

Germany's reply to the attacks on journalists at a demonstration in Berlin on 15 May 2021, reported on the platform of the Council of Europe to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists

On 15 May 2021, there were clashes in Berlin at a demonstration to mark the 73rd anniversary of the Nakba that were also in connection with the escalation of the political situation in the Middle East conflict. Prior to the event, the police commander responsible for this demonstration had cited the protection of media professionals as a key priority of police work and defined a cooperative approach with media stakeholders as a principle in her guidelines for the deployment. Germany regrets that, despite these measures and the presence of security forces, attacks took place on the day of the demonstration. Investigations are currently under way, including into suspected severe disturbance of the peace.

Germany condemns all forms of threats, attacks and harassment against journalists. Free and unhindered reporting is vital to our liberal democracy and essential to the formation of both individual and public opinion. The right to free journalistic reporting must therefore be safeguarded. Journalists must be able to go about their work without let or hindrance. This also applies to the context of demonstrations.