

**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“**

The highest officials of the Slovak Republic unequivocally condemn the heinous act of the murder of the investigative journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová. The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic stated that if it comes out the murder was linked to journalistic work of the investigative reporter it would be an unprecedented attack on freedom of press and democracy.

Thorough investigation was ordered immediately. For this purpose, a special team was established consisted of representatives of the General Prosecutor`s Office, the Special Prosecutor`s Office, the Ministry of Interior and the Slovak Information Service. The Slovak Authorities are making their utmost effort to identify perpetrators and bring them to justice. The interest of the Slovak Government in swift investigation of the murder is confirmed by offering a reward of 1 million euros to anyone with information leading to identification of those responsible for the murder of Ján Kuciak and Martina Kušnírová.