freeex REport

MEDIA

FREEDOM

In RomAnia

2015-2016



MEMBER OF THE REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS NETWORK­ AND IFEX

**ActiveWatch** is a human rights organization advocating for free communication in the public interest. This report has been drawn up as part of the FreeEx Program of ActiveWatch. **The FreeEx Program** aims to contribute to the protection and promotion of the right to freedom of expression and press freedom.

ActiveWatch has been publishing annual reports regarding the situation of press freedom in Romania since 2000.

For the English translation of this report only a few chapters of the Romanian language report have been included.

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Methodology

The FreeEx department started publishing annual reports dedicated to media freedom in 2000. The purpose of said reports is to offer an outline of the main events and trends regarding freedom of speech and, in particular, media freedom.

This report mainly covers the events that occurred between January 2015 and April 2016. The published cases are of an illustrative nature. We have also included in the report cases that do not directly concern the media or the journalists' rights, if we considered them relevant for the manner in which freedom of speech and media freedom are perceived in Romania.

This report is not exhaustive in nature, but represents a mirror of the events, as they have been brought to our attention and to the extent that they could be documented.

We classify the breaches of freedom of speech and media freedom into:

**- Aggressions**: meaning physical attacks on journalists, newsrooms/editorial offices or citizens exercising their freedom of speech (assult, seizure or damaging of recording, video or photographic equipment, detailing a journalist by force, vandalizing the newsroom/editorial office etc.);

**- Threats**: meaning death threats, threats with endangering the journalist's or the journalist's family's physical well-being, the use of an abusive language towards journalists;

**- Pressures from authorities**: pressures on journalists, media institutions or citizens exercising their freedom of speech, exerted by state institutions (investigations by the police, the public prosecutor's office, financial guards or other state institutions, brutal interventions, meant to intimidate the press, the arrest or detention of journalists for investigation purposes, pressures from investigation bodies, for the disclosure of confidential sources, seizing or copying data from computers, seizing or copying documents, listening in on communications, implementing a defective legislation – which affects the media, the refusal to restate laws etc.);

**- Political pressures**: pressures on journalists and media institutions or on citizens exercising their freedom of speech, exerted by politicians or political parties (organized pressures, exerted for the exclusive purpose of protecting the political or other interests of political parties or politicians; they include the use of state institutions to that effect, by political parties or by politicians);

**- Economic pressures**: pressures upon journalists and media institutions or on citizens exercising their freedom of speech, exerted by companies or businessmen (the offering or the annulment of advertising contracts, conditioning the keeping of such contracts upon the absention from publishing certain information or firing certain journalists etc.);

**- Access to information of public interest**: the refusal of state authorities or major institutions to provide journalists with the requested information of public interest, abusive withdrawal of credentials;

**- Censorship**: prohibition of publication, seizure of the press run, abusive withdrawal of the broadcasting license;

**- Self-censorship**: the act by which journalists abstain from publishing certain information of a public interest, as a result of indirect pressures exerted by the owners or the newsroom's/editorial office's management;

- **Work conflicts**: breaches of the rights of the journalist, as an employee;

- **Legislation**: normative acts which affect the legislative framework within which the media operates and limit the journalists' and the citizens' freedom of speech.

The economic framework within which the press operates (market division, acquisitions, mergers, the legislative background, economic issues etc.) affects the journalists' freedom of speech and the quality of the media products.

The failure to comply with deontological norms also affects freedom of speech. This is why the FreeEx report devotes special sections to a review of the media market and of the main issues related to media ethics and self-regulation.

The report also deals with a few cases in which the freedom to assemble or the right to private life were breached. We included said cases, when said rights were breached together with the right to freedom of speech. We also included the cases in which the right to private life and to freedom of speech were confronted, favoring one or the other, or the cases of breaches of the right to private life, when they represented won (or lost) rights for the journalists as well.

The source of the reported cases: the direct investigations of the FreeEx team (discussions and correspondence with the parties involved, the parties' lawyers, state institutions etc.), information gathered with the help of the FreeEx network (www.groups.yahoo.com/freeex), articles published in the written press, radio and TV news, blogs and on-line publications. Our report also relies upon official reports or on reports published by other independent institutions.

In many of the cases included in the report, we have been notified by the journalists directly. If your freedom of speech has been breached, please contact us at freeex@activewatch.ro!

General context

**The politicization of the media industry**

The structural problems of the press in Romania have become again a public issue in 2015. The judiciary made visible and managed to expose the ways in which the media have been subjugated in recent years by politicians, as well as through corrupt media funding mechanisms, the manipulation of the public agenda with the help of powerful media institutions, the use of media for blackmail or the media’s involvement in high-level corruption.

Romania ranks 49 on the Global index of press freedom issued by Reporters Without Borders, climbing three places from the previous year. The organization highlights the main problems of the press in our country:

"Excessive politicization of the media, corrupt financing mechanisms, editorial policies subordinated to owner interests and intelligence agency infiltration of staff – such has been the impact of the media’s transformation into political propaganda tools, which has been particularly visible in election years, including 2014." [[1]](#footnote-1)

An international research on media pluralism published in April 2016 shows that in Romania there is no diversity of political opinions in any media entity with significant audience[[2]](#footnote-2).

**The main events of 2015-2016, with an impact on the freedom of speech:**

- There are new cases of corruption in the media, perpetrated by owners and administrators of media institutions as well as by journalists.

- A newspaper was offered as bribe to a politician accused of corruption, according to an indictment issued by the anti-corruption prosecutors.

- Several media owners were arrested for corruption and tax evasion.

- The journalistic profession is still abused by some people in order to intimidate, blackmail or for influence peddling.

- The National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA) files have proved how top politicians dictated the editorial content of major media outlets.

- Some relevant issues about the former Minister of Internal Affairs, Gabriel Oprea, were bypassed by the main national media outlets.

- Several journalists were removed from the newsrooms for not following their political orientation.

- The director of a newspaper was victim of a surveillance operation.

- Newsroom infiltration by undercover agents of the intelligence services was reconfirmed in 2015.

- The head of the main intelligence service openly offended and threatened Big Brother law opponents.

- Some local authorities have made efforts to block the dissemination of inconvenient journalistic material.

- Whistleblowers were harassed by public institutions or by public companies.

- State institutions block access to information about key events in the recent history of Romania: the 1989 Revolution, the June 1990 miners invasion of Bucharest or the Colectiv Club tragedy.

- Numerous local and central authorities systematically avoid responding to requests for public information.

- As in the previous year, there were situations in which Romanian authorities have tried (sometimes successfully) to limit the right to free speech of the Hungarian minority.

- The avalanche of insolvencies affecting media outlets in recent years continued. Most of the TV stations and national newspapers have accumulated debts to the state or to other private entities.

- Layoffs in newsrooms continued in 2015, the effect of economic difficulties affecting the media market.

- The biggest private news agency was marked by a serious internal crisis, the editorial staff being affected by massive departures.

- New quality online media outlets emerged in 2015, initiated by experienced journalists. A new news agency was established as well.

- The upcoming electoral year generated a strong competition between politicians who introduced initiatives to support struggling broadcasters hit hard by the financial crisis and by the criminal problems of their owners.

- Tax obligations that affected, since January 1st 2009, journalists remunerated based on copyright contracts, were canceled by a tax amnesty law.

- The Parliament rejected the annual activity report of the public television, hence the Board was dismissed.

- The activity of the public television (TVR) was marked by the financial crisis and economic difficulties in which it continues to sink; there was an abrupt decline of the production budgets.

- Insolvency is increasingly circulated as a solution for TVR, while amending the law for its operation law draws no political interest.

- The National Audiovisual Council (CNA) continued to discredit itself because of its malfunction, because of the timidity with which it sanctions serious law violations, and because of the internal conflicts between its members. Corruption allegations are hanging over the institution. The president and a former member of CNA are prosecuted for corruption.

- CNA continues to apply sanctions that disregard freedom of speech.

- Parliament passed an amendment to the Broadcasting Act which enables the Parliament to dismiss the President of the CNA if the institution’s annual report is rejected. This mechanism opens the door to arbitrary and political abuse.

- The saga of "Big Brother" laws continues. After the Constitutional Court declared them unconstitutional in 2014 and 2015, some of these laws were reintroduced by the authorities under the pretext of the recent terrorist attacks in Europe.

- Political actors’ desire to re-incriminate insult and defamation remains a constant threat to freedom of expression.

- The government headed by Victor Ponta initiated changes to the public procurement law, removing provisions on transparency of public advertising contracts, by exempting from the requirements of the law the purchase of airtime or editorial products directly from media service providers.

- The transition to the digital transmission system was again postponed.

- Under the new Civil Code, the Courts sanctioned journalists for disrespecting professional norms. The number of law suits is growing.

- There are Court decisions that take into account the practice of European Court of Human Rights, but there are others which fail to pass the proportionality test and limit the right to freedom of expression. For example: the obligation to publish an apology, or the obligation to publish entire Court decisions in the printed editions of newspapers, which often are not owned or controlled by those sanctioned, or the obligation to remove articles from the internet.

- Romanian journalists continue to be targets of aggressive behavior. Many of those who attack journalists physically or verbally or attempt to intimidate them are politicians, civil servants or businessmen.

**Corrupt media financing mechanisms**

The National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA) files revealed new evidence concerning the corrupt mechanisms of media financing, through close ties between public officials, businessmen and media owners. Several media owners were arrested for corruption and tax evasion.

Two Bucharest districts’ mayors, indicted for corruption, ensured their media protection with money taken from bribes. They paid advertising services to the TV news channels B1, Romania TV and OTV from the proceeds of the companies that had contracts with the District City Halls and had to hand back a percentage of 10% - 15% of the money collected from the municipality.

Public resources are used to finance the TV stations owned by local barons. The best example are the barons of Constanta, Radu Mazăre and Nicuşor Constantinescu, who used their media outlets for acts of corruption.

A "quality" newspaper, Evenimentul Zilei, was offered as bribe by a businessman to a politician accused of corruption. The same newspaper was used by his employer to facilitate crimes. According to prosecutors, Dan Andronic, owner of the newspaper at the time of the offenses, was included in a criminal group dealing with the illegal restitution of nationalized properties to exert pressure through the newspaper he owned, but also for the high level connections that he had[[3]](#footnote-3).

There were new cases of blackmail committed by the media. Three persons from the weekly publication "Atac de Buzau" have been accused that they requested (and received) money and other goods, including a car, not to publish articles denigrating politicians and businessmen.

**Instrumentalization of media for personal purposes**

The Gala Bute criminal investigation has brought new evidence showing how major media outlets served the interests of Elena Udrea and PD-L between 2010 and 2012. Former PD-L Minister Elena Udrea dictated the editorial policies of some important media outlets, including TV stations Pro TV, Realitatea TV, B1, newspapers Evenimentul Zilei, Ziarul Financiar or the news agency Mediafax. Her entourage imposed topics, edited news, censored information, decided the questions of interviews or delivered articles that were then published by the mentioned media outlets. Their purpose was to provide a favorable image of Elena Udrea.

The transcripts of the criminal file directed at the former mayor of Constanta (Radu Mazăre) and the former president of the Constanta County Council (Nicuşor Constantinescu) show that Nicuşor Constantinescu dictated the editorial content of the daily newspaper Telegraf and of Neptun TV station. According to the criminal file, he "ordered press campaigns in his support and against the National Anticorruption Directorate".

Other local mayors have used some of the local media as an instrument of blackmail and pressure against opposition politicians or civil servants. Mayor of Baia Mare, Cătălin Cherecheş, put pressure through the media on local councilors to vote in his favor, as well as other public officials who opposed his decisions.

The phenomenon of journalists’ migration to politics continued in 2015 and 2016, contributing to the erosion of credibility and identity of the profession (previous annual FreeEx reports relate such cases).

**Media owners prosecuted**

The wave of criminal investigations opened by prosecutors in recent years against media owners in Romania continued and involved some big names. Some of these investigations relate to the media businesses of the owners, others target their other businesses.

New names have appeared in the prosecutors’ indictments, including Dan Andronic, owner of the daily newspaper Evenimentul Zilei and weekly Capital. He is prosecuted in the biggest case of illegal property restitution, being accused of exerting pressure through the media in order to obtain illegal benefits. Adrian Sarbu, owner of Mediafax Group and former shareholder and CEO of the largest television group in Romania, is prosecuted for money laundering, instigating tax evasion and embezzlement [[4]](#footnote-4).

Dan Adamescu, owner of the daily newspaper Romania Libera, was sentenced to four years and four months in prison for corruption[[5]](#footnote-5). A DNA file shows that Maricel Păcuraru, co-owner of Realitatea TV, allegedly bribed judge Mariana Moncea, who approved the insolvency of the company that owns the TV station.

Păcuraru has been imprisoned since 2014, after receiving a 4 years sentence for money laundering and complicity to abuse of office, in the Romanian Post file. PSD deputy, Sebastian Ghita, the person who controls, through several intermediaries, the Romania TV news channel, was indicted in two new corruption cases. In one of them he is accused of supporting an organized criminal group, led by former Prime Ministers’ Victor Ponta brother in law[[6]](#footnote-6). In another case, Ghita is accused of using his influence to appoint or maintain people in important positions in public institutions, in order to engage them in a criminal mechanism that satisfied his illicit interests[[7]](#footnote-7).

**Pressures exerted by authorities**

Newsroom infiltration by undercover agents of the intelligence services was reconfirmed in 2015, after a similar case was recorded in 2012 (details in the FreeEx 2012 report). Moreover, the former head of the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI), George Maior, confirmed this practice in an interview that he gave at B1 TV on January 25, 2015, while he was still in office. In the same interview, Maior offended and threatened the opponents of the so-called “Big Brother laws” (journalists, human rights organizations, members of the Constitutional Court).

Journalist Cătălin Tolontan (director of Gazeta Sporturilor daily) was targeted by a spying operation while working on an inquiry about the responsibility of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU) in the fire at the Colectiv Club. His investigation mentioned a possible cover-up of the case by the Ministry of Interior (MI) and IGSU. The investigation provided information according to which employees of the secret service of the Ministry of Interior (DGIPI) had received sponsorship from fire-fighters associations.

Mayor of Baia Mare, Catalin Cherecheş, obtained the text of an editorial the day before it was due to be published in the local daily Graiul Maramuresului. Only four hours after the transmission of the text in the internal newsroom network, the author was called by Mayor Cherecheş, who reproached its content. The newspaper published the editorial as scheduled, on February 24. The same day, the newspaper received a notice from the town hall to disband, until March 2, all its press distribution kiosks from the city.

In October 2015, all four cable television networks interrupted their emission in Năvodari city while Antena3 TV station broadcasted an investigation regarding some people close to the mayor. Officials from the cable companies have confirmed the act of vandalism, the deliberate cutting of the fiber, but the culprits have not been identified.

Security forces continue to behave abusively against citizens who protest publicly. In late June 2015, representatives of the Romanian Police called for hearings or sought at home or at work dozens of people who had signed a petition criticizing several public institutions in the county of Hunedoara for their lack of reaction and their management of the conflict and controversies generated by the water power plant on White River (Râul Alb). The petition demanded the dismissal of the countys’ inspectorate chief of police.

At the same time, Courts keep on canceling sanctions issued by the security forces against peaceful protesters.

**Whistleblowers harassed by public institutions**

In July and August, three employees from CNADNR (The National Company of Motorways and National Roads in Romania) reported through the media a number of serious administrative irregularities in the company’s activity. In response, the institution started a disciplinary investigation against them and temporarily suspended their working contracts, until the completion of the investigation.

**Editorial pressures**

After B1TV ended the collaboration with Cătălin Prisacariu on April 4, 2015, the journalist accused the news channel that it ran an editorial policy favorable towards the Prime Minister Victor Ponta. Cătălin Prisacariu mentioned editorial pressures aimed at presenting a favorable image of Ponta during the show hosted by him, as well as pressures through direct discussions and text messages in which he was asked which "issues had to be postponed or avoided, lists of people to be protected or trampled".

In August 2015, columnist Daniela Ratiu, unpaid collaborator at daily newspaper Evenimentul Zilei, claimed that one of her editorials about General and deputy prime-minister Gabriel Oprea was censored so she chose to publish it on the online edition of another newspaper, Adevarul, where her accusations of censorship were also erased.

The CEO of the public television (TVR), Stelian Tanase, accused deputy prime-minister Gabriel Oprea, of having ordered his "liquidation" from the management of TVR for refusing to remove a story about Oprea’s plagiarism.

Access to information

Many of the central and local authorities systematically avoid responding to requests for information, as shown in data provided by research undertaken by NGOs. Often, local authorities adopt provisions that block, rather than facilitate, access to information. Excessive charges are imposed for issuing documents of public interest while local journalists and bloggers must sometimes meet restrictive conditions to obtain press credentials, which in practice would not be necessary.

Transcripts of Government meetings during the 1990 miners’ invasion of Bucharest and those of parliamentary committees on the 1989 Revolution are labeled as state secrets.

Courts often decide in favor of those who file complaints for violation of the Law on access to information, but few journalists have the resources to go to Court.

Implementation of the Law on access to public information needs urgent attention from the Government. Legislative initiatives have emerged that improve access to information, but they have not been adopted yet.

Economic conditions

The media market continues to undergo a transformation generated by different causes, from the 2008 financial crisis to the financial and criminal problems of some employers, as well as the repositioning imposed by the impact of new technologies and the changes they induce in consumers’ habits.

The public television fails to recover from its financial difficulties and has accumulated debts of over 150 million Euros to the state budget or other creditors. The private sector is facing similar problems. All news channels register debts and only one of them recorded profits in 2014. In a similar situation are also the generalist televisions, while the print press continues its decline, both at the level of their audiences as well as in their financial results.

Layoffs continued in newsrooms in 2015, the effect of economic difficulties affecting the media market. Renowned journalists (Cristian Tudor Popescu, Florin Negruţiu, Dan Turturică, Marius Tuca etc.) quit the newsrooms of major publications in 2015 (gandul.info, Romania Libera, National Journal).

Adrian Sarbu’s criminal problems strongly affected the most important private news agency. Sarbu is the owner of Mediafax news agency. The beginning of 2016 witnessed a massive wave of departures from Mediafax. Almost the entire management team and half of the editorial team quit the agency. The situation is worrying, given that the only alternative to Mediafax is the public national agency Agerpres, which is funded directly from the state budget. Some of those who quit Mediafax joined in February 2016 a new press agency, News.ro.

In a context marked by the decline of print media and of the TV news channels, the online media continued its upward path, helped by the increase of the online advertising market as well as of the number of internet users. 2015 recorded a special dynamic, witnessing the release of some premium media products by well-known journalists who quit the traditional media in recent years. Among these products we mention: Pressone.ro, Republica.ro, Profit.ro and the news agency News.ro. Unlike previous years, when the majority of independent online initiatives belonged to young journalists, in 2015 and 2016 the new projects gathered journalists with experience. Another positive aspect is that these new projects have succeeded in building newsrooms and to producing a steady flow of quality content, ranging from news, investigations, features to analyzes and commentaries.

Facilities and subsidies for the media

The upcoming electoral year generated a real competition among politicians who came up with legal proposals offering support to the broadcasters hit hard by the financial crisis and by the criminal problems of their owners. The government headed by Victor Ponta, the opposition PNL (National Liberal Party) and other political actors attempted to create an Audiovisual Fund for the private televisions; another project submitted to the Parliament tried to create a special fund for investigative journalism; another project, which was adopted, stipulates that journalists that are members of creative unions will receive 50% pension benefits.

The Ponta government and the Parliament have corrected copyright regulations in the new Tax Code and a Tax Pardon Law which canceled tax liabilities that had affected since January 1st 2009 those journalists paid based on copyright contracts.

The public media

The image of the public television (TVR) was strongly affected by the editorial blunder produced in the context of the Colectiv Club tragedy. TVR did not broadcast any live news or images about the fire in the Colectiv Club, on the night of October 30, 2015, when 64 people lost their life. None of TVR channels interrupted their programs to transmit information about the situation in the Club.

The TVR Board was dismissed in September 2015, when the Parliament rejected the TVR 2014 Annual Report of activity submitted in April[[8]](#footnote-8). On the other hand, the public radio's activity report was not voted up to the date of the drafting of our report. As always, political disputes have arisen around the vote, some politicians accusing the existence of political interests. Former TVR CEO, Stelian Tanase, accused the deputy prime-minister at the time, Gabriel Oprea, of having ordered his "liquidation" as head of TVR for refusing to remove a story about the official’s plagiarism.

The economic situation continued to be the main problem affecting the operation of the public television. The financial crisis further affected the editorial work and caused a severe restriction of production and the closure of TVR News channel. In February 2016, the costs generated by the lawsuits lost by TVR with 726 former employees brought the situation of the public television in the public agenda. Politicians and dignitaries took upon the subject without offering realistic solutions to solve the structural problems faced by TVR. Their proposals offered solutions that meet the short-term needs of TVR, without resolving the root causes of the problems.

The President of the Senate Committee for Culture, Georgica Severin (PSD), submitted in February 2016 a draft amendment to the public media operation law nr. 41/1994 whose main provision is the separation of the functions of chairman and general manager of the public radio and television. Chairman of the Committee for Culture, Arts and Mass Media of the Chamber of Deputies, Gigel Ştirbu (PNL), rejected the idea, considering it does not constitute a priority and does not address the urgent needs of the public television.

The public radio (SRR) started a campaign against this legislative initiative, a campaign that has generated heated discussions and a penalty from CNA. Some journalists accused the manipulative intentions behind this campaign and complained that they were required to broadcast news that "do not follow our own standards, ie quoting sources" and which completely ignored other opinions expressed in public about the amendment of the operation law of public radio and television.

In 2015 it continued to flow with Court sentences that ascertained the state of incompatibility in which individuals in leadership positions in the SRR found themselves. The courts have confirmed the decisions by which the National Integrity Agency established the incompatibility for several members of the governing bodies of SRR and TVR.

The National Audiovisual Council

National Audiovisual Council (CNA) infighting continued in 2015, albeit at a lower intensity compared to previous years. Six members of the Council withdrew their support for the President of the institution, Laura Georgescu, and demanded to the Parliament her dismissal. President's refusal to resign from office forced other players to intervene to break the deadlock by tougher means – they proposed a mechanism to dismiss the head of this institution, which did not exist in the legislation. Thus, the two presidents of the parliamentary culture committees of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies proposed that the rejection of the annual activity report of CNA to draw the dismissal of the Council’s president (only from this position, not from the member position as well). The proposal was adopted by Parliament.

In February 2015, CNA summoned representatives of broadcasters in a meeting where it was announced that the institution will increase fines if the stations will continue to have constant deviations from the broadcasting legislation. Intentions have not been met by reality, the sanctions remained at a rather low level, while their volume seems ridiculously small in relation to the seriousness of the breaches of law.

Council President, Laura Georgescu, is charged in two criminal cases. In one of them, for instigating the preparation of notifications with false data in order to record complaints which later entered the CNA plenum for analysis and were solved by sanctioning seven television stations. In the other case, she is sent to Court along with a former member of CNA, Narcisa Iorga, because they would have advised a TV station owner and known politician to appeal to some high-ranking politicians with the aim to influence the vote of CNA members in order to recover his TV license. Neither of the two had resigned after the prosecutors’ action. CNA President maintains that there was no political interference, while Iorga denied having any fault.

Legislation

The saga of the adoption of the "Big Brother" legislation continues. There is a very strong interest of security structures for the adoption of legislative provisions allowing mass surveillance. These structures, led by the Romanian Intelligence Service, have been playing an essential role regarding the form in which these laws were and are adopted by Parliament, although they have no right of legislative initiative. Incidentally, former Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI) director, George Maior, openly offended and threatened the opponents of the "Big Brother" legislation (journalists, human rights organizations, members of the Constitutional Court).

Some laws declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court in 2014 and 2015 have been reintroduced on the agenda of the Government and the Parliament, as the authorities used the terrorist attacks in Europe to justify their necessity.

Recriminalizing of insult and libel remains a constant threat to freedom of expression. A senator introduced in the fall of 2015 a new draft law in this regard. In April 2016, the Senate passed a bill that recriminalizes the "offence against official insignia".

Ponta government has initiated an amending of the Law on public procurement by removing provisions on transparency of contracts for public advertising (introduced in 2005) and exempting explicitly from the obligations the law the purchase of airtime or of editorial products directly from media service providers [[9]](#footnote-9).

Romania failed to meet the deadline (already delayed) it has set for the final transition to digital television. On June 17, 2015 any analog signal transmission had to be interrupted, but the transition has been extended by the Government until December 31st, 2016.

**Journalists, photographers and cameramen who died or were injured in Colectiv Club**

A large number of journalists, photographers and cameramen died or were injured during the tragedy that took place on October 30, 2015 in Colectiv Club[[10]](#footnote-10).

Deceased:

Teodora Maftei, photographer and editor at Pro TV.

Șeodora Maftei, photographer and edit

Claudiu Petre, blogger and photographer.

Liviu Zaharescu, photographer for the online magazine Let’s Rock România.

Alexandru Chelba, photographer.

Roxana Boghian, concerts photographer.

Andra Elena Toader, events photographer.

Alexandra Matache, graduate at the Faculty of Journalism and Communication Bucharest.

Injured:

Bogdan Moleşag, cameraman Prima TV.

Cătălin Ilnițchi, photographer.

Mihai Anghel, photographer.

Cătălin Grădinariu, photographer.

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