



Permanent Representation of Hungary
to the Council of Europe

E-mail 32 /STR/2021

Date 13 August 2021

To **Matjaž GRUDEN** – Director, Directorate of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe
(Matjaz.Gruden@coe.int)

Cc **Tania GISSELBRECHT**– Assistant, Platform for the Protection of Journalists, Council of Europe
(Tania.Gisselbrecht@coe.int)

Subject **Reply to an alert placed on the Platform for the Protection of Journalists**

Attachment 1

Dear Director,

On behalf of Ambassador Rusz and with reference to your e-mail of 26th July 2021, please find below our authorities' reply to the alert placed on the website of the Platform for the Protection of Journalists regarding Hungary:

“Hungary is a democratic state governed by the rule of law, and as such, it has always acted and continues to act in accordance with the legislation in force in the case of all individuals. Covert devices are used irrespective of profession, occupation, position, or job title. In Hungary, public bodies authorised to use disguised tools are regularly monitored by governmental and nongovernmental institutions.

Since 29th May 2010, the Hungarian national security services have not carried out illegal surveillance and are currently not carrying out any. This is also supported by the results of the inspections conducted.

The intelligence-gathering equipment used by the authorised bodies, their technological, technical, and financial data is classified.

Intelligence gathering tools used at all times are particular objects of protection in all democratic governments of the world. These pieces of classified information have remained

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protected – with retroactive effect – even following 6th July 1998 and 29th May 2010, the formation of the first and second Orbán governments.”

I would ask your kind cooperation in uploading this response to the Platform and signaling it to the partner organisations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Oravec', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dávid ORAVECZ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.