



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Minister



C2-1/3519

Bucharest, 24 August, 2018

Dear Secretary General,

I am writing to you in respect to the alert submitted on the Platform for the Promotion of the Safety of Journalists and Protection of Journalism on August 14th, 2018, regarding the alleged assaults by the Romanian Gendarmerie against journalists during the protests of August 10th, 2018.

First, I would like to reassure you that I, personally, and the Romanian Government consider violence against national and international journalists unacceptable and unjustifiable.

Secondly, Romania is a functional democracy and the Government has no intention to limit or impede in any way the freedom of the media. As a democratic society, we cherish it and we have been long considered it a part of our untouchable and inviolable national values. According to the 2018 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters without Borders, Romania ranks 44th out of 180 states, two positions higher than in 2017. Independent journalism products in Romania have multiplied and are enjoying a growing interest from the public. We remain committed to uphold the European values, including the freedom of the press.

The Romanian legislation, in full compliance with all European standards and international commitments, ensure protection of all fundamental rights and freedoms, including the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press. As a member of the European Union, Romania has an independent justice system that can guarantee that national legislation is enforced and any abuse, including by employees of public institutions, is punished.

Thirdly, the Romanian prosecutors are already conducting an independent investigation concerning the events that took place on August 10th and are keeping the public informed in accordance with European institutional transparency principles and the provisions of the national law. The Romanian authorities are looking into this situation with utmost seriousness and in strict accordance with the law and our democratic values. Your concerns have been also brought to the attention of the responsible institutions and we will get back to you with updates, subject to further information becoming available.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express, dear Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Teodor Meleşcanu

Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland
Secretary General of the Council of Europe