

State of the Press – Judicial Issues Related to the Central Press

The Coalition for a Clean Press (CPC) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the situation in which the media currently finds itself in Romania. Without being exhaustive, the analysis aims to present the state we are in at the moment in terms of legal issues, insolvencies and ownership. The three domains (which we will present as a series – starting with legal problems) present facts and relevant data for understanding the degree of freedom and conditioning of the local press. Comments on this situation will be presented in separate articles.

Owners, shareholders, directors and journalists from mainstream media publications are the focus of legal prosecution by the competent institutions - DNA / DIICOT. Others have lost her libel lawsuits that were filed in civil courts. The order is alphabetical.

B1 TV

TV filmmaker Andrei Bădin was indicted by the National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA) in July 2014 on charges that he demanded bribes from County Council President Adrian Duicu in order to halt a media campaign against former Minister of Environment, Rovana Plumb. The case is ongoing at the Bucharest Court of Appeal. [Source here](#).

Intact

In October 2013, the DNA formally charged Sorin Alexandrescu (CEO of Dish TV Group SA), Dan Voiculescu, his daughter Camelia Rodica Voiculescu, George Matiescu (CEO of Intact Publishing) as well as legal representatives of the Antena 3 SA, Antena TV Group SA and Intact Publishing in the blackmail case at RCS / RDS. The process is currently before the Court of Appeal. [Source here](#).

Camelia Voiculescu has been previously charged by the DNA in 2008, in the “Lottery II” case, alongside George Copos. The trial is ongoing at the Bucharest Tribunal. [Source here](#).

Dan Voiculescu was sentenced on August 8 to 10 years in prison by the Court of Appeal, on the charge of money laundering in the fraudulent privatization case of the Institute of Food Research (ICA). The damages calculated in this case were estimated at € 60 million, and the court ordered the confiscation of both land and buildings in which the TV stations operate. [Source here](#).

Trust PRO

In April 2014, prosecutors raided the studios Media Pro Buftea in a case of tax evasion. Searches focused on companies that have previously worked closely with the studios from Media Pro. 11 people were remanded and the damage amounted to € 1.5 million. The investigation is conducted by the Prosecutor's Office by the Bucharest Tribunal. [Source here](#).

Realitatea TV

Realitatea Media, which holds the license for the Realitatea TV station, was indicted in 2013, as a legal entity by the DNA, for committing the offense of money laundering.

In the same case, prosecutors began criminal proceedings against the legal entity Strategies Research Investments SRL (which holds 86.51% of the Realitatea Media), but also against Maricel Păcuraru (who owns a 50% stake in Research Strategies Investments LLC) and Liviu Luca (indirect shareholder through Global Video Media SA and PSV Company).

The case looks at how Realitatea Media was entered into insolvency, and also questions company loans by shareholders that were bought with money coming from tax evasion and bogus loan contracts. Sources [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Liviu Luca and Negruzti Radu Bogdan, indirect shareholders at Realitatea Media, were sentenced by the Bucharest Tribunal in July 2014, in the Petromservice bankruptcy case, to 6 years imprisonment, and 5 years and 6 months respectively. The decision is not final. [Source here](#).

Liviu Luca has been indicted by DIICOT, in January 2014, along with Sorin Ovidiu Vîntu for embezzling the patrimony of the Employees Association within SNP Petrom SA. The case is ongoing at the Bucharest Tribunal. [Source here](#).

Sorin Ovidiu Vîntu, former owner of Realitatea TV, is currently in prison after being convicted in two criminal cases (two years for favouring Nicolae Popa, former director of Gelsor, and a year in prison for blackmailing Sebastian Ghita).

Vîntu has another 6 year conviction for embezzling the patrimony of the Employees Association within SNP Petrom SA (the decision is not final), and is currently being tried in National Investment Fund (FNI) case.

România Liberă

Dan Adamescu, who indirectly controls the newspaper România Liberă, was indicted in June 2014 by the DNA. He was accused of bribing two judges from the Bucharest Court in order to obtain favourable solutions to insolvency cases that involved companies controlled by his family. In the same case there are 4 judges being tried, businessman Joseph Armas, and four insolvency practitioners. The process is currently being presided over by the Bucharest Court of Appeal. [Source here](#).

Sorin Rosca Stanescu

Founder of the daily paper "Ziua" (The Day) (terminated in 2010), Sorin Rosca Stanescu holds through SC Virtual Big Bang SRL and SC Good News SRL (where his wife Steluța Roșca Stănescu appears as the main shareholder,) the news site www.corectnews.com.

In January 2014, the Prosecutor General's office proceeded with prosecuting Sorin Roșca Stănescu for the offense of making false statements after it was claimed by the National Integrity Agency (ANI) that he did not mention in his statements of assets accounts held by his children in Switzerland.

ANI claims that Sorin Roșca Stănescu was in a state of incompatibility between December 2012 - April 2013, as he held both the position of senator and director of SC Aero Marina Club SRL.

Sorin Roșca Stănescu is one of the defendants indicted in the 2006 Rompetrol case, later acquitted in August 2012 alongside Dinu Patriciu by the Bucharest Court. The case is currently before the Bucharest Court of Appeal after DIICOT challenged the acquittal given by the Court.

Bogdan Chireac

Chireac's name appeared in the Alro privatization case, a case handled by the DIICOT prosecutors, where he was suspected of being an influential agent for the Russian group Marco, owner of the Alro Slatina plant. The case was closed in 2010, and Chirieac, Elena Udrea, Dorin Cocoș and Theodor Stolojan were not formally charged.

Also, Chireac's name was floated in the "Ericsson" scandal. In 2012, the former CEO of the Ericsson branch in Romania, Thomas Lundin, accused several Romanian officials of having received bribes so that the Swedes could obtain the contract for the implementation of 112 - the only emergency number.

The RISE Project cooperates with journalists in Iceland and Sweden to decipher a complex fraud case with implications for Romanian politics. The investigation started after accusations against the journalist Bogdan Chireac by the fugitive broker Cristian Sima. Sima accuses Chireac that he was the link between the Ericsson money and the Romanian politicians. The broker holds that he has evidence since the remittances were made through WBS Holding BVI, a company he leads.

With the exception of these criminal cases, there are also a large number of libel lawsuits, many of which were completed with the conviction of the journalist who defamed. Leaving aside the cases concerning politicians, where it can be assumed that the journalist is wrong, but has the good intention of exercising critical judgment, leading journalists have been shown time and time again by the courts to have exceeded the limits of truth, which could draw up the conclusion that they work under someone's direct orders.

IMPORTANT: This documentation is based on public information and does not claim to be exhaustive. We ask readers to send us any additional information about these, other media institutions or persons, accompanied by relevant evidence, including links.