

Minister of Justice Nikola Selaković commenting the trial:

“No civilized country allows the Minister of Justice comment on court decisions, and Serbia is no exception. Therefore, I'll stick to that” Selakovic told the reporters when asked whether it was “a political decision of the court”. – **Blic, May 30th 2016**, <http://bit.ly/1squEVU>

Following are the statements from the Minister of Justice, Nikola Selaković about Misković's trial:

- “One thing is clear: Miroslav Miskovic with his lawyers will not beat the country of Serbia and government of Serbia.” – **Kurir, November 5th 2014**, <http://bit.ly/1sLwVuB>
- “The request for my resignation was one of the lawyers' requests. This is not the question of whether the minister will be dismissed in this case. It doesn't matter if I am dismissed, but something that should be clear to everyone is that Miroslav Miskovic with his lawyers will not beat Serbia, its citizens or its Government.” - **Politika, 6th November 2014, Written by M. C Written edition**
- “Now it is clear that it has nothing to do with their profession but that it is an effort of quasi-politicians and tycoons who want to cause chaos in the whole state. The chaos they are planning is aimed at blocking the overall judicial system as a branch of power, which leads to the situation in which no one, in particular Miroslav Miskovic, can be convicted!” - **Informer, October 29th 2014 Written edition**
- “A few days ago Miroslav Miskovic gathered dozens of ambassadors of influential countries at his large estate in Celarevo. Can you imagine why? To have them pick apples? His aim is not to be convicted and he wants to achieve that by destabilizing the country, by wreaking constitutional havoc and attacking the Government which is the first one to have begun profound reforms and introduction of order after more than two decades.” - **Večernje novosti (Evening News), October 31st 2014 Written edition**
- “Our neighbor Croatia reached the verdict against former Prime Minister Ivo Sanader. In Serbia Miskovic is standing trial for more than a year. During that time the President of the Court Chamber scheduled sessions every 40–45 days. However, in September he began scheduling them every seven days, exactly at the time when lawyers went on strike. The chief moment is returning the passports to the Miskovics. The worst thing is that the judge justified it by the fact that the trial was stalled for five months. According to him, he scheduled frequent sessions but nothing could be done because the defense lawyers did not appear before the court (due to the strike) and it was only fair to return the passports.” - **Večernje novosti (Evening News), October 31st 2014 Written edition**
- “They are addressing the opposition political parties, they are addressing the EU Delegation, they are asking for the dismissal of the President of the Constitutional Court and you have the President of the Bar Association of Serbia say: “I am not interested in the decision of the Constitutional Court”. Come one, let's not be naïve. President of the Bar Association of Serbia Dragoljub Djordjevic is one of the defense lawyers in the case Republic of Serbia v. Miroslav Miskovic and others. „ - **Radio-Television Serbia, Program “Yes, Maybe, No”, 30th October 2014**
- “And then in the end this Special Court Judge makes a decision in which he revokes the prohibition of leaving the place of residence to Miskovic Senior and Junior and orders the return of their passports. He justifies that by the lawyers' strike; that is what the decision says.” - **Radio-Television Serbia, Program “Yes, Maybe, No”, 30th October 2014**
- „I am afraid that interests are far from the profession and far from the legal practice and now it is completely clear to everyone in Serbia after the events during the past two days. There is this connection between quasi-politicians and tycoons. There is the case Serbia v. Miroslav Miskovic and others, the case which is being conducted with the aim of never completing it.” - **TV Pink, Morning Program, 29th October 2014**
- „Then there is this connection between quasi-politicians and tycoons. It is someone's aim not to have Miroslav Miskovic convicted and they will do everything they can to delay the proceedings as much as possible.” - **TV Pink, Morning Program, 29th October 2014**
- „I don't know whether it would be normal in their own countries to invite ambassadors, including the ambassador of the Republic of Serbia, to a private estate just for a chat or for apple-picking. What is this man actually doing? He is lobbying for himself and prejudicing the people who are currently conducting criminal proceedings against him.” - **Studio B, Panorama, November 1st 2014**

- „The Special Court Judge revokes the prohibition of leaving the Republic of Serbia and returns the travel documents to three defendants in the case. Everything happens within the set of these other circumstances. No one normal could really claim that one man can pay 8,5 thousand people to strike, obstruct or do something. However, he can pay eight or ten or fifteen of them. I am not saying that someone has done it and I have no proof for it, but one of key facts is that you have the President of the Bar Association of Serbia who also happens to be one of the defense lawyers in the case Serbia v. Miroslav Miskovic and others. Then you see that series of circumstances and realize that the judge says that the court could not do anything else but schedule sessions more frequently because there was nothing else to be done. It is not fair that, just listen to this, defendants should suffer because of that and that is why we should give them their passports back. Of course, this is a simplified description of the judge’s decision and justification. However, I will ask a single question, very simple at that, to citizens. You have this Miroslav Miskovic who used to do whatever he liked in Serbia for decades and someone was supposed to arrest him. Miskovic was arrested not only because someone just felt like arresting him but because of the reasonable doubt that he was one of the perpetrators of serious acts of organized crime. He was arrested and the investigation was completed. Charges were raised and the court proceedings started. And then what happens? Someone begins conducting the proceedings in such a way that you can’t even expect its end, which is also confirmed by the facts. I haven’t made anything up. Can you imagine, first you schedule the next session in sixty days, then in 26 days and then in 15 days and finally in only 7 days. It wouldn’t have surprised me if this interval had been even shorter in case they were not returned their passports on Monday.“ - **Studio B, Panorama, November 1st 2014**
- “Did I mention Miroslav Miskovic? Yes, I did and I have no problem about mentioning his name. And why do I mention him? Tomorrow, if Miroslav Miskovic happened to be acquitted, whole Serbia would jump at the Minister of Justice and tell him that it is his fault” - **Tanjug, 3rd November 2014 Written edition**
- „There is a connection between individuals from the top ranks of the Bar Association and quasi-politicians and tycoons – not all lawyers.“ - **Kurir, 9th November 2014 Written edition**
- „There is the attempt of listening in on the Prime Minister in Miskovic’s hotel, where the Prime Minister was supposed to meet famous foreign guests tête-à-tête.“ – **Kurir, 9th November 2014 Written edition**
- „The Agency is not conducting an investigation but it inspects the premises. Those are listening devices which were hidden in the alarm box. There is also an absurd explanation that the devices were there so that waiters could see when exactly to take in drinks. I’d like to know where the installations lead to – a waiters’ room?!“ - **Kurir, 9th November 2014 Written edition**
- „I don’t believe that anyone put the camera and microphone in the room where the Prime Minister was supposed to have meetings just to hear him sing to himself. The equipment was found in the hotel whose owner is one of the most interesting accused in Serbia. He is interesting because he owns large capital gained in troublesome times. He is the man who has never been held responsible before. Don’t look at it as an isolated affair – you have the criminal proceedings, an eavesdropping attempt and an incident in London; last but not least, where have you seen a person suspected of organized crime organizing receptions at his estate attended by a number of ambassadors from influential countries. Did they visit his estate just to pick apples? All this time I have been saying that this is not just a coincidence.“ - **Kurir, 9th November 2014 Written edition**
- „If I were afraid of Miskovic, I would never have mentioned him but, as you see, I am not afraid of him or the people he is paying. Vucic is not afraid of him either and I am proud that after such a long period of time Serbia finally has the Prime Minister who is not afraid of Miroslav Miskovic!“ - **Kurir, 9th November 2014 Written edition**