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MO(N)K(E)Y(S) business: The Media and Controversial Armament by the Slovak Ministry of Defense.

Abstract.

This case study concerns coverage by the media of the controversial expensive and long-term armament procurement of the Slovak Ministry of Defense. The case was developing for about a decade. The case was labelled by a former Prime Minister (PM) I. Radičová as being not a Gorilla but a King Kong, in 2012 (Tódová, 2012). Gorilla is a nickname of the most notoriously known corruption scandal in the history of Slovak independence¹. Thus, in PM view, this was even more shocking corruption case. However, according to our insider, the PM initially did not want to deal with this “dead old” case (IwEM, 2013). Former Minister of Defence (MoD) Ľ. Galko openly expressed his opinion that this public procurement was probably manipulated already in 2005, and - what is even more interesting, that this case goes through the key political party spectrum (in Onufer, 2011). Therefore, selection of this case for further scientific analysis seems to be justified. Although focus here is at the media coverage of the case, if we want to understand the role of the media and journalists in this case, we have first to summarise the key aspects of the case itself.