



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
Jutta Frasch
Permanent Representative

Strasbourg, July 4, 2022

CoE Safety of Journalists Platform - German Comments on Alert No. 162/2022 stating that a journalist was threatened by a Party Secretary General

Dear Mr. Gruden,

I would like to share with you the German governments' comment on Alert No. 162/2022 stating that Journalist Manfred Otzelberger was threatened by the then CSU Secretary General Stephan Mayer.

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 and public opinions. We will therefore always safeguard the right to free journalistic reporting.

In the present case the journalist reports that he was threatened by the then secretary general of a political party because of investigations the journalist was conducting. This person had no function within the government or administration. If the allegations are confirmed, such conduct would violate the rights of the press, regardless of the position of the person. The journalist (or any other person) can also file criminal charges with police or prosecution services.

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

Sincerely yours,