



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, November 26, 2021

### **CoE Safety of Journalists Platform - Alert submitted with regard to Germany**

Dear Mr. Gruden,

I would like to share with you the German governments' comment on the attack on Jörg Reichel, the Berlin regional manager of the German Union of Journalists (Deutsche Journalistinnen- und Journalisten-Union, dju), during a demonstration in Berlin on 1 August 2021, which was reported on the Council of Europe's Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists.

The regional manager of the German Union of Journalists was attacked on 1 August 2021 by two protesters on the sidelines of an unauthorised demonstration organised by the so-called Querdenker movement in the Berlin district of Kreuzberg. The offenders reportedly pushed him off his bicycle, hit him and kicked him. They also allegedly tried to snatch his mobile phone from him. It has been reported that the offenders only released him when passers-by intervened. The victim suffered minor injuries from the attack for which he received outpatient hospital treatment. In addition, his mobile phone was severely damaged. The offenders managed to flee from the scene.

Police investigations in Berlin are ongoing. The victim and witnesses have already been questioned, but no suspects have been identified yet.

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 must therefore safeguard the right to free journalistic reporting. Journalists must be able to carry out their work without obstruction. This also applies in the context of demonstrations.

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

Sincerely yours,