

Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Statement by Prime Minister Joseph Muscat

Today afternoon I was informed of a car explosion in the Bidnija area. From preliminary evidence, and despite ongoing investigations, it transpires that a person was in the vehicle at the time, and indications are that the person is likely to be Daphne Caruana Galizia.

I am shocked by what happened today. However, I am not here to tell you this. I am here to argue that the country is better than this, and what happened is unacceptable on all levels.

I condemn, without reservations this barbaric attack on a person and on the freedom of expression in our country.

Everyone is aware that Ms Caruana Galizia was one of my harshest critics, politically and personally, as she was for others too.

However, I can never use, in any way this fact to justify, in any possible way, this barbaric act that goes against civilisation and all dignity.

Without anticipating the Police's investigations, instructions have been made to the Police force and National Security to take every step necessary in the investigations to ensure the guilty party is brought to justice.

Instructions have also been made to seek assistance from international security bodies during the investigation.

I have just communicated with the Leader of the Opposition, where I shared all the information I had about this case.

We agreed that his speech to reply to the Budget 2018 tonight should be postponed. Instead during tonight's sitting we will each make a statement on the tragic event that occurred today.

I want to make it clear to everyone that I am everyone's Prime Minister, and that the strength of our democracy emerges at times like these, where we must be prepared to defend the principles of each and every one of us. In this country, we have the Rule of Law, above all and everyone.

In this moment of profound sentiment, I am appealing for national unity. This is not the time to discuss the conduct of a person. Everyone has the right to write and say what they want in this country, and those who feel wronged are entitled to protection by the courts and no other remedy.

I will not rest until justice is delivered in this case, as our country deserves justice.

Attachments: none

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3, CASTILLE PLACE, VALLETTA VLT 2000 Tel +(356) 2200 1700 Fax +(356) 2200 1775

press.releases@gov.mt www.doi.gov.mt