

*Romania guarantees the freedom of opinion and expression and protects the independence of journalists and their right to seek, gain access and publish information. At the same time, Romania guarantees access to justice and the right of every citizen to seek reparations under defamation claims. Based on the European Court of Human Rights' jurisprudence and its rulings against Romania in several cases, changes and updates to the existing legal framework have been operated, including to the Criminal Code. For instance, slur (art. 205) and libel (art. 206) have been de-criminalised and proof of truth (art. 207) revoked by art. I, pt. 56 of Law 2778/ 2006 on the Criminal Code. The case mentioned by the alert is tried under the Civil Code by the Bucharest Court. Following the initial proceedings, the judges have rejected the claimants' request on June 15, 2021. The decision can be appealed within 30 days.*