



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

26, Avenue de la Forêt Noire
67000 STRASBOURG
Tél : 03 90 22 15 88

No. *422-3 / 2024*

Subject: The reply on alerts No. 108/2024 and No. 109/2024

Strasbourg, 10 September 2024

Dear Mr Gruden,

Please find below the responses of the General Public Prosecution of the Republic of Serbia to the alerts No. 108/2024 and No. 109/2024 published on the Platform for the Safety of Journalists and Protection of Journalism on 7th June 2024.

Regarding the Platform alert „New Denigration against NI Journalists“ created on 7th June 2024, it should be noted that Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia does not recognize criminal act of denigration at all, while a possible insult can be privately prosecuted only by the aggrieved party (victim) upon approval by the Court, not by the ex-officio action of the Public Prosecution. Additionally, defamatory label has been decriminalized as a criminal act in early 2010's, and thus it does not exist in the Criminal Code of Serbia. However, civil litigation for it is possible.

Regarding the Platform alert „Publisher Insults and Attacks Journalist Vuk Cvijić over Report“. created on 7th June 2024, as noted in the alert, the First Basic Public Prosecution Office in Belgrade commenced an investigation actions which included, amongst others, collecting of the statements from the participants and witnesses of this event. At the same time this Public Prosecution Office issued a request to the competent and responsible police station of the Ministry of Interior for gathering of necessary evidence and information, including the video-surveillance footage and medical examiner's report about possible injuries sustained by the participants. Prosecution proceedings are underway.

We look forward to publishing official responses on the Platform website.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Matjaž Gruden
Director
Directorate of Democratic Participation
Strasbourg