

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg 21 August 2013

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing with regard to two recent events in the United Kingdom in relation to freedom of expression and the media.

The first is the reported detention of David Miranda, the partner of the Guardian journalist Glenn Greenwald, by police at Heathrow airport. This detention was apparently linked to the Guardian's publication of stories based on documents leaked by the American whistleblower Edward Snowden.

The second was the reported destruction of computer hard drives at the Guardian, apparently under the instruction of government officials.

These measures, if confirmed, may have a potentially chilling effect on journalists' freedom of expression as guaranteed by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

I would therefore be grateful to you if you could provide information on these reports and comment on the compatibility of the measures taken with the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tf - 67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France

Tel. + 33 (0)3 88 41 20 51
+ 33 (0)3 88 41 20 00

Fax: + 33 (0)3 88 41 27 99
+ 33 (0)3 88 41 27 40