

United Kingdom State reply to the Platform alert “Media Workers Threatened and Assaulted at Violent Far-right Rally in London”

The United Kingdom Government condemns the violent actions of these protesters, as a result of which both police officers and bystanders were injured. The Government wishes to express its sympathy to Mr Amitrano for his injuries. As the Prime Minister said at the time, “Racist thuggery has no place on our streets. Anyone attacking the police will be met with full force of the law. These marches and protests have been subverted by violence and breach current guidelines. Racism has no part in the UK and we must work together to make that a reality.”

The investigation into these protests is a matter for the police, who in the United Kingdom are operationally independent from the Government. It would therefore be inappropriate for the Government to comment on, or intervene in, any specific case, investigation or complaint. This is to ensure the police can carry out their duties independently and make decisions free from political influence.

The freedom of the press is a priority for the United Kingdom Government. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport set up the National Committee for the Safety of Journalists last year which brings together representatives from government, journalism, policing, prosecution services and civil society. The Committee helped the Government to establish a National Action Plan, published in March 2021, which will help to increase awareness of the safety challenges faced by journalists operating in the United Kingdom and introduce measures to tackle them in a joint effort by law enforcement, broadcasters, publishers, industry bodies, unions and the government.