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Graz, 13th of January 2021

Dear Andrej Klasinc, Kleme Petek, Rok Dolenc, and Andrej Bole,

We are happy to read that you will take on the talks with Radio Študent and want to renew our support for the oldest free radio in Europe, that is not only strongly connected to students protests but also to freedom of press, and encourage and support solidarity over conflict.

Radio Študent is an important player in Slovenias independent media and culture scene It is well known for – also self-critical reporting –, its independent news, and its cultural activities. Once again its existence is at stake. Radio Helsinki, as an international media-partner, of Radio Študent, openly appeals for its preservation and declares its solidarity with Radio Študent.

The last year 2020 and especially days have shown what happens to our democracies if we systematically starve critical and independent media.

Currently we can witness in Hungary what the structural fight against free radio and critical media caused. Among many the Hungarian Civil Radio was not the only high-profile victim of the country's media policy. While Hungary had 61 small community radio stations in 2010, there are now less than 20.

Let's take free radio at their word instead of banning it!

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In the name of Radio Helsinki -the Free Radio of Graz

Lale Rodgarkia-Dara

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