



Représentation Permanente du Monténégro auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

Permanent Representation of Montenegro to the Council of Europe

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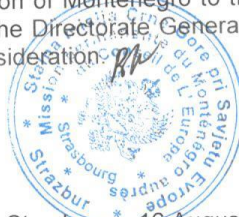
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NOTE VERBALE

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, 16 August 2018

Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law
Council of Europe 67075 Strasbourg
CEDEX, FRANCE



❖ **"The use of tear gas by the police to a group of about 30 journalists"**

In addition to the already provided reply from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which was forwarded via the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the Council of Europe, we hereby inform you that, based on the available information, in 2015, the Basic State Prosecutor's Office formed the case based on the allegations that the tear gas was used by the Police Directorate to a group of about 30 journalists.

The Basic State Prosecutor's Office took into consideration the statements from the reply provided by the Police Directorate, but it specifically treated the statements in the newspaper articles published with reference to the subject issue in the daily newspaper "Vijesti", as well as on the "CDM" portal, relating to the alleged "attacks to the press team".

During the preliminary enquiries, several witnesses were interviewed, and special attention was devoted to the conversation with the "777" TV crew, which, as they stated, was attacked by the demonstrators and on the occasion of which the camera operator Đ.B. was injured and the crew's property - an official car and a camera - was damaged.

Based on the detailed insight of the place, as well as on the basis of the testimony of witnesses, it follows that the tear gas was used within the wider area in which the aforementioned group of journalists was present. What has not yet been identified is whether these were the chemical substances that were thrown out by the protesters or the dispersing effect of the substance used by the Police against the violent protesters who were in the immediate vicinity and who - according to the statements of a part of the group of journalists - attacked a journalist "777" TV crew.

This case is with the competent prosecutor's office at the preliminary enquiries stage, since no proceedings were initiated against any person for any criminal offense for which the prosecution is undertaken ex officio.

Certainly, there is no indication that the use of tear gas was directly related to the journalists crew, nor is it intended to cause any harm to journalists present in the area.

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