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PRANE KESHILLIT TE EUROPE  
Strasbourg

PERMANENT MISSION OF ALBANIA  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
Strasbourg

Strasbourg, 11 March 2016

Dear Director,

In response to the alert submitted to the Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists concerning the case of TV journalist Eni SHEHU, I am transmitting at annex the response of the Albanian authorities.

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

**Information provided by the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Culture of Albania regarding the alert submitted to the Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists of CoE, concerning the incident between the journalist of ABC News Television and the Director of the National Theatre, Mr. Hervin Çuli, on January 15, 2016.**

The Ministry of Interior has informed that Eni Shehu, a journalist of ABC News Television, on January 16, 2016 filed a report to the Police, against Mr. Hervin Çuli, Director of the National Theatre claiming that he was insulted and violated by the latter, during the general rehearsal of the play "Three Sisters" of Chekhov.

- Aiming at a thorough investigation of the case and to clarify the circumstances of the incident, the Police structures of Tirana Police Station No. 1, summoned and interrogated Mr. Çuli.
- Throughout his explanations Mr. Çuli refused of having insulted and violated the journalist Eni Shehu, but claims that he and two colleagues of him have intervened to extrude the journalist Eni Shehu from the national theater's hall after he had repeatedly and deliberately provoked the actors while they were performing.
- According to the declarations of Mr. Çuli, the show was open to the media as well as to the public and the journalist was not invited as a journalist, but had come to attend the show on a personal capacity.
- The investigative materials on this event are referred for further investigation to Tirana's Office of Prosecutor, under the penal offense of "Other intentional injuries" provided by Article 90 of the Penal Code.

The Ministry of Culture has informed that concerning the case, it has contacted the Director of the National Theatre, Mr. Çuli, and the Theater's staff to clarify the circumstances of the case. Regarding the case, the Ministry of Culture informs that:

- The show was open to the media and Mr. Shehu was not on a journalist capacity at the event in question.
- Eni Shehu has continuously provoked the actors throughout the show, which led to the reaction of the director and producer of the play, who had asked repeatedly for silence during the play. During the break the Director asked from Mr. Shehu to leave the room because he had persisted with his provocations, which consequently caused his expel from the Theatre.
- From the evidence obtained by the staff of the Theatre and the public, no violence had occurred, as claimed by Mr. Shehu.
- After the submission of the report to the police structures, the Director of the Theater has pursued all the required legal procedures.
- The Ministry of Culture in its public declaration condemns any act of violence. This institution supports art and respects the dignity of artists working in difficult conditions.
- The Ministry of Culture is open to full cooperation for the further investigation on this matter. Based on the outcomes of the investigation the Ministry of Culture will pursue the required legal procedures. The Ministry of Culture also appreciates the cooperation and communication with the media.