



*Permanent Representation  
of Turkey  
to the Council of Europe*

Strasbourg, 19 August 2015

Dear Director,

Concerning the alerts issued by the Council of Europe's "Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists" on 9 June 2015 and 10 August 2015 under the titles of "LGBT Journalist Beaten by Police Officers" and "Turkey's Chief Public Prosecutor Seeks 7.5 year Jail Term against 18 Journalists over Siege Picture" respectively, submitted by the European Federation of Journalists and the International Federation of Journalists, I am transmitting at annex the responses of the Turkish Government.

Yours sincerely,

Erdoğan İşcan  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Encl.:

- Information Notes (2)

**Mr. Matjaž Gruden**  
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**Information Note provided by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Turkey on the letter stating that “LGBT journalist was beaten by police officers”**

It is understood from the letter dated 18 June 2015 sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the journalist Michelle Demishevich, who is a LGBT activist, lodged two complaints with the European Federation of Journalists, alleging that she had been beaten by police officers in plain clothes on 1 June 2015. On 2 June 2015, by using the identity details of the journalist Kadir Kurt, she filed a complaint about the incident in question with the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office on the basis of the medical report indicating that she had been slightly injured. In her complaint, she alleged that during her attempt to attend the press statement held by Sümeyye Erdoğan, who is the daughter of the President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, in front of the Belgian Consulate in Istanbul, the police officers had come up to her and said that “ watch your step, we won’t see you here” and they had grasped her hair and punched her in her abdominal cavity. Under the file no. 2015/72600, an investigation was immediately initiated in respect of the police officers alleged to have beaten the complainant on the day of the incident and also the footage of the incident was sent to an expert for a technical analysis. Information about the outcome of the ongoing investigation will separately be provided.