

**Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the Council of Europe to the alert submitted to the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists on 15 January 2021 entitled „Denník N Editor Monika Tódová Surveilled by Unknown Men“**

With regard to the alert submitted to the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists on 15 January 2021 entitled „Denník N Editor Monika Tódová Surveilled by Unknown Men“, the Slovak Republic wishes to state the following:

In case of surveillance of journalist Mrs M. Tódová, the Slovak law enforcement authorities conduct criminal proceedings in the matter of the offense of dangerous surveillance.

The prosecutor of the Poprad District Prosecutor's office ordered the investigation. Active supervision over criminal prosecution is performed by the Prešov Regional Prosecutor's Office.

The unlawful conduct of each suspect is examined comprehensively by the Slovak law enforcement authorities with regard to the circumstances under which the act was committed, as well as the manner of carrying out the act and its consequences.

The Slovak Republic considers it its duty to ensure that journalists can work in a safe environment. The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic is preparing a media legislative package, which should enhance the constitutional protection of journalists in the exercise of their profession, especially in the protection of their resources.

The Slovak Republic has been a member of the Coalition for Media Freedom since 2019 and comprehensively supports media freedom and the safety of journalists at home and abroad.

Slovak Republic wishes to reiterate its commitment to fully cooperate with the Platform and to provide further information concerning a development of the investigation