



H.E Dunja Mijatovic
Commissioner for Human Rights
Council of Europe

27th November, 2019

Excellency,

Thank you for your letter of the 26 November 2019 whereby you followed-up certain issues relating to the investigation into the murder of investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.

I can assure you that the investigations into the murder which are being carried out both by a Magistrate and by the Police are, and have always been, free from any political interference.

On the other hand, the Government regrets the constant attempts to discredit the investigations which have been going on for the last two years.

You will be aware that in these investigations the Maltese authorities have benefitted from the input of the FBI in the initial stages of the investigation and are in constant contact with EUROPOL which has access to the investigation.

The developments in the investigation over the last weeks confirm its independence.

The progress made was also attributable to the fact that the Executive, acting upon the advice of investigating and prosecuting authorities, took the bold step of offering a pardon to a suspect who could provide credible evidence on the way in which the murder was planned and commissioned.

This extraordinary measure does not constitute interference of the Executive in the investigation but it was a measure which enabled a breakthrough for the investigators. The measure meant that the Executive was also obliged to give due account to the public for its decision to have recourse to such an extraordinary measure. For this purpose, during the period after the pardon was offered, the Prime Minister obtained a briefing on the general progress of the investigation in order to be able to give due account to the public and to implement the right of the public to be informed about matters of such public interest.

In the circumstances we feel obliged to reiterate that the investigation is proceeding steadily, with the required resources and in total independence. In the course of the investigation the investigators have also questioned a number of key political figures upon their own independent judgment and have also obtained any international assistance as they deemed necessary.



I have no doubt that the investigation is being conducted according to Council of Europe standards and its results so far bear witness to its independence.

I fully share your commitment in looking forward to the investigation being concluded and bringing justice and remain at your disposal for any further information or clarification which you may require.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected loops and curves.

Owen Bonnici

Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government