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PRANE KESHILLIT TE EUROPE  
Strasbourg

PERMANENT MISSION OF ALBANIA  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
Strasbourg

Strasbourg, 7 January 2016

Dear Director,

In response to the alert submitted to the Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists concerning the alleged detention of an ABC News cameraman by Police, I am transmitting at annex the response of the Ministry of Interior of Albania.

I would kindly ask you to upload the above mentioned information to the Platform.

Please accept, Mr. Director, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely

Ardiana HOBDAI

Encl: Response of Albanian authorities

**Mr. Matjaž GRUDEN**  
Director  
Directorate of Policy Planning  
Council of Europe

## **Response of the Ministry of Interior of Albania on the alleged detention of an ABC News cameraman by Police.**

Regarding the alert submitted to the Platform of Council of Europe to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists, concerning the case of “an ABC News cameraman attacked and detained for three hours by Police”, we would like to inform that the Ministry of Interior of Albania initiated an investigation to clarify the circumstances of this case.

The outcomes of the investigation are the following:

On 10/11/2015 around 13:00 Chief of Police Station no. 4 in Tirana, Fatmir Lleshaj, identified the car of ABC News Television parked in front of the main entrance of the Police Station, in violation of the law and the existing road signs. Police Officer Lleshaj under active duty on that moment, asked the driver to present personal identification documents, a request which was denied by the driver.

While Police Officer Lleshaj was asking for the identification documents from the driver, three more persons arrived at the place, starting to debate intensively with Police Officer Lleshaj, who asked from them to stay aside until he finishes the identification procedures with the driver.

One of these three persons who arrived at the scene, cameraman Dritan Peca, while debating with the Police Officer, started to film with his camera, and Police Officer Lleshaj asked him the motive of filming. Citizen Peca refused to identify himself and to clarify the situation, even several requests made by Police Officer. In these circumstances, citizen Peca was accompanied in the premises of Police Station to give declarations and then he was left free (at 14.00). The cameraman Dritan Peca was not held as suspect, and was not ill-treated, a fact that can be verified by the Register of accompanied persons.

After the investigation of the case it results that:

- The citizen Dritan Peca was accompanied at the premises of the Police Station no. 4 in Tirana, based on the legal procedures related the cases of accompanying the citizens for identification and statements about the circumstances of the investigation of the case.
- The interrogation at the Police premises took place because he disobeyed the legal orders of the State Police officers, and has also attempted to impede police officers during their duty.
- The interrogation of the citizen Dritan Peca at the Police premises has nothing to do with the fact that he was an employee of the media, and the procedure of interrogation was in compliance with legal framework.
- There are no cases of physical or psychological violence against the citizen Dritan Peca, a fact that can be proved by his written declaration.
- Actions undertaken by the Chief of the Police Station were correct, and in accordance with the standard and operating procedures of verification.