

Reply provided by Albanian authorities  
Alert created on 15 Dec 2020 "Police Uses Force and Detains Two Journalists Covering  
Street Clashes in Albania"

*The case of Mr. Xhoi Malësia, journalist from "Ora News" media.*

During the protest that took place on 10 december 2020, at around 8:15 pm, a group of demonstrators attacked with strong tools the premises of Police Station no. 2 in Tirana. As result, two police officers were injured. Meanwhile the police officers have accompanied the demonstrators that have used act of violence, there was a citizen, who refused to be identified with an identification document, by using an inappropriate vocabulary towards the police officers. In these conditions, the police officers, were unable to identify the citizen on the street, and this citizen is accompanied by the police officers to the premises of the Police Station no. 2 Tirana.

In the premises of the Police Commissariat no. 2, the Police authorities performed immediate actions with the aim to verify its identity, and its declaration. After the verification process he was released. No act of violence was used against this citizen, and no other procedural actions were taken. According to the minutes of the interview, the citizen Xhoi Malësia, explained that during the confrontation with the police officers, he did not have any ID document or identification document as a journalist.

*The case of Mr. Qamil Xhani, Editor-in-chief of the newspaper "Koha Jonë".:*

During the protest of 11 december 2020, near the Local Police Directorate of Tirana, after violent act of destruction, the protesters were dispersed by the police officers. The Police officers escorted to the premises of Police Station no. 2, some of the demonstrators that were suspected as participants in violent acts. Among them was the citizen Qamil Xhani, which was unidentified at this moment. The accompaniment of the citizen Mr. Xhani to the Police Commissariat no. 2, was performed with the aim to verify its identity, in line with obligations of the Standard Procedure of State Police. After the verification, he was immediately released, and no other procedural actions were taken.

The General Directorate of State Police express its regret for those circumstances, and at the same time encourages the work of the journalists in the service of public information, by respecting the rules and procedures, according to the domestic legislation.