

Translation

CoE – Safety of Journalists Platform – Alert submitted with regard to Germany

“ On April 20 18 , two persons who say they are members of the press took photographs of a property belonging to an official of the NPD (National Democratic Party of Germany) in Thuringia.

Two people saw them taking the photographs. These two people subsequently pursued the two members of the press, who had fled in their vehicle. The suspects pursued the victims and blocked their escape route.

At this point the suspects are alleged to have caused substantial damage.

The two occupants of the vehicle were threatened and injured. A shoulder bag and camera equipment were snatched from the passenger.

It is alleged that a knife, irritant gas, a very large wrench and a baseball bat were used in the attack.

The suspects then broke off the attack and left the scene. During the attack they wore scarves over their faces.

The two victims incurred injuries which were treated in hospital on an outpatient basis.

In the course of the investigations, which were initiated immediately, the vehicle used by the suspects was found outside a residential property. Both the vehicle and the residential property were subsequently searched.

The suspects, the alleged weapons and the camera equipment were not found. The vehicle used by the suspects was seized.

The investigations into suspected aggravated