

"The Permanent Representation of Spain to the Council of Europe informs that, as stated in its first response to the alert 128/2019 in relation to twelve journalist who have been the victims of acts of violence on the sidelines of demonstrations in Catalonia, it was sent to the relevant authorities in Spain in order to carry out the pertinent actions in relation to it, and proceeds to share the result of the findings obtained so far.

For any injury suffered by a journalist or anyone else to be detected, the person concerned must have either sought medical attention in a health centre or lodged a complaint with a court of law or the relevant police authority. If they are journalists, they must have identified themselves as such. Having consulted all the State Security Forces and Corps (Policía Nacional, Guardia Civil, Mossos d'Esquadra and Guàrdia Urbana) that had to intervene to preserve public order as a result of the incidents, it has been confirmed that as of 25 October there had been no complaints or claims made by journalists regarding alleged aggressions.

In Spain, a highly decentralized country, responsibility for health matters is devolved to the autonomous communities. For this reason, and with a view to gathering more complete information, the Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Welfare has requested from the Generalitat of Catalonia (the autonomous Government of Catalonia) information on medical assistance, so as to ascertain whether there has been, in relation to the incidents that have allegedly affected journalists, any reports of injuries. The Generalitat has not yet responded to this request for information.

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"