



*Permanent Representation  
of Turkey  
to the Council of Europe*

Strasbourg, 14 September 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 13 August 2015 under the title of "Turkish Special Operations Team attacks Journalists covering the Transfer of injured Police Officer to a Hospital", 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**  
**Director**  
**Directorate of Policy Planning**  
**The Council of Europe**

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**12 August 2015 - Form submitted by EFJ/IFJ under the title "Turkey Special Operations team attacks journalists covering the transfer of injured police officer to a hospital"**

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

On 11 August 2015 at around 9.27 p.m. the security personnel in charge of guarding the Government Office at the Nusaybin district of the Mardin province were attacked with heavy weapons by unknown assailants and two security officers were injured. Subsequent to the terrorist attacks, wide scale operations were initiated with a view to identifying the perpetrators of the incident. Furthermore, violent attacks were organized against the security forces and a great number of security officers have been martyred by members of the terrorist organization during the last months in the South-eastern Turkey including the Mardin province where the incident in question took place. In the course of the above-mentioned incident, necessary security measures were taken in the premises of the hospital with a view to preventing a possible further attack while the injured security officers were being taken to the hospital. The individuals who were in front of the hospital – it was impossible at that time to establish whether they were members of the press - have been warned several times not to approach the security cordon so that they would not hinder the taking of the necessary measures properly and as soon as possible. However, said persons broke through the security cordon and tried to obtain images of the injured personnel despite all the insistent warnings. The security officers who were on the alert against the possibility of a new attack made all the necessary effort within the legal limits with a view to keeping the relevant persons, who were resisting to leave the security area, away from the scene of incident and protecting the injured individuals' private lives. These efforts of the security officers also sought to ensure the safety of the civilians (journalists) in the premises in case of an attack by members of the terrorist organization.

Furthermore, it should be emphasized that the individuals, who were subject to the notification, made a request immediately after the incident, namely on 12 August 2015 to the Nusaybin Chief Public Prosecutor's Office for the launching of an investigation into the actions taken against them. The Chief Public Prosecutor's Office took the statements of said persons as complainants and started an investigation on the incident from multiple aspects. The requirements of the rule of law are fulfilled in accordance with the universal standards. Requests concerning all kinds of right violations can be conveyed to impartial and independent judicial bodies and all the investigation proceedings which these requests necessitate are promptly conducted.