

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Alert, created on 17 September 2018: “Investigative Journalists Detained in Bulgaria”

Mr. Dimitar Stoyanov and Mr. Attila Biro contacted the state authorities, reporting that material evidence, connected to criminal offences, is being destroyed on a location near the city of Radomir. Upon arrival at the specified location, police forces witnessed two individuals who were in contact with the evidence reported. The situation occurred after nightfall and the two individuals were not able at first to present valid ID cards (press cards are not deemed valid identification in the context of a police investigation, according to the provisions of the Bulgarian Personal Documents Act).

After being taken to a police station to establish their identity and to clarify the purpose of their presence on the site, Mr. Stoyanov and Mr. Biro were released.

The Bulgarian authorities would like to express their gratitude for the initial report made by Mr. Stoyanov and Mr. Biro, with regards to the process of destruction of material evidence. Furthermore, we would like to stress the need for good communication in the course of an ongoing police investigation, so that such situations may be avoided in future.