

**REPLY OF THE SLOVENIAN MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE
»ANTI-VACCINE PROTESTERS STORM RTV SLOVENIA NEWSROOM« ALERT ON THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S PLATFORM TO PROMOTE THE PROTECTION OF JOURNALISM AND
SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS**

The Alert on the unauthorised entry of members of civil society on the premises of Slovenian national broadcaster RTV Slovenija of 3 September 2021 was published on the Council of Europe's Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists on 8 September 2021.

Prior to the incident, daily protests of civil society representatives, who disagree with vaccination against the COVID – 19 had been taking place in front of the RTV Slovenija's headquarters at Kolodvorska ulica in Ljubljana for the previous four months. The daily protests were held under the slogan »Peaceful rally for liberation, purification and rebirth of RTV Slovenija«

In accordance with the law on public gatherings, the protests in question had been announced at the local competent police station (Police station Ljubljana – Centre). The law stipulates that the organisers of public gatherings are responsible for safeguarding order at public gatherings. Police officers had previously detected certain violations of public order and peace during the protests in July 2021, mainly due to the protesters' failure to respect the measures by the national broadcaster's security guards.

Based on a risk assessment, the police proposed a ban on protests in front of the RTV Slovenia's headquarters in July, but the Administrative Unit Ljubljana rejected the proposal. The City Municipality of Ljubljana also gave its consent to the organisation of protests.

Police were notified that on 3 September 2021 at 20:30, several protesters entered the RTV Slovenija building by force, while failing to comply with the orders of the security. Police officers intervened as a result, reinstated public order and removed the protesters from the premises of RTV Slovenija.

At the scene, police officers dealt with 37 persons, who are currently subject to minor offence proceedings. Police have established that infringements of public order and peace and violations of the act governing private security, the act governing public gatherings and the act that stipulates possession of official documents – identity cards, had taken place during the forced entry by the protesters. Police officers also confiscated audio devices in order to ensure public peace. On the grounds of the described circumstances, the police suspended the public gathering and issued a proposal for prohibition of further gatherings with the competent authority, as safety at the protests could no longer be guaranteed. The competent authority - the Administrative Unit Ljubljana - subsequently followed the police proposal. Also the City Municipality of Ljubljana reacted afterwards.