

Reply by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia regarding the alert published on the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and the safety of journalists on 30 September 2020 titled "39 Lawsuits against Journalists from Necenzurirano".

On the matter of the case 112/2020 "39 Lawsuits against Journalists from Necenzurirano" the lawsuits filed against the media Necenzurirano are a part of the ordinary court proceedings and are of private litigation nature on which the Prime Minister nor the Government have no influence.

The Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia provides every person the protection of their privacy and personal rights which enables anyone who thinks their rights have been violated, a right to legal protection and remedy which are ensured and specified in the legislation. Due to the principle of separation of state powers and the independence of the judiciary from the executive state power, the Government therefore has no influence on the court proceedings.

On the other hand, journalists (media) who work in the public interest by providing credible information, have the obligation to follow ethical and professional codes of conduct and impartially provide accurate and verified information since they can be held accountable for the information they publish.

We would also like to emphasize that the claim in the alert about Rok Snežič being a tax advisor of the Prime Minister Janez Janša is false. Regarding the mentioned retweeting of some posts, we would like to underline that the Twitter account of the Prime Minister states that retweets are not endorsement (RTnotEndorsement).

We stress that the Secretary of State for National Security did not demand an investigation of the web-portal Necenzurirano.si on his Twitter account but has merely suggested the investigation on the lack of transparency in their financing to the Commission of Inquiry, which is a part of the National Assembly. The suggestion was made due to many reports of other media in Slovenia about the unusual financial business activity and a similar statement issued by the former Director General of the Tax Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the former special advisor of the Financial Minister of the Republic of Serbia Ivan Simič.