

13
Sep 2016

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Resolved

Albania

Alert created on: 13 Nov 2015

ABC News Cameraman Attacked and Detained for Three Hours by Police

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY  ▶ Detention and imprisonment of journalists

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ

On 10 November 2015, a police officer detained an ABC cameraman in Tirana without any explanation. The police officer was reportedly involved in a confrontation with an ABC News (Albania broadcasting company) television crew. The incident occurred when the ABC TV Crew was working on a story not related to the police, in a nearby location.

ABC News has asked for the immediate release of the cameraman and an immediate investigation into the incident, offering to provide all the evidence in its possession. In a joint declaration, the Association of Professional Journalists of Albania, the League of the Journalists of Albania and the Association of the Electronic Media in Albania have condemned the act of violence against ABC News crew and asked for the immediate release of the cameraman.

Following the statements, the cameraman was released three hours after his detention and the head of the police station, Fatmir Lleshi, was suspended from duty. The police launched a legal investigation of the incident.

RESOLVED

: Facts were investigated by the Albanian authorities and "no cases of physical and psychological violence were reported" according to the reply from the Albanian authorities. On 13 September 2016, the partner organisations of the Platform declared this case to be "resolved", concluding it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



 Article on Gazeta Mapo: "Dhunoj gazetarët e "Abc News", pezullohet shefi i komisarariatit"

STATE REPLIES



08 Jan 2016 | Response of the Ministry of Interior of Albania

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