



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF CITIZEN PROTECTION
HELLENIC POLICE HEADQUARTERS
SECURITY BRANCH
**INTERNATIONAL POLICE
COOPERATION DIVISION**

Subject: "Alerts on the Council of Europe Platform for the safety of journalists and the protection of journalism."

Alert No 109/2021: On 29.05.2021, at 12:30', in the area of Ormenio, Orestiada, seventy-five (75) illegal immigrants were arrested by police officers from the Orestiada Border Control Station, who formed a case file for violation of Law 3386/2005 «Entry, Residence and Social Integration of Third Country Nationals in the Greek Territory», as amended and in force. A five-member Dutch television crew was in the said location and recorded footage of the irregular migrants. The aforementioned journalists, after consulting with their supervisor, went to the Police Station of Trigono voluntarily, in order to have their identity details verified, because there were telephone reports from citizens that the crew was filming within the village of Dikaia, causing them to worry. No criminal case was filed against the journalists for any offence. There was no obstruction of their work by police authorities, just informing them in cooperation with the Hellenic Army regarding their non-entry in an area characterized as ZAP (Security/Neutral Zone) as well as not recording audiovisual – photographic material in the said area, because they did not have relevant approval from the Hellenic Army. During their stay at the General Regional Police Directorate of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, nothing noteworthy took place and they left expressing their thanks for the information provided to them.

It should be noted, that the Hellenic Police Services operate within the framework of constitutional order, in accordance with the principles of legality and proportionality, in order to ensure public peace, the smooth social coexistence of all citizens, the prevention and suppression of crime, and the protection of the state and the democracy, with absolute respect for human rights and the rule of law. Whenever they identify or become aware of unlawful behavior by individuals or groups that fulfill the elements of a criminal offense, they carry out all required police and legal procedures and immediately notify the competent Prosecutorial Authority.