

Information provided by the Ministry of Interior and Administration:

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 at Krzywickiego Street in Warsaw, in the area directly adjacent to the Embassy of the State of Israel, Police officers ensured preventive protection of the public assembly "Solidarity with Palestine", which in the light of the regulation of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland of the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 (Journal of Laws of 2021 number 861) which imposed a set of limitations, injunctions and prohibitions due to the state of epidemic, was an illegal assembly. Therefore, its participants were urged to disperse and leave the scene. However, these calls did not result in appropriate behaviour of participants of the assembly.

Subsequently, the Police officers started to undertake official activities towards persons violating the legal order. These actions were obstructed by assembly participants and by-standers who became increasingly antagonistic towards the Police officers and refused to comply with their calls.

As a result of this, pursuant to paragraph 9, section 3 of the ordinance No. 1204 of the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2007 *on the forms and methods of press and information activity in Police*, officer in charge of the Police unit present at the scene informed (using available sound system) all journalists and media representatives covering this public assembly that the Police can no longer ensure their physical safety and security in the area of direct activity of the Police. Moreover, it repeatedly urged the gathered persons not to thwart the Police officers from performing their duties. Due to continuation of attempts of forceful prevention of Police officers from performing their official activities, the actions undertaken by the Police were dynamic in nature.

After conducting an analysis of collected materials, it cannot be confirmed that the Police officers assigned to the illegal public assembly "Solidarity with Palestine" on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 in any way prevented or hampered journalists from performing their work, nor that they damaged the equipment used by Mr Maciej Piasecki.

Moreover, the collected materials also do not indicate the use of direct coercive measures by the Police against Mr Mikołaj Kiembłowski. It needs to be emphasized that official activities undertaken by Police officers were not directed towards representatives of the media, but only towards persons violating the law. Police officers fully respected the rights of persons performing press activities in accordance with the Act of the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 1984, the Press Law, and this can be proved by numerous publications in the mass media in the form of photographs and audio-video recordings of the protest in question.

On the basis of the available documentation, it was found that no complaints were lodged on actions taken by the Police at the assembly in question. In addition, the authorities have not received any notification of a damage to the equipment of the journalist Mr Maciej Piasecki allegedly done by the Police or breach of the provisions of the Act of the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 1984, the Press Law.

However, due to received media reports on alleged irregularities in the activities of the Police carried out on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 in the area surrounding the Embassy of the State of Israel in Warsaw, the Police launched additional explanatory proceedings on the matter at the Warsaw III District Police Headquarters on the suspicion of committing a disciplinary offense (in accordance with Article 134i, sub. 4a of the Act of the 6<sup>th</sup> of April 1990 on the Police).