

## **Headline: NGO activists attacked in Montenegrin capital**

**Excerpt from report by Montenegrin newspaper *Dan* on 13 March from *BBC Monitor***

[Report by N. Mrdak: "Kicking, smashing, hitting" on page 10]

Two MANS NGO activists who were collecting signatures of citizens that want the parliament to discuss the draft law on protection of energy supply of households were attacked yesterday near Small Market in Podgorica. They were attacked by five unidentified men, who assaulted and insulted them and smashed the table the activists were using. Charges against these persons have been filed with the Podgorica police headquarters and MANS expects the police to discover them as soon as possible.

Yesterday MANS representatives were collecting signatures supporting the new initiative at three locations in the capital, Hercegovacka Street, near the Impek bakery on the boulevard and across the street from Small Market. Two young activists, a young man and a girl, both aged 20, were attacked at about 1430 [1330gmt] while several women from Podgorica were signing their petition.

They say that five muscular young men first attacked a placard saying "Government says nyet, we go to parliament", warning off one of the MANS activists: "What is it, why are you looking at me". After that they "kicked the placard and smashed the table where signatures were being collected", with "one of the attackers removing the cap a MANS activist was wearing, hitting him in the face so his glasses fell down and shattered". The MANS activists took the signatures they collected so far, entered their car and left.

MANS executive director Vanja Calovic was visiting another stall in Podgorica when her colleagues were attacked and yesterday she commented bitterly about this attack on, as she says, twenty-year-old activists.

*[Passage omitted: Calovic says that the police so far failed to identify the attackers]*

**Source: *Dan*, Podgorica, in Serbian 13 Mar 07**

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