

Ref: CommHR/DM/sf 028-2023

Mr Robert ABELA
Prime Minister of Malta

Strasbourg, 26 September 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to follow up on our correspondence of October 2022 regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the public inquiry report into the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia.

To date, I am concerned that the proposals tabled in Parliament to strengthen freedom of expression legislation appear to fall short of the stringent need identified in the public inquiry report for comprehensive reforms in Maltese society, aligned with international human rights standards. Furthermore, they have not been subject to the transparent and thorough consultation that the gravity of the situation demands.

In addition, I have received information about continuing instances of denial of access to information under the Freedom of Information Act, suggesting a pattern of unwarranted secrecy within state institutions regarding information that could be of significant public interest.

I have also noted that after certain degree of progress, no significant results have been obtained in bringing to justice all those responsible for the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia. This troubling situation persists almost six years after her tragic death.

I would also like to raise the continued negative rhetoric targeting journalists. It is imperative that state authorities cease fostering a climate which is hostile to journalists and media professionals.

I would therefore be grateful for any information you can provide on the issues raised in this letter, including the recommendations I outlined in my report from February 2022.

I remain at your disposal for further discussions on this matter and stand ready to engage in a constructive dialogue.

Yours sincerely,



Dunja Mijatović