

**Official response of the Government of Slovakia to the alert submitted to the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists on 14 June 2019 entitled „Mass Surveillance Operation on Slovak Journalists“**

With regard to the alert submitted to the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists on 14 June 2019 entitled „Mass Surveillance Operation on Slovak Journalists“, the Government of Slovakia declares that the alleged mass surveillance operation on Slovak journalists as reported by the media has not been conducted by the state authorities nor on the basis of their initiative.

The Government of Slovakia firmly stands that any such surveillance of journalists would unequivocally represent a severe infringement of the right to respect for private life as set forth in article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In order to clarify these suspicions the respective Slovak law enforcement authorities have already initiated criminal proceedings, which is currently intensively underway.

The Government of Slovakia wishes to seize this opportunity to, once again, reiterate that it remains fully abide by its international human rights obligations, including those emerging from the European Convention on Human rights, and fully shares the principles concerning the freedom of expression and the freedom of media and its independence.