

Position statement concerning the alert submitted with regard to Hungary

to the Council of Europe's Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists and, in a wider context, for guaranteeing freedom of expression

concerning threats of legal action against cartoonist Gábor Pápai

In Hungary, the press is completely free and is more diverse than in many Western European countries. The Government of Hungary absolutely respects media freedom and freedom of expression. Since Hungary is a democratic state governed by the rule of law, such announcements and related legal cases shall be handled by independent law enforcement authorities and impartial courts.

The Government of Hungary sees no merit in the allegations expressed in this case. Moreover, we find it outrageous that someone finds joy in hurting and desecrating the Christian faith and by such means offending the feelings of millions of people. Such a double standard of liberalism, to defend the rights and feelings of everyone except Christians, is unacceptable for us. Regrettably, no appeal has been received from the European Federation of Journalists when it was about to protest against the ill-treatment of Christians and condemn this attack in media outlets. This clearly demonstrates that sadly there is no equal treatment when it comes to defending human rights, and civil organizations can easily turn a blind eye to the violation of Christian people's feelings.

The Government of Hungary remains committed to preserving and protecting media freedom and freedom of expression and stands ready to continue cooperating with the international stakeholders on issues of mutual interest.