

Robert Fico
Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovakia
Námestie slobody 1
813 70 Bratislava
Via E-mail

8th October, 2009, Berlin

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

We are writing this open letter to you on behalf of Transparency International (TI), the global civil society organisation that combats corruption with great concern over recent public statements and actions undermining the reputation and integrity of Jana Dubovcová, district court judge of Banská Bystrica.

Disciplinary proceedings were proposed against her because she criticised the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic. TI is pleased that the disciplinary proceedings have been withdrawn for the time. Nevertheless, we remain concerned about attempts to intimidate an outspoken judge who we believe is acting in accordance with her own high level of integrity and personal courage.

Judge Jana Dubovcová has earned an international reputation through her bold and consistent actions to combat corruption in the judicial sector in Slovakia. In 2002, she was the winner of Transparency International's global *Integrity Awards*. We would hope that this recognition serves as a source of pride for her fellow citizens and leaders such as yourself. As the Chair of our International Board, Ms. Huguette Labelle said:

"Fighting corruption requires more than tools and programmes; it requires role models who inspire. Transparency International's Integrity Awards highlight the role models who have demonstrated a commitment to their values and beliefs by their courageous actions. Integrity awards winners provide a sense of hope and empowerment – they demonstrate that it is possible for ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Integrity awards winners are the heroes of the fight against corruption. "

Judge Dubovcová is one of those heroes.

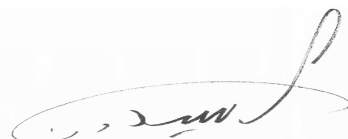
There may be legitimate concerns about appointments and procedures in the judicial sector in Slovakia. We are confident that whenever Judge Dubovcová voices criticism, she does it in the interest of improving the judicial sector of the Republic of Slovakia.

While TI respects the independence of the judicial branch, we appeal to you Mr. Prime Minister, as the elected political leader of the Republic of Slovakia to ensure that Judge Dubovcová will be treated fairly and safeguarded against unreasonable attempts to undermine her professional and personal integrity.

Sincerely,



Miklos Marschall
Regional Director for Europe
and Central Asia



Sion Assidon
Chair, TI Integrity Awards Committee
Member, TI International Board of Directors

CC: Emilia Beblava, President, Transparency International Slovakia