



European  
Federation of  
Journalists

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**President**  
ARNE KÖNIG

**Co-Directors**  
RENATE SCHROEDER & MARC GRUBER

To:

Traian Băsescu, Romanian President

Emil Boc, Prime Minister

Roberta Anastase, President of the Deputy Chamber of the Romanian Parliament

Mircea Geoana, President of the Romanian Senate

Brussels, 19 September 2011

Dear Sir, Madam

We write to you on behalf of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), the regional group of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) representing more than 260.000 journalists in more than 30 European countries, to express our serious concerns over the dramatic situation of the employees of the biggest Romanian press agency, AGERPRES.

According to our information, several complaints were made by members of the Professional Journalists' Union (PJU), which signed the Collective Labour Agreement with the agency. They protest against the abuses committed by the leadership of the institution against its own employees and against continuous violations of the labour law since 2008.

Moreover, we were informed about interference in editorial policy and professional harassment by the current general manager of the agency. The situation has led to legal action taken by the staff, including several lawsuits and criminal complaints for professional and union harassment.

After desperate and illegal attempts to remove the union from the headquarters of the agency, to throw away the billboards through which the union communicated with the employees, to force some of them to drop out of the law suit introduced by the union to recover the 25% illegally cuts in wages and to impose on the employees the value of phone calls due to discretionary contracts concluded with several phone companies, the interim general manager of the agency, Ioan Roșca written to the Tribunal challenging the representation quality of the PJU.

The administration has also adopted illegal Internal Regulation procedure which imposed its exclusive conditions in an authoritarian way. In effect, the management is trying to eliminate democratic trade union representation in the company.

Given this situation, the PJU has decided to file a criminal complaint against the General Manager and the head of the Human Resources Department.

Therefore, the EFJ supports journalists of Romania and their union FRJ MediaSind in their struggle for justice.

We support their demand to the specialised Commissions of the Romanian Parliament to postpone the adoption of the Annual Report of the National Press Agency AGERPRES until a Parliamentary Commission can be mandated to investigate the way the administration led by the interim general manager Ioan Roșca has used public funds and behaved in his position at the head of the Agency.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arne König', is written in a cursive style.

Arne König  
EFJ President