On 13 April 2019, Albanian police fired tear gas into a crowd during a demonstration in the capital, Tirana, affecting several journalists, according to news reports and video footage of the protest. Eliza Gjediku, a reporter for local TV station Tema TV, was incapacitated by the tear gas and was sent to a local hospital for treatment, according to her employer. The Associated Press reported that "a few journalists" were affected by tear gas. Arben Dajci, a freelance photographer, was hit on the head by a metal baton that he alleged was swung by a police officer, according to local English-language news website Exit. On the night of the protest, Exit published a photo of Dajci with a head injury allegedly caused by police. CPJ's emailed questions to the director of communications of the Albanian government did not immediately receive a response. Protests have been ongoing in Albania since mid-February, with the opposition demanding that the current government resign and hold early parliamentary elections, according to the AP.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Article published by Exit: "Journalists and Photographers Injured by Albanian Police During Anti-Government Protest"
- Article published by AP News: "Albanian opposition clashes with police in anti-govt protest"
- Information published by CPJ: “Journalists injured during anti-government protest in Albania"
04 Jun 2019 | Reply from the Albanian authorities

Message from the Permanent Representation of Albania to the Council of Europe

FREELANCERS

Key information:

Arben Dajci

Freelance Photographer, hit on the head with a metal baton that allegedly was swung by a Police Officer.