NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Representation of Montenegro to the Council of Europe presents its compliments to the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law and has the honor to forward the new information and update of those earlier provided by the Government of Montenegro to the cases on the Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists.

The Permanent Representation of Montenegro to the Council of Europe avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law assurances of its highest consideration.

Strasbourg, 18 August 2018

Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law
Council of Europe 67075 Strasbourg
CEDEX, FRANCE
"Gojko Raičević regular target of Montenegrin authorities"

In connection with the attack on a journalist Raičević Gojko, the case was established in the State Prosecutor’s Office against an unknown offender - police officers who incurred the bodily injuries to the referred person on 17th of October and 24th of October 2015, and on 18th of October 2015 they endangered his safety by means of a threat that they would physically attack him.

State Prosecutor’s Office analyzed in detail the events on all three reported dates and formed three separate cases respectively:

Concerning the case from 17 October 2015, within the scope of the preliminary enquiries, the prosecutor found that Raičević Gojko was a participant in the protest, that he did not wear any mark on the protests to indicate that he was a journalist, and that he shot the protests by his telephone, not by a camera or video camera.

In the reply that the Ministry of Internal Affairs has provided in relation to the given event, an overview of treatment in relation to the particular case was given.

In addition, and directed to further clarify the case, with the purpose to provide the evidence, the Prosecutor interviewed Raičević Gojko as a witness, obtained medical documents and ordered forensic and medical examination, after which he stated that the actions of the unknown offender contain the essential elements of the criminal act of abuse, referred to in Article 1 paragraph 2 in relation to paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code of Montenegro.

As based on the results of the preliminary enquiries, the decision regarding the identity of the offender could not be made, the competent prosecutor gave the Police Directorate a binding order, as an authority in charge of discovering the offenders of criminal offenses, to undertake all the necessary actions on identifying the offender of this criminal offense.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Internal Affairs amended the Regulation on Uniforms, Marks of Occupation and Arming of Police Officers ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 20/15 and 73/17). The purpose of the Regulation concerned is to define the type of uniforms, equipment, assets and weapons of special units. Pursuant to Article 33 of the subject Regulation, the Ministry of Internal Affairs adopted the Rulebook on the appearance, technical features, type of material, manner of wearing and the duration of uniforms of police...