Ani Gevorgyan, a reporter for the newspaper Chorrod Ishnishkhanutyun, was subjected during 2014 to two incidents of obstruction of professional journalistic activity and use of excessive force by police while covering news events. A year later her demands for investigations and for justice remain unanswered. In one case a named officer tried to seize her camera and she complained of receiving violent treatment in a police station. In a second case, when covering a demonstration, the journalist alleged that several police officers in a Yerevan police station used force against her resulting in injury. Over 20 other citizens also filed complaints against the police on that occasion. In the first case Gevorgyan's demands for a proper investigation were rejected in the Court of First instance and in the Court of Appeal. She now awaits a decision on her appeal to the country's highest court, the Court of Cassation. In the second case her complaint was also disallowed; her appeal to the lower court failed and she has been obliged to take her case to the Court of Appeal. This case raises serious concern that assaults against a journalist and obstructions to her work may be allowed to take place without being fully and properly investigated. Unprofessional or discriminatory treatment of journalists by law-enforcement authorities is conducive to a climate of impunity, for which state authorities bear responsibility.

03 Feb 2016: Journalist Ani Gevorgyan's complaints concerning excessive use of force by police, obstruction of her work and lack of redress for her complaints was rejected by the Court of Cassation. After the exhaustion of all attempts to obtain a remedy through the Armenian justice system, on 3 December 2015 her case was referred by her lawyers to the European Court of Human Rights.
## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Hetq article, published 13 September 2014: Armenian Police Not Inclined to Expose Cases of Violence Against Journalists: Corpus Delicti Nearly Always Absent
- 2015 Report on Media in Armenia by Investigative Journalists NGO/AEJ-Armenia and the Committee to Protect Freedom of Speech

## STATE REPLIES

- 17 Dec 2019 | Reply from the Armenian Republic authorities
  - Letter from the Permanent Representation of Armenia to the Council of Europe

## RELEVANT COE INSTRUMENTS

- 29 Feb 2016 | Factsheet on media coverage of protests and demonstrations
  - Overview of the ECHR case law and European regulations and standards (CoE, EU, OSCE) related to media coverage of protests and demonstrations.

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**DISCLAIMER** This section presents a non-exhaustive selection of CoE instruments and ECHR case-law. This information is not a legal assessment of the alert and should not be treated or used as such.