



*Permanent Representation  
of Turkey  
to the Council of Europe*

Strasbourg, 24 August 2015

Dear Director,

Concerning the alert issued by the Council of Europe's "Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists" on 31 July 2015 under the title of "DIHA journalist Cüneyt Yavuz injured in Tear Gas Canister Attack during Clashes between Police and Protesters", submitted by the European Federation of Journalists and the International Federation of Journalists, I am transmitting at annex the response of the Turkish Government.

Yours sincerely,

Erdoğan İşcan  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Encl.:

- Information Note

**Mr. Matjaž Gruden**  
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**Directorate of Policy Planning**  
**The Council of Europe**

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**31 July 2015- Form concerning Cüneyt Yavuz submitted by EFJ/IFJ under “1. Attacks on physical integrity of journalists”**

**Information provided by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Turkey**

On 24 July 2015, an operation against DHKP-C (Revolutionary People’s Liberation Party-Front) terrorist organization was carried out and a person was captured dead following an armed clash that took place during the operation. On 26 July 2015, Halk Cephesi (Popular Front), which is the urban wing of the terrorist organization, staged a non-peaceful march with regard to the funeral. It issued calls with the slogan “We urge all of our people to look after our martyr.” through a number of social media tools that are close to DHKP-C terrorist organization. It was also established that during this march, many activists attacked police officers with Molotov cocktails. A police officer was shot to death during the police response to the group’s attack on the police. Furthermore, in the course of the incident, six police officers sustained injuries. An investigation is being carried out into these terrorist acts. Moreover, because of the continuing widespread acts of terrorism at the incident scene, it became possible, only two days after the incident, to safely perform a criminal examination at the scene. The police officers were informed that on the first day a journalist, Cüneyt Yavuz, who was wounded in his foot, was in the area where the attacks were concentrated. Upon this information, the police officers called an ambulance and a police officer was tasked with protecting the wounded journalist. When the police ran an identity check of the wounded journalist, they found out that there has been an arrest warrant issued in respect of Cüneyt Yavuz by the İstanbul Criminal Court of Peace under the file no. 2015/1344 for being a member of an armed terrorist organization. Following the judicial procedures, a forensic report indicating that the health condition of the wounded journalist was not life-threatening was obtained and his statement as a complainant concerning the incident was taken. An investigation was launched against the police officers who allegedly fired a gas cartridge towards his foot, and it is still ongoing.