

*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 currently awaiting trial under the Civil Code (art. 1349). The claimant is no longer serving in any official function with the Romanian Orthodox Church and pursues this action in court in his personal capacity.*