

In reaction to the alert published on the CoE Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists entitled "Photojournalist Wojciech Atys Taken to Court after Reporting on a Protest", please be kindly informed that indeed Mr Wojciech Jakub Atys was stopped by police officers on the 29th of March 2020 under the accusation of not respecting necessary minimum 1,5 m social distance from other members of the public, who were taking part in a protest.

Police officers verified the identity of Mr Atys and based on their findings, a motion under the Code of Proceedings in Petty Offences to the District Court for Warsaw-Żoliborz (III Wydział Karny) was submitted in which the Police requested penalty for Mr Atys for petty offence of not respecting regulations on minimal social distance required during COVID-19 pandemic. The case of Mr Atys was registered in Court under the case number III W 701/20.

On the 28th of May 2020, the court refused to initiate legal proceedings on the matter. This decision is yet not final.