



Platform to promote the Protection of Journalism
and Safety of Journalists
Council of Europe

Concerning Alert 113/2020

The alert 113/2020 titled “*Exiled Turkish Journalist Abdullah Bozkurt Attacked in Stockholm*” was published on the website of the Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and the Safety of Journalists the 2 October 2020. Following the alert, a reply from the Swedish authorities was submitted and published on the website of the Platform the 16 October 2020.

With reference to the above the Swedish authorities would like to provide the following update concerning the alert:

“The case has been subject to a preliminary investigation led by prosecutors. The 2 November 2020 the preliminary investigation was closed on the grounds of no reconnaissance results, that no perpetrator could be linked to the crime and that further investigation measures could not be expected to change the situation with respect to evidence.

A decision to close a preliminary investigation can be appealed by the victim of the crime. A preliminary investigation can be resumed until the case is statute-barred.

The Swedish authorities underlines that the Swedish Police Authorities, together with the Swedish Security Service, works intensively to counteract and prevent all kinds of illicit influence, harassments, threats, violence and corruption with the purpose to influence the professional practice of elected representatives, government officials and journalists and media workers, or with the purpose to prevent individuals from their full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In 2017 the Swedish Government adopted a National Action Plan “Defending free speech” to address threats and hatred against journalists, elected representatives and artists. These groups were targeted as they are key actors in the democratic discourse and particularly exposed due to the functions they have in society. The Swedish Minister for Culture together with the responsible State Secretary in the Ministry for Justice, has gathered key media actors, the Swedish Police Authority and Prosecutors Office, for a roundtable discussion to follow-up the work undertaken and discuss how to further strengthen the situation for journalists and their ability to operate freely. The specific vulnerability of exiled journalists living in Sweden was raised in the discussions.”