



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

Alert against Greece with regards to the attack against photojournalist Yannis Liakos by Police Officers (10 February 2021)

Response from the Greek Authorities Ministry for Citizen Protection / Hellenic Police

According to a number of articles published on the websites documentocws.gr, tvxs.gr, efsyn.gr, gazzetta.gr, enikos.gr, a press release by the Attica General Police Directorate, as well as internal communication of the Hellenic Police, there have been allegations concerning blameworthy actions of Police Officers against citizens, including the photojournalist – member of Photojournalists Union of Greece (EFE) – Ioannis Liakos, which allegedly took place during a demonstration on Education, in 10.2.2021, in the center of Athens.

On the basis of these allegations, Attica General Police Directorate has ordered a preliminary administrative inquiry, which can lead to a sworn administrative inquiry. The procedure has been assigned to a high-ranking officer, who does not have any administrative link to the Police Directorates and Officers involved and it is currently in progress.

The Hellenic Police, in 12.2.2021 properly informed the Independent Administrative Agency “Ombudsman”, in the framework of the latter’s capacity as a national mechanism for investigating incidents of arbitrary nature. The Ombudsman’s office responded that they will follow the conduct of the preliminary administrative inquiry and that they expect to receive, upon its completion and before any decision is taken, the evidence that will be gathered, in order to examine whether the procedure is complete and comprehensive, procedurally and on the merits, or whether further examination is required.