

**Statement of the 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 26
February 2018 entitled „ Slovak Investigative Journalist Killed at Home“**

Further to the previous communication I would like to provide a new information on a recent development concerning the investigation of the murder of the investigative journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová which is the result of an intensive effort of Slovak law enforcement authorities together with international partners of the Slovak Republic.

On last Thursday and Friday (27 and 28 September 2018 respectively) the authorities arrested nine suspects. Four of them were officially charged for the crime. All of them are suspected of committing the murder – either by killing the journalist and his fiancée, assisting in the crime or in ordering the murder. On Sunday (30 September 2018) the Special Criminal Court in Banská Bystrica put all convicted persons into police custody.

To conclude I would like to seize this opportunity and reiterate a strong commitment of the Slovak Republic to provide further information concerning a development of the investigation.