



Council of Europe Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists

State reply from Switzerland

Both ProtestInfo Journalists Dismissed Amid Ongoing Investigation

On 14 November 2025, the Swiss government was informed through its Permanent Representation in Strasbourg of an alert published on the Council of Europe Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists concerning Switzerland. The alert relates to the dismissal of two journalists employed by the news agency ProtestInfo, which is funded by the Conference of Protestant Churches of Romandie (CER).

The Swiss government has taken note of this case. Switzerland is deeply committed to protecting fundamental rights and recognizes the essential role of media freedom in safeguarding democracy and the rule of law. The Swiss government believes that independent journalism is vital to informing citizens, uncovering matters of public interest, and ensuring accountability.

In Switzerland, media freedom is guaranteed by Article 17 of the Federal Constitution. However, this article does not apply directly to relations between private parties. In the present case, the dispute exclusively concerns private parties, i.e. the publisher CER/ProtestInfo, and the dismissed journalists. For conflicts between the editorial staff's freedom of the media and the publisher's economic freedom of organisation, Swiss labour law is therefore decisive. The rules of labour law must be interpreted by the competent authorities in a manner consistent with the Constitution, that is, with due regard to their impact on media freedom.

The Swiss government – in line with its commitment to the rule of law and the principle of separation of powers – cannot intervene, make statements or take any measures in regard or in favour of any parties involved in a civil law dispute. This is why it is not authorized to take the follow-up measures requested by the alert, nor to keep the platform informed of developments in the mediation process between the parties subject to the dispute.

However, the Swiss government took good note of the intention expressed by members of the CER Legislative Council to initiate an internal review of the CER Executive Council's decision to dismiss the two journalists.

Switzerland reaffirms its full support for the Council of Europe Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists and values its important work. The Swiss government remains at the disposal of the Platform for any further questions regarding this matter and that are within its competence.