



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

Matthias Heinz
Chargé d'affaires a. i.

Strasbourg, 4 July 2023

**CoE Safety of Journalists Platform - Germany's response to the Safety of Journalists
Platform's Alarm No. 102/2023**

Dear Mr. Gruden,

I would like to share with you the German governments' comment on Alert No. 102/2023 concerning David Janzen

The Federal Republic of Germany vehemently condemns every kind of attack, threat or other attempt to intimidate media professionals. The freedom of expression and of the press and the right to independent reporting are essential for the formation of public opinion and for the free and democratic basic order. That is why it is essential to protect all media professionals against attacks, threats and other kinds of intimidation. Journalists must be able to form their opinions freely and express them without fear of retaliation. Threats and attempts to intimidate journalists such as Mr Janzen are unacceptable and must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

In the case reported, the law enforcement authorities have not yet concluded their investigations. The police have registered the property damage caused by graffiti on the building's front door and the threat it expressed as politically motivated offences. After the police have concluded their investigation, the judicial authorities will decide on the next steps in the criminal proceedings.

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

Sincerely yours,