



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF GREECE
TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Permanent Representative

Strasbourg, June 2nd, 2016
F. 6686/AS 661

Dear Secretary General

Further to your informative remarks during the Committee of Ministers' session on 10th September 2015 and onwards with regard to the establishment of the CoE Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists, as well as your specific suggestions to the CoE member states as to "submit timely and comprehensive responses, where an alert concern our country, so that they can also be published", I would like to forward herewith the pertinent responses on behalf of the competent Greek Authorities upon two specific complaints against Greece, which have been posted to the aforementioned Platform. Furthermore, I would like to kindly ask you as for the said two replies of my country to be timely published in the Platform.

While seizing that opportunity to extend to you my sincere and wholehearted gratitude for your recent visit in Greece, as well as for your unique presence and active participation in the Nauplion Conference, I would like once more to convey to you my Government's constant and sincere will for a deep and fruitful cooperation with all the organs and mechanisms of this Organization.

Yours sincerely

Professor Stelios Perrakis

Ambassador

To: H.E. Mr. Thorbjorn Jagland

Secretary General

Council of Europe

SUBJECT: Newly-established Council of Europe On-Line Platform for the protection of journalism and safety of journalists. Complaints against our Country.

1) Attack against journalist Petros Anastasiadis - 10th of March 2016 ("Golden Dawn" Members Violently Attacked Petros Anastasiadis)

During a meeting of the Regional Council of Attica at the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, **the police took security measures in the surrounding area** to maintain public order.

There were no police officers in the room, as the organisers of the meeting, fully complying with national legislation, had not asked the police to be present at the meeting.

Moreover, **no one of those attending the meeting had informed the police or asked them to intervene for offences committed in the room.**

2) Incident involving TV crew in Idomeni - 23rd of February 2016 ("Police Denies TV Crew Access to Refugee Camp").

An extensive police operation took place in Idomeni in the morning of 23 February 2016 for the transfer of Afghan nationals **who had been blocking the railway line.**

As part of their operational planning, **the police decided to seal off the area for security reasons and designated a special area for journalists** where the Head of the Press Office of the General Police Directorate of the Central Macedonia Region would be available to them.

Just TV journalist Aphroditi Spilioti and her crew (a cameraman and a sound engineer), from the private broadcaster Alpha Channel, **refused to move from the sealed-off area to the special press area, despite repeated appeals by the police.**

The journalist was asked to show the police her ID card for verification. Her details were checked over the radio and following this, she, along with her crew, got into their vehicle and followed the police to the press area.

No grounds have been found for the disciplinary investigation of the incident by the police.