



**MISSION PERMANENTE DE SERBIE
AUPRES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

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Dear Mr. Gruden,

In response to the Alert published on the Platform for the Safety of Journalists and Protection of Journalism of the Council of Europe on 14 December 2018, concerning the attack “by a Molotov cocktail” on the house of Milan Jovanović, an investigative journalist for the independent news website Žig Info, I would like to convey the following information received from the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia:

The Ministry of the Interior has undertaken all necessary measures arising from its competence to identify the suspects for perpetrating and organizing the fire which destroyed the home of Mr. Milan Jovanović.

Furthermore, while recognizing the importance of the Platform for the Safety of Journalists and Protection of Journalism of the Council of Europe, the Ministry of the Interior would like to inform also on the detailed circumstances of the above-mentioned event:

On 12 December 2018, the fire was deliberately set on a vehicle and it seized as well the garage and the groundfloor of the house of Mr. Jovanović while two rooms, bathroom, hall and kitchen were destroyed by fire. During the investigation, it was established that no garage windows were broken.

The police officers of the Ministry of the Interior identified three persons suspected for a deliberate setting of a fire. On 23 December 2018 the criminal charges against them were raised and they were carried before the Public Prosecutor's Office in charge for the existence of a founded suspicion of commitment of a criminal offence “provoking of general danger”. One of three suspects declared himself guilty to the charges.

Mr Matjaž Gruden
Director of the
Directorate of Democratic Participation
S t r a s b o u r g

On 24 January 2019, one police officer was charged for “the incitement of provoking of general danger”. Furthermore, the president of the Municipality of Grocka, was detained following the founded suspicion that he committed a criminal offence “provoking of general danger”.

All police officers of the Ministry of the Interior have undertaken all necessary measures in order to establish the facts about the event of 30 December 2018, when Mr. Jovanović reported to the police that he had seen a silhouette of a man at the balcony door in the flat where he moved after the fire set. Consequently, on 9 January 2019, the police officers identified and arrested two persons following the existence of a suspicion to having committed a criminal offence “attempt of a heavy theft”.

I remain at your disposal for any further communication.

Yours sincerely,

Aleksandra Đurović



Ambassador