



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Strasbourg 7 October 2021

**Alert with regards to the assassination of the reporter Giorgos Karaivaz
(12 April 2021)**

**Response from the Greek Authorities
Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

The brutal assassination of journalist George Karaivaz has shocked the Greek government, as expressed by the Greek Prime Minister himself, as well as the public opinion. The Prime Minister requested, from the competent Minister for Citizen Protection, that relevant procedures for solving this case proceed quickly.

The competent Greek Authorities have rigorously looked into the matter and have spared no effort in their search to identify the perpetrators and motives of this cowardly attack.

Greece is very active in the field of Human Rights' protection, including journalists' rights, and acknowledges the need for an integrated approach which covers all State Authorities and their obligation to take into account and respect Human Rights in their daily activities.

The search for the perpetrators of the assassination of George Karaivaz has been and still remains an absolute priority for the Hellenic Police and its various Agencies. The competent investigative Authority is conducting a systematic and in-depth investigation of this crime, in order to clearly identify the perpetrators and bring them before the relevant Greek judicial Authorities. In this framework, police investigators are also making full use of the available state-of-the-art technological and forensic tools and services.

Investigations by law enforcement Authorities in charge of this case are well underway and in full swing. New data and information gathered so far by the competent investigators cannot, however, be disclosed as, under Greek relevant legal framework (the Greek Code of Criminal Procedure), preliminary investigation is confidential.

Greece addresses the issue of media freedom and the safety of journalists with particular care, making every possible effort to defend everyone's right to be fully informed, which forms part of a well functioning and active democratic society.