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Mr Matjaz Gruden
Council of Europe
Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists
528 Avenue de L'Europe
Strasbourg, France

By e-transmission only

**Ministry of Justice and
Security**

**Directorate of European
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Reference
n° 142/2021

Date 28 July 2021
Re Alert on the journalist safety platform of the Council of Europe (no. 142/2021)

Dear Mr Gruden,

The Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Council of Europe has notified us of the alert posted on the Platform on 13 July 2021 concerning the cancellation of a TV programme due to a serious threat against the editorial office.

Press freedom is an essential pillar of our democracy. Journalists play an indispensable role in open and democratic societies like ours. Freedom of expression, both online and offline, including safety of journalists, is a priority in the Netherlands' human rights policy.

The reported instance is an attack on the free press, and has been condemned by the Dutch authorities. The threat is regarded as unacceptable. The Minister of Justice and Security, Ferdinand Grapperhaus, described the need to cancel the programme as 'extraordinarily disturbing', and noted that the programme makers have the support of the entire country. He personally worked hard to resolve the situation. The programme began broadcasting again shortly after the incident.

An investigation into the incident was launched soon after the threat was made, and the police have since made a number of arrests. The investigation is still ongoing.

Yours sincerely,

i.a.

Rob Huijser
Director of European and International Affairs