



Inštitut Državljan D,  
zavod za spodbujanje informacijske  
in medijske pismenosti, Ljubljana  
Gradnikova ulica 6a  
SI-6000 Koper  
Slovenija

Spoštovana gospa komisarka Marta Kos!

V zavodu Državljan D izražamo izredno zaskrbljenost nad vašim uradnim obiskom Beograda, ki je napovedan za naslednji teden in vas pozivamo, da ga odpoveste. Obisk bo srbski državni vrh razumel kot evropsko podporo tej državi, kar bi bilo glede na aktualno dogajanje v državi velika sramota za Evropsko unijo.

Prejšnji teden so organizacije Amnesty International, Citizen Lab in Share Foundation razkrile velik vohunski škandal v tej državi, v katerem so neznanci z vohunsko programsko opremo napadli komunikacijske naprave predstavnikov nevladnih organizacij in civilne družbe.

Napad se je zgodil pred spomladanskimi lokalnimi volitvami, predstavniki civilne družbe pa opozarjajo, da je šlo zelo verjetno za pripravo na novembrske parlamentarne volitve. Več dokazov posredno kaže na to, da so vohunsko programsko opremo uporabili akterji, povezani s srbsko vladajočo garnituro.

Vohunska programska oprema je eden od ključnih elementov avtorskih režimov, v preteklih letih pa se je njena uporaba zelo razširila po naši bližnji in daljni okolici. Vaš obisk bi tako drugim državam sporočil, da vohunska programska oprema ni problematična s stališča demokratične Evropske unije. Unije, ki naj bi temeljila na spoštovanju zasebnosti in človekovih pravic ter se sama bori s podobnimi kršitvami.

Glede na vse to vas v zavodu Državljan D pozivamo, da obisk odpoveste in da kot razlog navedete represijo nad srbsko civilno družbo. S tem boste jasno sporočili, da Evropska unija ostaja branik človekovih pravic, ne legitimira avtorskih režimov in solidarno podpira žrtve družbe nadzora.

S spoštovanjem,

Barbara Kvas  
*direktorica zavoda Državljan D*



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## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Dear Commissioner Kos,

We at Citizen D are writing to express our profound concern regarding your official visit to Belgrade scheduled for next week, and we strongly urge you to cancel it. The Serbian leadership will inevitably interpret this visit as an EU endorsement of their administration—a perception that, given the current political climate in the country, would be a profound embarrassment for the European Union.

Just last week, Amnesty International, Citizen Lab, and the Share Foundation exposed a massive spyware scandal in Serbia, revealing that unidentified actors had targeted the communication devices of NGO and civil society representatives.

These attacks took place ahead of the local elections this spring, and civil society representatives warn they were highly likely a dry run for the upcoming parliamentary elections in November. Furthermore, mounting circumstantial evidence suggests the spyware was deployed by actors closely tied to the Serbian ruling elite.

Spyware has become a cornerstone of autocratic regimes, and its use has proliferated alarmingly across our region and beyond in recent years. Proceeding with your visit would signal to numerous other countries that the democratic European Union does not view the use of spyware as a critical issue. A Union that is supposed to be rooted in the respect for privacy and human rights, and which is currently grappling with similar violations within its own borders.

In light of these developments, we urge you to cancel your visit and explicitly cite the reason of ongoing repression of Serbian civil society. With it, you will send an unequivocal message that the European Union remains a steadfast defender of human rights, refuses to legitimize autocratic regimes, and stands in unwavering solidarity with the victims of surveillance societies.

Sincerely,

Barbara Kvas  
*director, Citizen D*