

With reference to the alert of 27 June 2018 concerning the physical attack on journalist Hrvoje Bajlo on 24 June 2018, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia informs that it had established the facts and the elements of the offences of serious physical injury according to Art. 118 para. 1, threat according to Art. 139 para 3, of the Criminal Code. The police officers began police investigation and collecting evidence about the perpetrator, who was arrested on 24 June 2018 and within the legally prescribed time limit take in custody on 25 June 2018. On 26 June 2018, the perpetrator of the criminal offence, having been issued a restraining order prohibiting him to approach injured Hrvoje Bajlo closer than 50 meters, and having been banned from establishing and maintaining connection with Hrvoje Bajlo, was released.

Regarding the Croatian Journalist Association's allegation that Hrvoje Bajlo, because of his work as a research journalist, has repeatedly received threats, a check with the Zadar Police Directorate showed that on 15 January 2012, on the premises of the Zadar Police Directorate, Hrvoje Bajlo reported the criminal offence of threat in accordance with Art. 139 para 3 of the Criminal Code, committed against him by an unknown perpetrator who repeatedly sent text messages of threatening content from a mobile phone registered in the Republic of Ireland. The perpetrator of this criminal offence was not found during the police investigation.

In addition, on 25 March 2007, Hrvoje Bajlo informed the Zadar Police Directorate that on that day around 16:15 h, he had been assaulted in Zadar, on Grgur Ninski b.b. street, by one person known to him and one male person unknown to him. Hrvoje Bajlo refused medical assistance, and police investigation identified the two men who had attacked Hrvoje Bajlo, and a criminal application was filed against them for misdemeanour with the Misdemeanour Court in Zadar.

Furthermore, on 19 October 2017, Hrvoje Bajlo filed criminal charges against an unknown perpetrator of the criminal offence of threat in accordance with Article 139 para 3 of the Criminal Code, stating that he had received emails with serious threats in connection with his work as a journalist. The conducted criminal investigation found that the e-mails were forwarded from one-time IP addresses on servers registered in Romania and Bulgaria. The Municipal State Attorney's Office in Zadar has been informed about the measures and actions undertaken.