



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

Ref. ID-02-361

Strasbourg, 5 November 2018

Dear Mr Gruden,

I am writing you regarding an alert, published on the Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists on 29 November 2017, concerning the Bulgarian journalist Georgi Ezekiev from Zov News Website Publisher who received death threat in a filmed interview.

The Republic of Bulgaria provided information that the alleged violations have been investigated by the Regional Prosecutor's Office of the city of Vratsa. The information that was gathered on the case could not substantiate the alleged crime as reported by Mr Ezekiev. The messages he received did not qualify as threats, but as insults, which is a crime that can be prosecuted only after the filing of a legal complaint to the competent court. The State Prosecution therefore has no competence to monitor the development of the case.

The alert is presently marked as having received a state reply. Since the State has no competence to monitor a potential court case of private nature, I would like to kindly ask you that the alert is marked as "resolved". Should any future development of the case be deemed important, the Platform would be able to receive the relevant information from Mr Ezekiev.

Should the alert remain as "unresolved", I would be grateful, if you could let me know about the applied criteria, which the Republic of Bulgaria will take into consideration.

I am looking forward to our future fruitful cooperation and remain at your disposal for any further clarifications.

Sincerely yours,

Katya TODOROVA

Ambassador

Mr. Matjaž GRUDEN  
Director  
Directorate of Democratic Participation  
Directorate General of Democracy  
Council of Europe