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Greece

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## Sport Journalist Kyriakos Thomaidis Faces Arrest after Police Raid on Skai TV's Building

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Harassment and intimidation of journalists

**PARTNER:** EFJ/IFJ, Index

On Tuesday 14 June 2016, at midnight, the public prosecutor accompanied with police officers entered the private TV channel Skai in Athens to arrest sport journalist Kyriakos Thomaidis who presents "Court trial at Skai", a programme which addresses controversial issues in Greek sports. The journalist is being sought in connection with a complaint filed by Olympiakos soccer club's owner Vangelis Marinakis allegedly for defamatory comments in the programme. Officers had earlier attempted to arrest the journalist at the TV station but he refused to follow them, arguing they had no arrest warrant against him. They returned later with the prosecutor but Thomaidis had left after presenting his programme and they spent about 40 minutes searching the premises for him before leaving at around 2.40 a.m., according to reports. Skai TV's management condemned the midnight raid which they described as "unprecedented" and an "affront to the rule of law and the freedom of the press."

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ▼

- ➔ Statement from the Journalists' Union of Macedonia and Thrace Daily Newspapers (ESIEMTH) (in Greek)
- ➔ Report published on the Mapping Media Freedom Platform: "Greece: Prosecutor and policemen raid TV studio to arrest sport journalist"
- ➔ Article published on the website of Ekathimerini.com : "Prosecutor, police conduct midnight raid on Skai TV to arrest sports journalist"
- ➔ Article published on the website of Ekathimerini.com: "Skai TV condemns midnight raid by prosecutor"
- ➔ Statement from the Journalists' Union of Athens Daily Newspapers

## STATE REPLIES



22 Sep 2016 | Reply from the Greek authorities



Letter from the Permanent Representation of Greece to the Council of Europe