



## Press Release

Podgorica, 2 September 2007

**The IOM** (International Organization for Migration), **the UNDP** (United Nations Development Programme) and **the UNHCR** (The United Nations Refugee Agency) Offices in Montenegro utterly condemn a violent attack on Mr. Željko Ivanović, one of the Founders and Director for Editorial Policy of the Vijesti Daily after the celebration of 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this newspaper.

This was the third attack in several years on prominent names of the free word press themes and this creates a wave of concern over the safety of journalists and the media that take constructive and analytical positions on the country's problems and challenges.

The right to freedom of speech is considered to be the very basis of democracy and it is guaranteed under international law through numerous human rights instruments, notably under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Freedom of speech is the concept of the inherent human right to voice one's opinion publicly without fear of censorship or punishment. The aforementioned organizations encourage the Republic of Montenegro to show that it is capable to guarantee safety and security to all its citizens. To avoid creation of a climate of terror for all those citizens and journalists who persist in exercising their right to freely express views we urge the Government of Montenegro to push forward investigations and to hold accountable those institutions responsible for uncovering the perpetrators and those who ordered this crime and to bring them to justice.