosecution organs** that they sanction the open spread of hate speech in the media, and the persons creating it, including the threats of liquidation and murder, in accordance with the criminal codes of BiH.

The Complaints Commission of the Press Council in BiH **especially appeals to editors of online media** and the press that they, through their editorial policy, do everything necessary to narrow the space in which hate speech can be manifested, especially with respect to the space for the free posting of citizens'

comments on web portals.