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Ringier Axel Springer Media AG strongly rejects allegations against leading Serbian daily paper BLIC

Zurich (ots) -

The owner and publisher of the leading Serbian daily newspaper BLIC strongly rejects the allegations made against the paper. The Serbian media of Ringier Axel Springer Media AG, especially the leading tabloid BLIC and its employees, have been exposed to baseless accusations and defamation over the past few weeks.

The editorial staff of BLIC under the leadership of editor-in-chief Veselin Simovic follow the strict journalistic standards of Ringier Axel Springer Media and are exemplary for critical, independent journalism in Serbia and editorial integrity. Advertisers have no influence on the editorial reporting of BLIC.

Accusations to the contrary are unfounded. They aim to intimidate an independent newspaper. BLIC will resist these attempts with the full backing of Ringier Axel Springer Media AG and its shareholders and will in future continue to defend the European standards of a free press. The restraint that can now be seen on the part of state and parastatal advertisers will not change that.

In the light of recent events we recall the high value of the freedom of the press in the European community of values, and appeal to all those responsible in Serbia to settle their political disputes with the power of their arguments and not with economic or personal repression.

Ringier Axel Springer Media AG:

Ringier Axel Springer Media AG is a leading multimedia company in Central and Eastern Europe with activities in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Serbia. Based on strong and successful media brands like FAKT, BLESK, NOVÝ CAS and BLIC, Ringier Axel Springer Media AG is a dynamic association of independent enterprises. Focused on growth and digitization, the wide-ranging portfolio makes Ringier Axel Springer Media AG the region's market leader in the segment of widely circulated tabloid dailies and one of the biggest magazine publishers. Ringier Axel Springer Media AG is a joint venture of Axel Springer AG and Ringier AG.

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