

Number: 224-02/12

Date: Sarajevo, 21.04.2012

ADJUDICATION

of the Complaints Commission

of the Press Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina

regarding the complaint of the Women's Network of BiH about the article "How Many Homosexuals Are There in BiH", published in the daily "Dnevni Avaz" on 31.03.2012

COMPLAINT NOT UPHELD

No breach of the Press Code of BiH

The Complaints Commission of the Press Council in BiH has considered the complaint of the

Women's Network of BiH regarding the article "How Many Homosexuals Are There in BiH", published on 31.03.2012, in the daily "Dnevni Avaz" and found no breach of the Press Code of BiH

The Complaints Commission finds that the article was written based on several sources, without stating internal comments.

The Women's Network of BiH turned to the Press Council in BiH regarding the article about the LGBT population in BiH. In the reaction sent on 04.04.2012, indicated is that the article "presents bad journalistic practice, because it implies the promotion of hate speech, and discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation", and that "it intends to differentiate a group of people on the basis of sexual orientation, which is an open call for segregation". Also, the stance of the Women's Network is "that this manner of reporting on marginalized groups presents a drastic breach of the Press Code of BiH".

The Complaints Commission of the Press Council in BiH considered the complaint of the Women's Network of BiH and the article "How Many Homosexuals Are There in BiH" and concluded that the Press Code of BiH was not breached. Based on analysis of the article, it is concluded that it is written on the basis of several sources, without stating internal comments. The Sarajevo Open Center was also contacted, as an important source of information about this topic, but they did not give a statement. The journalist of Dnevni Avaz was informed that, due to their manner of reporting on the LGBT population in the past, they do not wish to give them any statements:

"The Sarajevo Open Center, unfortunately, is not interested in cooperating with your paper with regards to this topic. In 2008, Dnevni Avaz caused much violence against LGBT persons through its coverage, which lead to certain persons being endangered to the extent that they had to leave their birth city, Sarajevo. Maybe we will have a chance to speak about this in the future, when things will be different. I hope you understand and please do not publish any information about our work or about the associates of the Sarajevo Open Center in your paper."

The Complaints Commission, in this case, considers only the article which the complaint regards, and concludes that there are no breaches of the Press Code in this specific article.

Members of the Complaints Commission: Chairperson Ph.D. Prof. Miodrag Zivanovic; Judge Nada Arsenic; Journalist Fuad Kovacevic; Journalist Faruk Boric; Dr. Sc. Enes Osmanovic; Attorney Nada Dalipagic and Journalist Milan Sutalo.

Chairperson of *the Complaints Commission*

Ph.D. Prof. Miodrag Zivanovic