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Date 06-11-2018
Concerning Reply of the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning an Alert on the
Journalist platform of the Council of Europe

Our reference
001

*Please quote date of letter
and our ref. when replying. Do
not raise more than one
subject per letter.*

Dear Mr. Gruden,

Our Ambassador to the Council of Europe, duly notified to us the alert inserted to the Platform and we herewith would like to take the opportunity to respond to it.

The Dutch authorities profoundly condemn the attacks of 26 June 2018 at the editorial rooms of daily newspaper De Telegraaf and magazine Panorama. Press freedom is an essential pillar of democracy. Journalists play an indispensable role in open and democratic societies. Freedom of expression online and offline, including safety of journalists, is an important priority in the human rights policy of the Netherlands.

Pending the first results of the investigation into the events of 26 June, measures have been taken by the Mayor, the Chief Public Prosecutor and the Chief of Police Unit of Amsterdam, working in close cooperation. These measures include the use of camera surveillance and visible presence of the police at the editorial rooms of five news companies. These measures are not only taken with regard to De Telegraaf and Panorama, but also with regard to the editorial rooms of AT5, Het Parool, De Volkskrant, Trouw and NRC. The buildings of these media outlets will be inspected by security specialists. The purpose of these inspections is to maximize protection.

Although no scenario is excluded in the ongoing investigations, one of the scenarios is that the incidents are related to recent publications by Panorama and De Telegraaf on organized crime. This is the reason that editorial staff in Amsterdam who regularly write about organized crime, will be protected with special safety measures.

Kind regards,

J.A. Terstegen
Director of the Directorate of European and International Affairs