



HUMAN RIGHTS AND COVID-19

Analysis of the changes in legal framework during a state of emergency and impact on enjoying human rights

Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Freedom of the Media, the Right to Be Informed

In the Republic of Serbia, in order to prevent the spread of the infection and the effects caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, [*the Decision on Declaring a State of Emergency*](#) was adopted on March 15th, 2020. This decision, as well as many other regulations concerning it, that were adopted, have resulted in the restriction of certain rights of citizens.

The analysis chronologically shows the changes in the scope of enjoying guaranteed rights and the manner of regulating changes during the first month of the state of emergency (March 15th – April 15th, 2020), with an assessment of the compliance of activities and measures of all branches of the government with the requirements of the rule of law and the principles of human rights restrictions. There are also presented the issues that these measures and restrictions had been creating, particularly to vulnerable groups, initiatives and proposals submitted to state authorities to solve or mitigate the issues, as well as the State's response to the initiatives.

The analysis was conducted with the support of the United Nations Human Rights Team in Serbia. The views expressed do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations.

Declaring a State of Emergency

Article 200 of [*the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia*](#) stipulates that when public danger threatens the survival of the state or citizens, the National Assembly declares a state of emergency. The same article stipulates that when the National Assembly is unable to meet, the decision on declaring a state of emergency shall be taken jointly by the President of the Republic, the President of the National Assembly and the Prime Minister, under the same conditions as the National Assembly, in which case the measures derogating from human rights and minority rights may be prescribed by the

Government, by decree, with the co-signature of the President of the Republic. Measures of derogation from human and minority rights prescribed by the National Assembly or the Government shall be valid for a maximum of 90 days, and upon expiration of this period, they may be renewed under same conditions.

On March 10th, 2020, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted [the Decision on the Declaration of COVID-19 disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 infectious disease](#). This decision is the basis for the application of Article 52 paragraph 1 item a of [the Law on the Protection of the Population from Infectious Diseases](#), which stipulates that the Minister, based on the proposal of the Commission and the Institute, may issue an ordinance to ban gatherings in public places, therefore, on March 12th, 2020 the Minister of Health issued an [Ordinance of banning gatherings in the Republic of Serbia in indoors public places](#), where, in item 1 states that in order to prevent the spread of infectious disease, COVID-19, it is prohibited public gatherings throughout the territory of the Republic of Serbia in indoors public places when more than 100 persons gather. Without a formal written explanation, the President of the Republic, the President of the National Assembly and the Prime Minister took the Decision on Declaring a State of Emergency on whose basis measures of derogation from human rights were prescribed.¹

Fundamental Rights with Respect to Restriction of Rights

With respect to the general restriction of rights, *the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia* stipulates in Article 20 that human and minority rights guaranteed by the Constitution may be restricted by law if the restriction is allowed by the Constitution², for the purposes that the Constitution allows it, to the extent necessary to satisfy the constitutional purpose of the restriction in a democratic society and without encroachment on substantially the guaranteed right. [The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#), in Article 4, as a basis for the restriction of human rights, stipulates an extraordinary public danger that is officially declared. Measures that restrict rights are possible to the extent of strictly defined requirements of the situation, they cannot be

¹ The Speaker of the National Assembly provided a written reply on March 23rd, 2020 to the opposition MPs that she had proposed that the National Assembly do not meet, due to a ban on assembly. Available at: <https://dostajebilo.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Odgovor-Maje-Gojkovic.pdf> (accessed on April 24th, 2020)

² Rights that cannot be restricted are: the right to dignity and the free development of personality; the right to life; the right to the physical and psychological integrity of the person; prohibition of slavery and forced labor; rights related to the treatment of a person deprived of liberty (respect for the dignity of the person, prohibition of torture and extortion of testimony); the right to a fair trial; the right to legal certainty in criminal law (presumption of innocence, no punishment for an act which at the time when it was committed was not a criminal offense, no retroactive application of the criminal law, unless it is more favorable to the perpetrator ...); the right to a legal personality; the right to citizenship; freedom of thought, conscience and religion; conscientious objection; freedom of expression of nationality; a ban on provoking national, racial and religious hatred; the right to marry and the equality of spouses; freedom to decide on birth; the rights of the child; ban on forced assimilation.

incompatible with other obligations imposed by international law and cannot bring about discrimination. The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that any type of discrimination, direct or indirect, on any grounds, and in particular on the basis of race, gender, nationality, social origin, birth, religion, political or other belief, financial status, culture, language, age and mental or physical disability, is prohibited as well as that certain measures are not considered as discrimination, those which the Republic of Serbia may introduce in order to achieve full equality of persons or groups of persons who are essentially in an unequal position with other citizens. [*The Anti-Discrimination Law*](#) stipulates that the terms “discrimination” and “discriminatory treatment” shall mean **any unjustified difference** or **unequal treatment**, or omission, in relation to persons or groups, as well as to members of their families, or their close persons, in the open or covert way, and which is based on some personality trait.

1. Content of the Right

Article 46 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia guarantees the right to **freedom of opinion and expression**. This right includes freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas either orally, in writing, in the form of art or through any other media of choice. The Constitution itself prescribes that the right can be subject to restriction if it is prescribed by the law and required to: protect the rights and reputation of others, protect the authority and impartiality of the court and protect public health, morality of a democratic society and national security of the Republic of Serbia.

Article 50 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia guarantees the right to **freedom of the media**. This article prescribes that there is no censorship in the Republic of Serbia. The competent court may prevent the dissemination of information and ideas through the media only if it is necessary in a democratic society to prevent incitement for the violent destruction of the constitutional order or violation of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia, to prevent the propagation of war or incitement to direct violence, to prevent any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred, that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.

The exercise of the right to correct false, incompletely or inaccurately published information that violated someone's right or interest and the right to respond to the published information is regulated by law.

The right to be informed is regulated by Article 51 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia. This article guarantees that everyone has the right to be truthfully, fully and

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timely informed about issues of public importance and the media are obliged to respect this right.

Everyone has the right to access to information held by public authorities and organizations entrusted with public authority, in accordance with the law.

Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guarantees:

1. *Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.*
2. *Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.*
3. *The exercise of the rights provided for in paragraph 2 of this article carries with it special duties and responsibilities. It may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:*
 - a) *For respect of the rights or reputations of others;*
 - b) *For the protection of national security or of public order (ordre public), or of public health or morality.*

The measures that have been adopted since the beginning of the state of emergency have affected the citizens of the Republic of Serbia to exercise these rights during the first month in several ways.

2. Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Freedom of opinion and expression in the first month of the state of emergency was primarily affected through prosecuting criminal offences of Causing Panic and Disorder. [Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia](#) regulates this act with Article 343:

- 1) *Whoever by disclosing or disseminating untrue information or allegations causes panic, or serious disruption of public peace and order or frustrates or significantly impedes enforcing of decisions of government authorities or organisations exercising administrative authority, shall be punished by imprisonment of three months to three years and a fine.*
- 2) *If the offence specified in paragraph 1 of this Article is committed through media or similar means or at public gathering, the offender shall be punished by imprisonment of six months to five years.*

In a state of emergency, [a binding instruction](#) of the Republic Public Prosecutor was issued, which prescribes urgent action in cases of certain criminal offences, including the criminal offense of Causing Panic and Disorder. For this criminal offence, citizens, who were spreading so-called [fake news](#) through social media, were mostly prosecuted, but [one journalist](#) was arrested and detained on suspicion of committing this criminal offence as she published the text about the lack of protective equipment for employees at the Clinic Center of Vojvodina. The criminal charges against the journalist were subsequently rejected. In some cases, due to this type of criminal offence, [detention](#) was ordered, and [official announcements of the Ministry of the Internal Affairs](#) kept us informed about these arrests every day.

During the first month of the state of emergency for the criminal offense of Causing Panic and Disorder, in cases where detention was ordered, so-called Skype trials were held, i.e. trials where the defendant was present at the conference via Skype application, and based on **the Recommendations of the Ministry of Justice** from March 26th, 2020.

After the criticism of the professional public for regulating the course of criminal proceedings by the recommendations of the Ministry, on April 1st, 2020, the Government of the Republic of Serbia, with the co-signature of the President of the Republic, **passed The Decree on the Manner of Participation of the Accused at the Trial in the Criminal Procedure** Held during the State of Emergency from March 15th, 2020. On April 3rd, 2020, the Higher Court in Novi Sad announced that one person, who was ordered into custody on suspicion of committing the criminal offence of Causing Panic and Disorder, has been waiting for a trial through a conference call.

On April 9th, 2020, **the High Judicial Council adopted the Conclusion** which took the position that this regulation applies only to the criminal offences of Illegal Trade, Failure to Act Pursuant to Health Regulations During Epidemic and the criminal offense of Transmitting Contagious Disease, but not to the criminal offence of Causing Panic and Disorder.³

Disputable issue, related to the proceedings of the criminal offences of Causing Panic and Disorder, is [the inability to determine the consequences of this type of criminal offence](#), as an important element of a criminal offence, particularly of those offences committed through social media.

³ More about the right to a fair trial during the state of emergency available at: <http://www.yucom.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/LJUDSKA-PRAVA-I-COVID-Pravo-na-pravi%C4%8Dno-su%C4%91enje-30.04.2020.pdf>

3. Freedom of Media

Article 4 of [the Law on Public Information and Media](#) precisely regulates the freedom of media:

Public information is free and it is not subject to censorship.

Any direct or indirect discrimination of programme editors, journalists or other persons involved in the public information sector based, in particular, on their political choices and beliefs or other personal characteristics is forbidden.

The free flow of information through the media or the editorial autonomy of the media, especially by putting pressure, threatening or blackmailing editors, journalists or sources of information, shall not be jeopardised.

Any physical assault on an editor, a journalist or other persons involved in gathering and publishing information through the media shall be punishable by law.

The freedom of public information shall not be violated by abuse of office or public powers, ownership or other rights, or by exerting influence or control over the means of printing and distribution of papers or over electronic communication networks used for the distribution of media content.

At the very beginning of the state of emergency, on March 18th, 2020, the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia issued [recommendations for the work of journalists](#) as well as a [Guide for Journalists on Topics on Public Health](#).

During the first month of the state of emergency, media freedom was the focus of both the domestic and international public. The arrest of the journalist, Ana Lalic, and her being held in the custody of the police, as well as [the Conclusion of the Government of the Republic of Serbia](#) of March 28th, 2020, which the public became familiar with only a few days later, on March 31st, 2020, when it was published in the Official Gazette of Serbia. According to Article 46 of the Law on the Government, **the conclusion shall be published if it is determined by the law or other regulation or if the Government decides in that manner during its adoption.**

This Conclusion, under the explanation that it protects citizens from spreading false news, **centralizes informing the public** in the jurisdiction of the Crisis Headquarters for the suppression of Infectious Disease COVID-19, headed by the Prime Minister. The Conclusion obliges mayors, i.e. presidents of municipalities and emergency headquarters

of local self-government units, as well as health institutions, health workers and legal entities who perform health activities to submit information directly or through health institutes to the Crisis Headquarters of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

The Conclusion also contained a provision:

Information on health measures and other information related to the treatment of COVID-19 caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which unauthorized persons announced in public, cannot be considered accurate and verified, with the possibility of applying regulations related to responsibility and legal consequences for spreading misinformation during the state of emergency.

On April 2nd, 2020, after the reactions of [associations of journalists](#), many [civil society organizations](#), but also [international organizations](#), under pressure from the domestic and international public, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia [announced the decision](#) to withdraw [the disputed Conclusion](#).

Arrests of journalists, pressure, censorship

“A chilling effect on freedom of expression arises when an interference with this right causes fear, leading to self-censorship and ultimately the impoverishment of public debate, which is to the detriment of society as a whole. Accordingly, State authorities should avoid taking measures or imposing sanctions that have the effect of discouraging participation in public debate.”, the Council of Europe emphasized in the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of journalism and the safety of journalists and other media actors.⁴

Issues with arrests of journalists, police raids on media offices and journalists' homes, involving seizure of equipment, have been OSCE's subject of concern, which in its *Safety of Journalists Guidebook* highlighted this as an example of bad practice.⁵

In addition to the journalist, Ana Lalic, who was arrested on suspicion of committing the criminal offence of Causing Panic and Disorder under Article 343 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia due to the text [“Clinic Centre Vojvodina is about to collapse: There is no protective equipment for nurses”](#), on suspicion of committing the criminal offence of Failure to Act Pursuant to Health Regulations During Epidemic, [a cameraman and a journalist from the Zrenjanin television KTV](#) were arrested and detained and their

⁴ https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016806415d9#_ftn1 (Accessed on May 7th 2020)

⁵ <https://www.osce.org/fom/85777?download=true> Key issues and recommendations for the safety of journalists (p. 55) (Accessed on May 7th 2020)

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equipment was confiscated. Even though they were not the means by which the criminal offence was committed, but work equipment, [the camera and telephone have not been returned to the television staff](#) after they were released. Police also raided the apartment of Ana Lalic and on that occasion her laptop computer and both mobile phones were seized.

[Former ambassador of the Republic of Serbia, Vladeta Jankovic, also pointed out the censorship on the public service broadcaster RTS](#), after, according to his allegations, *RTS* had refused to publish a written interview with him on its website due to one answer to a question.

Many journalists have been the subject of organized verbal attacks on social networks, among them, the Facebook page [COVID-19 Serbia](#) has attracted the most attention, which sponsored insulting posts against the media outlet *NI*, journalist, Ana Lalic and the organization [Don't Let Belgrade D\(r\)own](#).

On the occasion of reporting on the state of emergency and the epidemic, the journalist of the daily newspaper *Danas*, Snezana Chongradin, was also attacked, for whom a member of parliament stated in a show on a private television with a national frequency that she [should be arrested](#).

*Article 8 of the Law on Public Information and Media stipulates that **the elected, appointed, i.e., assigned holder of public office shall be obliged to be subjected to the expression of critical opinions that pertain to the results of their performance, i.e., the policy they implement, and the opinions are in relation to performing their function – regardless of whether they feel personally affected by the expression of these opinions.***

However, state officials [did not refrain](#) from a targeted attack on certain media, and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, as a guest on the national public service broadcaster, [openly stated](#) that some journalists “were spreading lies”. Due to the attack on the daily newspaper *Danas* by the Prime Minister, [the South East Europe Media Organisation](#) also published its announcement. The Minister of Defense, [Aleksandar Vulin](#), accused the editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine *NIN* of attacks on the president of the state as well as other news agencies, but also of deliberately making it difficult for the state to fight the corona virus. The platform of non-governmental organizations “Three Freedoms”, which had been actively monitoring and recording human rights violations during the state of emergency, also noted many attacks of the President of the Republic and other state officials, as well as media houses where public officials have often been present as guests in the shows. This platform in its report from April 14th, 2020 states:

Pro-government tabloids and the portals “Informer” and “Kurir”, as well as “Pink” television, continued their campaign against media outlets and journalists reporting from Crisis Headquarters press conferences or addresses by top state officials. The trigger for such attacks was questions about the causes of the small number of people tested in Serbia, the incidence of infections in hospitals, and questions about whether the government is using a state of emergency to deal with independent media. [The latest in a series of attacks](#) followed a question by President Vucic about whether he would go into self-isolation after his son was found to be infected with the virus. In response to the issue, allegations were made by the aforementioned media that “The media with a tycoon sign is not interested in fighting corona virus, but eliminating Vucic from political life” as well as new insults by editor-in-chief of “Informer” Dragan Vucicevic.⁶

Article 6 para. 2 of the Law on Public Information and Media stipulates: *In order to protect competition and diversity of ideas and opinions, any form of monopoly in the field of public information is forbidden.*

Outside of Belgrade, numerous local government journalists complained about discrimination against journalists and the media and favoring certain media outlets. This was the case in [Novi Pazar](#), where the media received a note from the city Crisis Headquarters that **they could find out all the new information on the program of one television, *Regional TV***. The media from [Kragujevac](#) and [Kraljevo](#) also pointed out the issues with reporting on the COVID-19 virus and how restrained the representatives of the institutions were from talking with journalists.

The Journalists' Association of Serbia also pointed out the issue of [economic endangerment](#) of journalists during the state of emergency, and according to the [survey](#) which the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia conducted at the beginning of April, journalists needed protective equipment the most, which 58% of surveyed journalists opted for.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachel, expressed [concern over the repression of the media by the member states](#) and emphasized that some countries used the pandemic of the virus to prevent the spread of information. She pointed out that some countries used the outbreak of the coronavirus as a pretext to restrict information and stifle criticism. She also pointed out that some political leaders made statements aimed at journalists, creating a hostile environment that affects their security and the ability to do their job.

⁶ <https://www.gradjanske.org/en/three-freedoms-under-the-magnifying-glass-10-13-april-2020/> (Accessed on May 7th, 2020)

Freedom of movement of journalists

Since the ban on movement was in force during the state of emergency in Serbia, journalists were recognized as persons who needed to move even when other citizens were not allowed to. This was permitted for all journalists who, by March 18th, filled in and sent the form-table to the press service of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for work during the curfew.⁷ However, some media outlets and journalists complained that accreditations were selectively granted to journalists and that not all media outlets that submitted duly filled forms received accreditations. A dozen media from Leskovac and Jablanica district announced that they had not received accreditations. [According to their claims](#), the Government of the Republic of Serbia sent accreditations only for two media from Leskovac and two media from Presevo.

Press conferences of the Crisis Headquarters and the Government of the Republic of Serbia

On April 10th, 2020, the Office for Cooperation with the Media of the Government of the Republic of Serbia [issued a statement](#) informing the public of Serbia that journalists will no longer be able to attend press conferences, explaining that in this way journalists are protected from the virus. At the time of creating this analysis, the statement was no longer on the website of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. We were not able to find out in what form of decision the Government decided this, since according to the Law on the Government of Republic of Serbia, the Government is not obliged to publish all the decisions it makes.

*Online submitting questions for regular conferences at 3 PM

Due to the growing concern of colleagues journalists, cameramen and photo-reporters for their health, and following complaints about the vulnerability at press conferences of the Prime Minister and members of the Government, as well as experts, we inform you that **starting from Saturday, April 11th, journalists need to submit their questions online** for press conferences held every day at 3 PM.

The Radio-Television of Serbia and the Tanjug News Agency will, as before, organize the live broadcast of the conference, it is stated in the announcement of the Office for Cooperation with the Media of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

We ask all colleagues journalists who have questions for doctors and experts, to submit them **no later than 1:30 PM** to the e-mail press@gov.rs , **on the day of the conference**.

We will do our best to ensure that, at the conferences, everyone gets answers to the questions received by that time.

**Original screenshot is in Serbian Cyrillic*

⁷ More on Freedom of Movement during the state of emergency available at: <http://www.yucom.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/LJUDSKA-PRAVA-I-COVID-19-Analiza-izmena-pravnog-okvira-tokom-vanrednog-stanja-i-uticaj-na-u%C5%BEivanje-ljudskih-prava-final.pdf>

[Some media](#) considered it to be harsh censorship, and [professional associations](#) also reacted to this decision.

[Some media outlets](#) refused to submit questions by e-mail and boycotted press conferences organized for media but without media, after their questions were selectively answered. [The European Federation of Journalists](#) also spoke about this form of reporting, emphasizing this decision as a very bad practice.

[Ten days later, on April 21st, 2020](#), journalists were allowed again to attend the press conferences of the Crisis Headquarters and the Government of Serbia.

4. The Right to Be Informed

Article 16 of [the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance](#) prescribes deadlines for the actions of public authorities, thus defining a general deadline for responding to a request of 14 days. **However, if the request relates to information that can be presumed to be important for the protection of public health and the environment, the authority must inform the applicant it holds such information, grant access to the document containing the requested information, or issue a copy of the document no later than 48 hours** of receiving the request.

On March 24th, 2020, [the Decree on Time Limits in Administrative Procedures during the State of Emergency](#) was adopted and according to it the parties in proceedings before state bodies and organizations, bodies and organizations of provincial autonomy and local self-government units, institutions, public enterprises, special bodies which the regulatory function is exercised through and legal and natural persons entrusted with public powers, during a state of emergency in the Republic of Serbia may not bear the consequences of its failure to act within the time limits prescribed or determined in accordance with the laws governing administrative proceedings or special administrative proceedings.

The significance of this Decree for the right to be informed is primarily reflected in the fact that it refers to the deadlines prescribed by the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance, but also to the actions of [the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection](#).

Despite this Decree, a number of public authorities and organizations entrusted with public authority have responded to requests for access to information of public importance which Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights – YUCOM sent to them. We were deprived of the response of the Ministry of the Internal Affairs regarding the measures of protection against domestic violence, therefore in principle, we can conclude

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that the public authorities treated information of public importance to a large extent as they generally treat during the time out of the state of emergency.

From the moment of declaring the state of emergency until March 22nd, 2020, the Ministry of Health twice a day published information on infected persons and deceased from the COVID-19 virus, at 8 AM and 6 PM. After March 22nd, 2020, the information were published at a press conference once a day at 3 PM. In order to inform the public about the epidemiological situation, a website <https://covid19.rs/> was created, where statistical data and official information about the virus were published on a daily basis. Although the website have been updated several times a day and was a useful source of information, its content essentially corresponded to the content that could be heard at the daily press conferences of the Crisis Headquarters of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

OHCHR experts also pointed out the importance of truthful and prompt informing of citizens, with an appeal addressed to member states entitled [Governments must promote and protect access to and free flow of information during pandemic](#).

Regulations adopted since COVID-19 disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 infectious disease has been declared	
March 10th, 2020	The Decision on Declaring COVID-19 Disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 Infectious Disease ⁸
March 12th, 2020	The Ordinance of Banning Gatherings in the Republic of Serbia in Indoors Public Places ⁹ The Decision to Close the Border Crossings ¹⁰
March 14th, 2020	The Decree on Banning Visits and Restricting Movement in the Facilities of Institutions for the Accommodation of the Elderly ¹¹
March 15th, 2020	The Ordinance of Banning Gatherings in the Republic of Serbia in Indoors Public Places ¹² The Decision on Declaring a State of Emergency ¹³ The Decision on Limiting the Price of Basic Foodstuffs and Protective Equipment ¹⁴

⁸ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 23/2020, 24/20, 27/20, 28/20, 30/20, 32/20, 35/20, 37/20, 38/20, 39 /20, 43/20, 45/20, 48/20, 49 /20, 59/20, 60/20)

⁹ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 25/20)

¹⁰ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 25/20, 27/20, 35/20 and 47/20)

¹¹ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 28/20)

¹² (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 30/20)

¹³ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 29/20)

¹⁴ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 30/20)

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March 16th, 2020	The Decree on Organizing the Work of Employers during the State of Emergency ¹⁵ The Decree on Measures during the State of Emergency ¹⁶ The Decision on Suspending all Election Activities related to Conducting the Elections for the Members of the National Assembly, planned for April 26th, 2020 ¹⁷ The Decision on Temporary Restriction of Movement of Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants Accommodated in Asylum Centers and Reception Centers in the Republic of Serbia ¹⁸
March 17th, 2020	The Ordinance on the Organization and Implementation of the Quarantine Measures ¹⁹
March 18th, 2020	The Ordinance on Restriction and Prohibition of Movement of Persons in the Territory of the Republic of Serbia ²⁰ The Decision on Limiting the Prices and Margins of Basic Foodstuffs and Protective Equipment ²¹ Conclusion of the High Judicial Council from March 18, 2020
March 19th, 2020	The Decision to Close all Border Crossings for Entry into the Republic of Serbia ²²
March 20th, 2020	The Decree on Time Limits in Court Proceedings during the State of Emergency Declared on March 15th, 2020 ²³ The Decree on the Use of Financial Resources of the Budget of the Republic of Serbia during the State of Emergency Caused by COVID-19 Disease Caused by the SARS-CoV-2 Virus ²⁴
March 21st, 2020	The Decision on Limiting the Provision of Services in the Field of Retail Trade, Including Selling Goods and Providing Services in Shopping Centres and Stores that are Indoors ²⁵ The Decree on Misdemeanor for Violation of the Ordinance of the Minister of the Interior on Restriction and Prohibition of Movement of Persons in the Territory of the Republic of Serbia ²⁶ The Ordinance of Banning Gatherings in the Republic of Serbia in Indoors Public Places ²⁷
March 22nd, 2020	The Decree on Limiting the Retail Price of Protective Equipment for the State of

¹⁵ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 31/20)

¹⁶ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 31/20, 36/20, 38/20, 39/20, 43/20, 47/20, 49/20, 53 /20, 56/20, 57/20, 58/20, 60/20)

¹⁷ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 32/20)

¹⁸ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 32/20)

¹⁹ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 33/20)

²⁰ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 34/20, 39/20, 40/20, 46/20, 50/20)

²¹ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 35/20, 55/20, 57/20)

²² (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 37/20)

²³ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 38/20)

²⁴ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 38/20)

²⁵ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 39/20)

²⁶ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 39/20)

²⁷ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 39/20)

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	Emergency Caused by COVID-19 Caused by the SARS-CoV-2 Virus²⁸
March 24th, 2020	The Decree on Time Limits in Administrative Procedures during the State of Emergency²⁹ The Decree on Certain Technical Requirements, Standards and Application of Medical Devices during the State of Emergency of COVID-19 Disease Caused by the SARS-CoV-2 Virus³⁰ The Decision on the Status of Foreign Persons in the Republic of Serbia during the State of Emergency³¹
April 1st, 2020	The Decree on the Mode of Participation of the Accused at the Main Trial in the Criminal Procedure Held during the State of Emergency from March 15th, 2020³²
April 7th, 2020	The Decree on Additional Financial Loans during the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 Disease Caused by the SARS-CoV-2 Virus by credits, issuing government securities on the domestic and international financial markets and providing guarantees of the Republic of Serbia³³
April 9th, 2020	Conclusion of the High Judicial Council from April 9th, 2020

* Listed regulations are available in Serbian.

²⁸ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 40/20, 43/20 and 48/20 and 59/20)

²⁹ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 41/20 and 43/20)

³⁰ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 41/20)

³¹ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 41/20)

³² (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 49/20)

³³ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 52/20)