

Information provided by the Ministry of Interior and Administration of the Republic of Poland and the Polish National Police.

With reference to alert published on the 25th of November 2020 on the Council of Europe Platform for Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists concerning the case of Ms. Angelika Pitoń, a journalist of Gazeta Wyborcza, who allegedly had been accused of expressing imprecations towards the Police officers and of ignoring regulations imposing the requirement of covering nose and mouth in public space due to COVID-19 pandemic during her coverage of "Women's Strike" demonstration held in Zakopane on the 6th of November 2020, Poland informs that inclusion of personal details of the above-mentioned person in the Police report was a result of human error.

Ms Pitoń was indeed questioned as a person towards whom the Police had reasonable grounds for submitting a motion for a fine. However, after conducting further investigative proceedings, the Police withdrew from submitting such motion to the court. What needs to be underlined, is the fact that such decision has been taken on the basis of its own internal Police proceedings – including receiving statements and notes of the Police officers who were present on the spot, in which they stated that Ms Pitoń did not commit offences she was suspected of.

On the 27th of November 2020 the spokesperson of the Małopolskie Voivodship Police Headquarters in Cracow sent an e-mail to Ms Angelika Pitoń with apologies for the situation. Also the editors of Gazeta Wyborcza has received a written statement of the spokesperson outlining details of the situation. Moreover, the Police also provided a written response on the matter to the Human Rights Commissioner (the Ombudsman).