

"The Permanent Representation of Spain to the Council of Europe informs that the alert 131/2019 in relation to the photojournalist from El País Albert García was sent to the relevant authorities in Spain in order to carry out the pertinent findings in relation to it, and proceeds to share the result of the findings obtained so far.

As stated in the alert, Mr. García was held for a few hours and later released. A complaint against him has been filed on charges of an alleged attack to authority and alteration of public order, which is being duly investigated and therefore subject to judicial embargo at this stage. As any other citizen, he can have legal assistance to defend his rights. Further information will be provided when available.

This Permanent Representation reiterates that the Spanish Government is fully committed to the protection of human rights and the rule of Law. It will keep making all efforts to guarantee the protection of journalists in the exercise of their tasks. It will also uphold the right to peaceful demonstration, while regretting the use of violence by some demonstrators and reaffirming that the principle of proportionality remains paramount in the actions of the police forces of the State"