

**Basic Public Prosecutor's Office Leskovac**

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Brussels, 8 September 2025

**Re: Alleged neglectful treatment of a Romani mother in labour resulting in stillbirth**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) is a Roma-led international public interest law organisation which monitors and protects the human rights of Roma in Europe and provides legal defence in cases of human rights violations.

We are writing to you concerning claims of hospital staff negligence made by Goran Marković, the father of Bojana Marković, following the tragic loss of her baby in the maternity ward of the Leskovac General Hospital on the evening of the 31 August 2025. (Source *JugMedia* 1 September 2025: <https://jugmedia.rs/majka-izgubila-bebu-na-dan-porodjaja-u-leskovcu-video/>)

The ERRC is concerned that despite 24-year-old Bojana Marković's repeated complaints of intense pain she was not taken to the delivery room. When she first experienced labour pains, she reportedly received an injection to induce dilation. A CTG (fetal heart monitoring) taken at 17:30 showed the baby was still alive. Despite being in active labour and in extreme pain, her complaints of severe pain were reportedly ignored, and following a second CTG scan taken approximately two hours later, staff informed Bojana's father and her husband that the baby had died.

The principal and deputy director informed the father, Goran, that the placenta allegedly ruptured and the baby suffocated. In the father's opinion, immediate removal of the baby should have been a priority to ensure the safety of the mother's life. As reported in the media, no cesarean section was performed; instead, the mother, Bojana Marković was left to deliver her stillborn infant naturally. Reportedly,

Bojana suffered serious injuries during delivery and experienced heavy bleeding, reportedly requiring two bags of plasma. Her father filed a police report, and investigators visited the hospital to take statements. (Source JugMedia 1 August 2025: <https://jugmedia.rs/majka-izgubila-bebu-na-dan-porodjaja-u-leskovcu-video/>)

The ERRC has noted media reports that the hospital responded, announcing the formation of a Commission for Internal Quality Review, and stated that a health inspection is underway, and that they confirmed that an autopsy has been ordered to determine the cause of death. (Source Blik 2 August 2025: <https://www.blic.rs/vesti/drustvo/bojana-24-dosla-iz-nemacke-da-bi-se-porodila-u-leskovcu-beba-umrla-tokom-smene-lekara/86w4qxs>)

The ERRC requests information about the status of the internal and external investigations by the authorities, and above all whether the competent public prosecutor's office has been notified with regards to allegations of criminal neglect by medical staff. In light of the history of neglectful treatment of Romani women in maternity facilities, including the case of the medical negligence and obstetric violence perpetrated against Marica Mihajlović in Sremska Mitrovica General Hospital in January 2024, the ERRC requests that the abovementioned institutions consider racial discrimination as a possible factor in the circumstances which resulted in such a tragic outcome.

The ERRC looks forward to a transparent and just resolution of this case, which must include an investigation of possible bias among medical staff. We look forward to your response detailing any additional information pertaining to the actions of your respective offices to ensure the swift delivery of justice in this case.

You may contact us by email to [jonathan.lee@errc.org](mailto:jonathan.lee@errc.org) or by post to the European Roma Rights Centre, Avenue de Cortenbergh 71, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Brussels 1000, Belgium.

Yours sincerely,



Đorđe Jovanović

President  
ERRC

