



Permanent Representation of Greece
to the Council of Europe
The Permanent Representative

Strasbourg, 7 September 2018
Ref. n. 6686/AS 678

Dear Secretary General,

Following your specific suggestions to the CoE member states with regards to the CoE Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists as to "submit timely and comprehensive responses, where an alert concern the respective country, so that they can also be published", and my letter of 28 August on the same subject, I would like to forward herewith the pertinent response of the Ministry of Citizen's Protection concerning the incidents involving the Journalist Stratis Balaskas in Lesvos, on August 12 and 15. Furthermore, I would like to kindly ask you as for the said reply of my country to be timely published in the Platform.

While seizing the opportunity to extend to you my wholehearted gratitude for your sincere and truthful cooperation with the Greek Authorities, I would like once more to renew my Government's unwavering commitment to the challenging mandates of this Organization.

Yours sincerely,

*Prof. Stelios Perrakis
Ambassador*

*To: H.E. Thornbjorn Jagland
Secretary General
Council of Europe*



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF CITIZEN'S PROTECTION

With regard to the incidents of 16 August 2018, we would like to inform you that the journalist Mr. Balaskas filed two complaints with the police station of Mytilini on 18 and 20 August for insult, threat and defamation, offences committed on a social networking page.

The complaints resulted in the arrest of three people (two police officers and a private individual), who were then referred to the competent prosecuting authorities.

As far as the rest of the incidents reported to the Council of Europe platform are concerned, in particular the threats against the journalist at the port of Mytilini on 12 August by men claiming to belong to an extremist group, as well as the verbal attack against the journalist while covering a fire at the Tsamakia city park in Mytilini on 15 August, please be informed that no complaint has been filed with the police authorities.