



No. ____/C/2026

Annex no. 12: Cases involving journalists

A. Cases in which journalists have the capacity of injured parties

• On 17 February 2022, 18 February 2022 and 19 February 2022, the injured party Ș.E., an investigative journalist, filed with the Criminal Investigation Service of the Bucharest General Police Directorate three complaints in which she essentially reported the following:

On 16 February 2022, the injured party, Ș.E., received a message on her Facebook account, via the Messenger app, sent by the user of the Facebook account "P.A.", to which were attached 5 personal photos, taken in her home 20 years ago and showing the victim in intimate poses, coming out of the shower or in her bathroom, with a towel on her head or scantily clad.

Analysing the photos received, the injured person noticed that at the top of one of the images, her name could be seen, as well as the name of the website on which they had been published, namely www.xvideos.com, with adult content. After checking online, the injured party found that there was an account with her name on that website where the five photos she had received were posted, as well as a video made from the five photos. At the same time, both the photos and the video were posted on several adult websites, and the injured party found that one of them also contained another photo in which she appeared naked and wrapped in a towel.

On 17 February 2022, the injured party contacted Deputy Police Commissioner R.A. from the Criminal Investigation Service of the Bucharest General Police Directorate (the two having previously met in the context of another complaint filed by Ș.E.), to whom she recounted what had happened. The police officer informed her that there were indications that an offence of violation of privacy had been committed. On the same day, at the request of police officer R.A. to provide the account from which the injured party had received those messages, the latter sent the police officer a screenshot, which she had taken on 16 February 2022, showing the messages received from the user of the Facebook page "P.A.".

On 17 February 2022, Ș.E. went to the headquarters of the Criminal Investigation Service of the Bucharest General Police Directorate and filed a complaint regarding the commission of the offence of violation of privacy.

On the morning of 18 February 2022, the injured party Ș.E. received a Google alert on her mobile phone informing her that her name appeared in several online press articles, some of the websites belonging to the R.M. trust, where the injured party had worked between 2008 and 2009. When accessing one of the press articles, the injured party noticed that one of the photos received from the user of the Facebook account "P.A." was in the press article, accompanied by a link leading to the website www.realitateadinmoldova.md.

The injured party discovered that the five photos sent to her by the user of the Facebook account "P.A." were published on this website, as well as the screenshot that she had sent to Deputy Police Commissioner R.A. on 17 February 2022.

On 18 February 2022, the injured party contacted the then Minister of Internal Affairs, B.L.N., to whom she reported that a piece of evidence she had submitted in the criminal case had been leaked to the press without her consent. The minister assured her that he would conduct an internal investigation and arranged a meeting for her with the Inspector General of the Romanian Police, Quaestor B.M.M.

On the same day, at around 3 p.m., the injured party went to see Quaestor B.M.M., with whom she discussed what had happened and who advised her to file a complaint with the Internal Control Directorate of the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police.

On 21 February 2022, the injured party, Ș.E., sent a message to the Minister of Internal Affairs to inquire about the outcome of the internal investigation, but he did not reply. Subsequently, the injured party was contacted by telephone by Quaestor B.M.M., whom she met on the same day at 1 p.m.

On this occasion, Quaestor B.M.M. showed the injured party an information note stating that the first website to publish the photos and the screenshot was www.patrianoastra.com, the press article having been published on 17 February 2022 at 5:45 a.m., prior to the injured party's appearance before the police and prior to the screenshot being sent to Deputy Police Commissioner R.A.

The injured party, Ș.E., contradicted the conclusions of the police officers, claiming that, following her own online checks, she was convinced that the information relating to the date and time of publication of the article on the website www.patrianoastra.com had been forged.

The complaints dated 17 February 2022, 18 February 2022 and 19 February 2022 were registered with the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Court of First Instance of District 4 of Bucharest under numbers 991/163/P/2022, 1035/163/P/2022 and 1267/P/2022.

On 28 February 2022, it was ordered that case no. 1035/P/2022 be joined with case no. 991/P/2022.

By Order of 11 March 2022, the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Court of First Instance of District 4 of Bucharest ruled to decline jurisdiction over case no. 1267/P/2022 in favour of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Tribunal, under which it was registered under no. 1177/P/2022. Subsequently, by Order no. 366/II-3/2022 of 31 March 2022 of the Prosecutor General of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Court of Appeal, it was ordered that case no. 1177/P/2022 of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Tribunal be taken over for criminal investigation. The case was registered with the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Court of Appeal under no. 1267/163/P/2022 (421/P/2022).

At the same time, by Order of 14 March 2022 of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Court of First Instance of District 4 of Bucharest, it was ordered that case no. 991/163/P/2022 (to which case no. 1035/P/2022 was joined) be referred to the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Tribunal, where it was registered under no. 1319/P/2022. Subsequently, by Order no. 496/II-3/2022 of 04 April 2022 of the Prosecutor General of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Court of Appeal, it was ordered that this prosecutor's office take over case file no. 1319/P/2022 of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Tribunal. The case was registered with the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Court of Appeal under no. 434/P/2022.

By Order of 6 April 2022 of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Court of Appeal, it was ordered that case no. 434/P/2022 be joined with case no. 1267/163/P/2022 (421/P/2022).

On 20 June 2022, the five photographs showing the injured party in intimate poses were republished on the website www.realitateadinmoldova.md, with the exception of the

screenshot that had been the subject of the first distribution on this website, which prompted the injured party to file a new complaint on 21 June 2022, which was registered with the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Court of First Instance of District 1 of Bucharest under no. 5822/P/2022.

On 27 July 2022, the injured party, Ș.E., returned with a supplement to this complaint, in which she reported that she had noticed the publication of the same photographs on the website www.realitateadinmoldova.net, photographs that had been taken over by 45 other websites, all of which, with the exception of one, were part of the realitatea.net press domain.

Also, on 27 July 2022, the injured party Ș.E. submitted a new supplement showing that, on 12 July 2022, during a live broadcast on the Facebook page "Spovedania lui Rizea" (Rizea's Confession), R.C. (alias M.C.) made threatening and intimidating statements about the injured party, causing the latter to feel fear, including in relation to the possibility that certain real or imaginary facts might be disclosed, thereby affecting her personal and/or professional life.

Under these circumstances, the victim Ș.E. requested that investigations be carried out against R.C., Realitatea PHG S.R.L., P.S. (administrator of Compactview MP S.R.L.), B.P.A.B. (partner of Prestige Media PHG S.R.L.), as well as against the latter two companies, for committing the offences of violation of privacy, threats, harassment and blackmail.

On 06 December 2023, case no. 5822/160/P/2022 of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Court of First Instance of District 1 of Bucharest was joined to case no. 1267/163/P/2022 (421/P/2022) of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Court of Appeal.

At the same time, given the distribution of the screenshot from the injured party to several management bodies within the Romanian Police, on 08 July 2022, Ș.E. filed a complaint requesting an investigation into Quaestor B.M.M., Quaestor B.B. (Director of the Bucharest General Police Directorate), Chief Commissioner Ș.G. (former head of the Criminal Investigation Service of the Bucharest General Police Directorate) and Deputy Commissioner R.A., for committing the offence of abuse of office, consisting in the fact that the aforementioned police officers did not comply with the provisions of an internal memo, which prohibited the use of mobile telecommunications equipment and computer applications for transmitting information related to police activities.

The complaint of 8 July 2022 was attached to file no. 1267/163/P/2022 (421/P/2022) of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Court of Appeal.

Also, on 2 October 2023, the injured party Ș.E. filed a new complaint requesting an investigation into Quaestor B.M.M., Quaestor B.B., I.I. (Director of the Internal Control Directorate within the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police) and M.R. (Deputy Director of the same directorate) for committing the offence of abuse of office. In fact, Ș.E. pointed out that B.M.M. and B.B. did not notify the criminal investigation authorities about the disclosure by the police of the screenshot, which the injured party claimed to have sent only to Deputy Commissioner R.A., nor did they initiate any internal investigation into this matter. At the same time, the complaint she filed with the Internal Control Directorate was not forwarded urgently to the competent prosecutor's office for investigation.

The complaint of 02 October 2023 was registered with the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Court of Appeal under case no. 683/P/2023, which was subsequently joined with case no. 1267/163/P/2022 (421/P/2022).

By Order no. 1267/163/P/2022 (421/P/2022) of 24 October 2023 of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Court of Appeal, it was ordered, pursuant to Article 314(1)(a) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 315(1)(b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in relation to Article 16(1)(a), (b)(first sentence) and (f) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the case was dismissed in respect of the offences of:

- violation of privacy, provided for in Article 226(2) of the Criminal Code, as the reported act is not provided for by criminal law (in relation to the complaint filed for the dissemination in the online press of photographs of the injured party without their consent);
- threats, provided for in Article 206(1) of the Criminal Code, and blackmail, as provided for in Article 207(2) of the Criminal Code, as the reported acts do not exist (allegedly committed by R.C., P.S., as administrator of Compactview MP S.R.L., and B.P.A.B., as partner of Prestige Media PHG S.R.L.);
- violation of privacy, provided for in Article 226(2) of the Criminal Code, as the reported act does not exist (with reference to the alleged involvement of the perpetrators R.C., P.S., as administrator of Compactview MP S.R.L., and B.P.A.B., as partner of Prestige Media PHG S.R.L., in the distribution of photographs depicting the injured party);
- tampering with computer data, provided for in Article 325 of the Criminal Code, as the reported act does not exist (with reference to the tampering with computer data relating to the date and time of publication of the article on the website www.patrianoastra.com);
- abuse of office, provided for in Article 297(1) of the Criminal Code, as the reported act is not provided for by criminal law (with reference to the complaint lodged by the injured party on 8 July 2022);
- abuse of office, provided for in Article 297(1) of the Criminal Code, as the reported act does not exist (with reference to the complaint lodged by the injured party on 2 October 2023);
- disclosure of information classified as service secret or not public, provided for in Article 304(1) of the Criminal Code, as the reported act is not provided for by criminal law (allegedly committed by Deputy Commissioner R. A., Chief Commissioner Ş.G., Quaestor B.B. and Quaestor B.M.M., consisting in the disclosure of the screenshot taken by the injured party);
- illegal access to a computer system, provided for in Article 360(1) of the Criminal Code, since, in relation to the date on which the act was committed, the statute of limitations for criminal liability had expired.

The petitioner Ş.E. lodged a complaint against the decision to dismiss the case, which was rejected as unfounded by Order no. 265/II-2/2023 of 19 December 2023 of the Prosecutor General of the Bucharest Court of Appeal.

Subsequently, by the decision ruled on 5 September 2024 in case no. 65/2/2024, the preliminary chamber judge of the Bucharest Court of Appeal - Criminal Section I admitted the complaint lodged by the petitioner Ş.E. against Order no. 1267/163/P/2022 (421/P/2022) of 24 October 2023 of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Court of Appeal and partially annulled this Order with regard to the decisions to dismiss the case in relation to the offences of violation of privacy, provided for in Article 226(2) of the Criminal Code, disclosure of information classified as service secret or not public, provided for in Article 304(1) of the Criminal Code, and tampering with computer data, provided for in Article 325 of the Criminal Code. The other dismissal decisions made by the Order of 24 October 2023 were upheld. The case file was sent to the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Court of Appeal for further investigation.

By Order no. 967/C/2024 of 17 October 2024, the Prosecutor General of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice ordered the takeover of case file no. 1267/163/P/2022 (421/P/2022) from the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Court of Appeal.

Currently, the case is being processed by the Criminal Investigation Section of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, with a view to

completing the criminal investigation, in accordance with the decision handed down by the preliminary chamber judge on 5 September 2024.

- Case no. 9331/160/P/2022 is registered with the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Court of First Instance of District 1 of Bucharest, concerning the complaint filed by the injured party Ș.E., journalist.

The injured party reported that, on 18 May 2022, at 3:34 pm, she received via WhatsApp a PDF document containing five photographs from C.C., acting rector of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza Police Academy. These photographs were allegedly stolen by unknown persons and subsequently distributed online and published on the website www.realitateadinmoldova.md. The document titled "How do little secret police members want to get their hands on the entire national public order and security system" includes several references to the injured party, Ș.E., as well as the five photographs showing her in intimate poses.

The case is being investigated by the criminal investigation bodies within the Ministry of Internal Affairs - the Minister's Control Body, and was ordered the initiation of criminal proceedings for the offence of tampering with computer data, provided for in Article 325 of the Criminal Code.

- By indictment no. 969/159/P/2024 of 7 March 2025, the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest Tribunal ordered the sending to court of the defendant A.M.C. for the offence of disclosure of information classified as service secret or not public, provided for in Article 304(1) of the Criminal Code, consisting in the fact that on 29 February 2024, through two messages and a post made via the Facebook application, the defendant A.M.C., in his capacity as Director General of the National Library of Romania, disclosed information that he had learned in his official capacity and which is not intended for public disclosure, consisting in the fact that E.Ș., investigative journalist, had requested from the National Library of Romania and studied on 27 February 2024 and 29 February 2024, the doctoral thesis of M.G., for the purpose of verifying plagiarism, thereby affecting the interests of the injured party E.Ș. with regard to the confidentiality of the journalistic endeavour, but also the activity relating to the conduct and outcome of the journalistic investigation, with regard to the choice to publish or not to publish, as well as the timing of any publication of the results.

A. Cases in which journalists have the capacity of defendants

- **By indictment no. 263/284/P/2025** of 6 June 2025, the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Ploiești Court of Appeal ordered the sending to court of the defendant S.C., investigated for committing the offences of continuous blackmail, provided for in Article 207(1) and (2) of the Criminal Code, with the application of Article 35(1) of the Criminal Code, and continuous tampering with testimony, provided for in Article 272(1) of the Criminal Code, both with the application of Article 38(2) of the Criminal Code, consisting in the fact that,

during the period 24 August 2023 to 18 December 2024, after the injured party R.V. had been heard on 17 July 2023 as a witness in case no. 178/283/P/2023, in which S.C. had the capacity of defendant, the latter repeatedly, in carrying out the same criminal resolution, as a journalist and de facto owner of the online newspaper Incomod.ro, repeatedly exercised moral coercion over the injured party R.V., consisting of exposing him by publishing five posts and articles containing threats and defamatory, denigrating and compromising statements about him:

- on 24 August 2023, S.C. posted on the Facebook account named "S.C." a number of five photographs, representing an analysis of audio files, one with a duration of 32 seconds,

named Audio-2023..2-22-39.mp3, and another with a duration of 10 seconds, named Audio-2023..2-22-21.mp3, accompanied by the message: "I'm sorry but, you guys from the mini mafia of garbage collectors, when you manufactured these recordings that you gave to Rădulescu to manufacture criminal files and to Bădescu to put them online, did you work with some crippled dead drunk guy who was typing with a trash can? Because they're amateurishly, crudely and stupidly altered."

- On 18 December 2023, S.C. posted a photo on his personal Facebook account under the name "S.C." containing an image of a "butterfly" type pocket knife, accompanied by the message: "It's not always love - when you feel butterflies in your stomach", the message being that it cannot be love when you are stabbed in the stomach. Several smiley faces are posted in the description of the post.

- On 24 December 2023, S.C. posted a photo on his personal Facebook account under the name "S.C." showing a hand with the flag of the United States of America wrapped around the wrist, as he usually wears it, with a loaded pistol in his hand and his index finger on the trigger guard. The description of the post includes the message: "here, kitty kitty".

- On 29 May 2024, S.C. posted an article on the website "Ziarul Incomod" with the title "Secret meeting during the election campaign between liberals and the leader of the Roma community in Mimiui. A promise was made that the PNL would give €100,000 to anyone who would bring criminal charges against Mayor Volosevici."

- On 18 December 2024, S.C. shared on the public social network "TikTok", from the account of the online website "Ziarul Incomod", a podcast-type video recording, an audio-video file titled 2025_02_26_26_11_12_IMG_4088, with a duration of 59 minutes and 32 seconds, containing the video recording posted on the Incomod.ro website on 18 December 2024, posts that produced and induced a state of fear in the injured party, as well as in members of his family, and acts that, if true, would entail the criminal liability of the injured party Răducănu Vasile, for the offences of: creation of an organised crime group, art. 367 of the Criminal Code, blackmail, art. 207 of the Criminal Code, threats, art. 206 of the Criminal Code, Illegal deprivation of freedom, art. 205 of the Criminal Code, corruption offences, aggravatedly misleading the judicial bodies, art. 268 of the Criminal Code, in order to unjustly obtain a non-pecuniary benefit for himself, namely:

- to change his statements made before the criminal investigation authorities;
 - to refrain from making further statements before the criminal investigation authorities that incriminate him;

- to persuade him not to provide evidence against himself in criminal case no. 178/283/P/2023, in which he has the capacity of defendant.

At the same time, through the above-mentioned articles, S.C. attempted to persuade the injured party, R.V., to refrain from making statements, to withdraw his statements, to make false statements or to refrain from providing evidence in criminal case no. 178/283/P/2023, in which R.V. has the capacity of whistle-blower witness, and S.C. has the capacity of defendant.

• **By indictment no. 178/283/P/2023 of 05 May 2025**, the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Ploiești Court of Appeal ordered the sending to court of seven defendants, including the defendant S.C., journalist and de facto owner of the online newspaper Incomod.ro.

The defendant S.C. was brought to trial for committing the following offences:

- Influence peddling, provided for in Article 291(1) of the Criminal Code, consisting in the fact that, between April and May 2021, together with defendant B.C.M., they demanded and received from defendant G.V., through a person named G.F. - representatives of S.C.G. S.R.L. - the sum of RON 10,000.00, in exchange for the promise that they would intervene with

M.D. - Director of the Environmental Protection Agency of Prahova County at that time (an institution with powers to issue/suspend/cancel environmental permits in Prahova County) - so that the latter would perform acts contrary to official duties in order to induce S.C. M.R. S.R.L. to extend and amend a contract for the collection, transport and treatment of wastewater that this company had with S.C. G. S.R.L., a contract advantageous to the latter (in the sense of increasing the quantity of wastewater collected by S.C. G. S.R.L. from S.C. M.R. S.R.L. and substantially increasing the price paid per cubic metre of wastewater collected);

- Influence peddling, provided for in Article 291(1) of the Criminal Code, consisting in the fact that,

between 27 April and the beginning of May 2021, he demanded and received the sum of RON 15,000.00 from the defendant C.P.L. through the whistle-blower witness R.V. in exchange for the promise that he would intervene with the defendant V.A.L. - in his capacity as mayor of Ploiești and A.S.R. - in her capacity as chairperson of the Board of Directors of S.C. H. P. S.A., in order to persuade the latter to conclude a new lease agreement between C. H. P. S.A and S.C. S.P. S.R.L., knowing that this was not legal, as it violated the provisions of point II - 1.2 of Annex 1 to the Decision of the Local Council of Ploiești no. 184/27.06.2019, in the sense that S.C. S.P. S.R.L. had debts and there were civil disputes between the two companies pending before the Court of First Instance of Ploiești;

- Misrepresentation, provided for in Article 244(1) and (2) of the Criminal Code, with the application of the provisions of Article 77(1)(a) of the Criminal Code, all with the application of the provisions of Article 38(1) of the Criminal Code, consisting in the fact that,

between April and October 2021, together with the defendant B.C.M. and with the support of the defendants B.G.F. and S.C. B.S.E. S.R.L., he misled G.V. and G.F. - representatives of S.C. G. S.R.L. by presenting a false act as true and using deceitful credentials (with regard to the witness I.F.):

- namely that they would intervene with I.F., director of S.C. M.R. S.R.L., to conclude a new contract for the collection and treatment of wastewater with S.C. G. S.R.L., under very advantageous conditions (in the sense of increasing the quantity of wastewater collected by S.C. G. S.R.L. from S.C. M. S.R.L. and substantially increasing the price paid per cubic metre of wastewater collected), given that Iosif Florin did not have the authority to conclude this type of contract with partner companies;

- the act resulting in financial damage to S.C. G. S.R.L. in the total amount of RON 53,140.00 by transferring funds from the account of this company to the account of S.C. B.S.E. S.R.L. (controlled by B.C.M. and B.G.F.), pursuant to consultancy contract no. 01_2021 of 1 June 2021 (a fictitious document, as no such agreement between the parties ever existed, and B.S.E. could not have provided consultancy services in the field of activity of S.C. G. S.R.L.) for the following amounts:

- the amount of RON 13,692.00 - invoice series BEL no. 0013 dated 14 May 2021;
- the amount of RON 15,631.00 - invoice series BEL no. 0017 dated 8 July 2021;
- the amount of RON 17,936.00 - invoice series BEL no. 0018 dated 18 August 2021;
- the amount of RON 5,885.00 - invoice series BEL no. 0024 dated 6 October 2021.

- **By indictment no. 966/284/P/2025 dated 26 August 2025**, the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Ploiești Court of Appeal ordered the sending to court of the defendant S.C. for the offences of blackmail, provided for in Article 207(1) and (2) of the Criminal Code, with the application of Article 35(1) of the Criminal Code and tampering with testimony, provided for in Article 272(1) of the Criminal Code, with the application of Article 35(1) of the Criminal

Code, both with the application of Article 38(2) of the Criminal Code.

In fact, it was found that on 3 February 2025, the injured party R.A.O. was heard as a witness in case no. 178/283/P/2023, investigated by the same prosecutor's office, in which S.C. had the capacity of defendant. The defendant became aware of the content and nature of the witness's statements through his chosen defence counsel, who was present during the proceedings.

Subsequently, between 7 February 2025 and 24 February 2025, on the basis of the same criminal resolution and taking advantage of his status as a journalist and de facto owner of the I.ro online publication, the defendant repeatedly exerted moral coercion on the injured party. The coercion consisted of threatening to disclose compromising facts by publishing two defamatory articles:

- on 10 February 2025: the article titled "Exclusive recordings of the waste mafia threatening to kill people who have disrupted their illegal 'business' VIDEO";
- on 11 February 2025: the article titled "The company that operated the IP website has been dissolved. What happens to the damages that RA has to pay to its victims VIDEO".

It was noted that the acts attributed to the injured party in the aforementioned press materials, if true, would constitute the elements of serious offences, namely: creation of an organised criminal group (Article 367 of the Criminal Code), blackmail (Article 207 of the Criminal Code), threats (Article 206 of the Criminal Code), misleading the judicial bodies (Article 268 of the Criminal Code) and corruption offences.

The subjective aspect of the offences is determined by the defendant's intention, namely to obtain an unjust non-financial benefit. He sought to alter the decision-making process of the witness R.A.O. in order to induce him to:

- Retract or modify his previous incriminating statements;
- Refrain from providing new statements or evidence in criminal case no. 178/283/P/2023, in order to prevent the proper conduct of the criminal proceedings.

• **By indictment no. 967/284/P/2025 of 22 September 2025**, the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Ploiești Court of Appeal ordered the sending to court of the defendant S.C. for the offence of continuous blackmail, provided for in Article 207(1) and (2) of the Criminal Code, with the application of Article 35(1) of the Criminal Code; continuous tampering with testimony, as provided for in Article 272(1) of the Criminal Code, with the application of Article 35(1) of the Criminal Code and disclosure of information classified as service secret or not public (2 material acts), provided for in Article 304(2) of the Criminal Code, all with the application of Article 38(1) of the Criminal Code.

Essentially, it was found that, following the hearing of the injured party N.V.A. as a witness on 10 January 2025, in case no. 178/283/P/2023 — a case in which the defendant S.C. was subject to the preventive measure of judicial control — the latter launched a press campaign of a denigrating nature.

The defendant, acting on the basis of the same criminal resolution between 7 February 2025 and 1 April 2025, in his capacity as a journalist and de facto owner of the I.ro online publication, repeatedly exerted moral pressure on the witness N.V.A.

This pressure was exerted through the publication of five press articles containing defamatory allegations and compromising details which, if true, would render the injured party criminally liable for particularly serious offences (creation of an organised criminal group, blackmail, threats, acts of violence, corruption and misleading the judicial bodies).

The defendant's aim was to obtain an unjust non-financial benefit, consisting of:

- Inducing the witness to retract or change their previous statements;
- Preventing the provision of new incriminating statements;
- Altering evidence by persuading the witness to refrain from providing new evidence in the criminal case in which S.C. is under investigation.

With regard to the offence of disclosure of information classified as not public (2 material acts), it was essentially found that, on 24 February 2025, the defendant published in an article on the "Waste Mafia" non-public procedural documents (approximately 50 pages) extracted from a case under criminal investigation, containing information not intended for public disclosure.

On 1 April 2025, the defendant S.C. publicly disclosed, through the same online platform, elements from the witness statement given by N.V.A. on 10 January 2025 before the criminal investigation authorities, thereby violating the confidentiality of criminal investigation documents.