



Permanent Representation
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Council of Europe
Strasbourg

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

Ambassador
Heike Thiele
Permanent Representative

Strasbourg, 27 November 2024

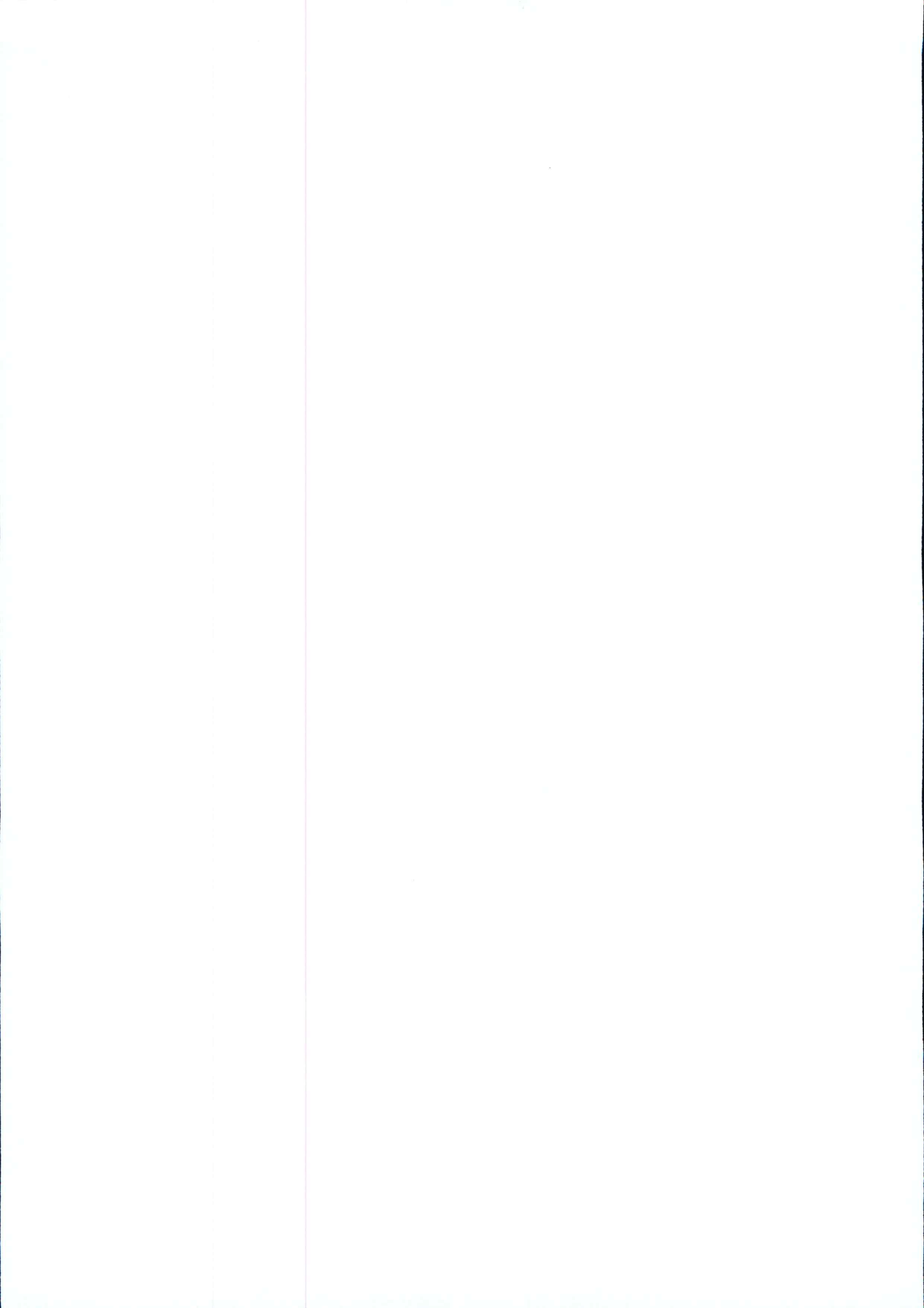
Reply to **Alert No. 54/2024 concerning the broadcaster Sachsen Fernsehen**, submitted to the Council of Europe Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists.

Dear Mr. Gruden,

I would like to share with you the German governments' comment on Alert No. 54/2024 concerning the broadcaster Sachsen Fernsehen.

On 24 January 2024, a pro-Palestinian demonstration took place in Leipzig city centre. After the demonstration, it became known through an emergency call to police that the individuals concerned, who had attended the aforementioned demonstration as journalists, had been physically attacked by three masked persons. The journalists were injured in this attack and had to receive outpatient hospital treatment. The Leipzig police headquarters issued a press release on the incident (see Leipzig police headquarters no. 51/24 of 25 January 2024, <https://www.medien-service.sachsen.de/medien/news/1072748>). The Leipzig police headquarters also opened a criminal investigation, initially against unknown persons, on suspicion of inflicting dangerous bodily harm. In the course of the investigation, three suspects were identified. The incident is the subject of a criminal investigation by the Leipzig public prosecutor's office against three individuals charged with dangerous bodily harm pursuant to section 224 of the German Criminal Code (*Strafgesetzbuch*, StGB). The investigation is ongoing.

Germany condemns every form of threat, attack and harassment directed towards media professionals. Free and unobstructed reporting is necessary for freedom and democracy, and is essential for the formation of individual opinions and public opinion. For this reason, the right to free journalistic reporting must be protected. Journalists must be able to carry out their work unimpeded.



You may upload this reply to the Platform and share it with partner organisations.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. T. H.', written in a cursive style.

