



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. 234/2022: The disciplinary procedure has been initiated and is pending until the issuance and transmittal of the relevant report by the Independent Administrative Authority "The Greek Ombudsman".

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.

The protection of reporters during their presence at Assemblies-Gatherings, is ensured in accordance with the provisions in the National Plan for the Management of Public Outdoor Assemblies. More specifically, the presence of reporters is an important factor in assemblies. Within the framework of new planning, the presence and protection of reporters during assemblies, is handled with increased attention, so that their unhindered work ensures the right of citizens to be informed, and also avoid incidents and injuries against them. The security plan for the assembly includes safeguarding the physical integrity of reporters who may be at the centre of incidents. In addition, the Police shall designate a specific area for reporters, to which they may voluntarily go for their protection in the event of incidents, if they so wish. In the event of injury, this area will also provide first aid services. Finally, a previously designated Officer will act as a liaison and communication channel with them throughout the assembly, in order to facilitate, if requested, the unhindered exercise of their mission and assist them in the event of injury.

The issue of safeguarding citizens' rights and the general conduct of police officers toward citizens has been repeatedly emphasized by the Hellenic Police Headquarters, as well as with relevant orders from the existing Services.

In any case, the competent Services of the Hellenic Police investigate any complaint or report that includes even the slightest suspicion of misconduct by its personnel, which is not consistent with the status of a police officer, regardless of the type of complaint and the manner in which it is brought to its attention. These are applied under the guarantee of the provisions of administrative and disciplinary legislation. In this context, and in order to ascertain the correctness or otherwise of the actions and manner of action of the police officers allegedly involved in each complaint, an administrative investigation of the incidents is immediately initiated, and based on the findings, the actions prescribed by the applicable legal framework are implemented.