



*El Embajador Representante Permanente  
de España en el Consejo de Europa  
Estrasburgo*

Mr. Matjaž Gruden  
Director  
Directorate of Democratic Participation  
Council of Europe

Strasbourg, 11 March 2025

Dear Director,

In relation to the alert No. 249/2024, "Spanish Journalist Fermín Grodira Attacked and Injured by Police while Covering Protest" issued by the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists, I have the honor to convey to you the following comments.

The right of citizens to receive complete and truthful information requires that media professionals be direct witnesses to events that, at times, pose a particular risk to their physical safety. This demands coordinated action with the State Security Forces. This is why, in 2021, the Ministry of Interior signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Federation of Associations of Journalists of Spain (FAPE) and the National Association of Press and Television Graphic Reporters (ANIGP-TV) for the identification of media professionals during events that require police actions.

The Agreement establishes that members of FAPE and ANIGP-TV may wear a vest that – regardless of the personal credentials issued by their associations – allows officers of the State Security Forces to quickly identify them as media professionals. Likewise, the Agreement states that the person in charge of a police operation may inform the accredited press, upon request, on the safest areas to carry out their work while ensuring the effectiveness of the operation. Although the provisions of the Agreement do not cover all representative organizations in the sector and its recommendations are not mandatory, the National Police considers that wearing a vest minimizes the risk situation to which these professionals may be exposed. Furthermore, the Agreement also stipulates that, during events covered by media professionals, the institutional communication departments of the State Security Forces will take all necessary measures to ensure that those wearing this distinctive vest can carry out their informational duties as effectively as possible.

Focusing on the police action referenced in the alert No. 249/2024, article 104 of the Constitution and Organic Law 2/1986, of 13 March, on the State Security Forces, establish that the mission of the State Security Forces is to protect the free exercise of citizens' rights and freedoms and to ensure public safety. Additionally, according to Order INT/28/2013 of 18 January from the Ministry of the Interior which develops the organizational structure and functions of the Central and Peripheral Services of the Directorate-General of the Police, the Police Intervention Units are responsible for the prevention, maintenance, and, if necessary, restoration of public order, as well as intervention in large gatherings, public transit meetings, demonstrations, and public events.

In this regard, on 9 November 2024, in response to a protest in Valencia against the management of the regional government during the DANA storm, the Superior Police Headquarters of the Valencian Community established a police operation to ensure the free exercise of the right to assembly and demonstration. The Police Intervention Unit based in Valencia was deployed.

During this police operation, the free exercise of press freedom was ensured and the movement of media professionals was facilitated as much as the police operation allowed. According to the alert, journalist Fermín Grodira was only wearing an orange armband with the word "press".

The Superior Police Headquarters of the Valencian Community reported public order disturbances at several points along the demonstration itinerary, but the incident of Mr. Grodira was not. Likewise, the police identification number referenced by him (84381) does not correspond to any officer assigned to the Police Intervention Units or to the Superior Police Headquarters of the Valencian Community.

I seize the opportunity to convey to you the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Juan Ignacio Morro

