

05
Mar 2019

▲ Lvl. 2

State replied

Greece

n° 66/2018

Alert created on: 06 Jul 2018

Greek Journalist Tony Bosnakoudis Detained when Investigating Police and Bus Company Links to Illegal Traffickers

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ **State**

CATEGORY  ▶ **Harassment and intimidation of journalists**

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ

On 25 May 2018, a Greek journalist, Tony Bosnakoudis, member of the ESPIT Press Union was detained for three hours, until after midnight, by police officers of the Alexandroupolis Police Station belonging to the DIAS Group. Between May 30 and June 22, the journalist was allegedly targeted five times by local police officers who used different means to intimidate him. The journalist was arrested outside of the local Evros Bus Station (KTEL) even though the policemen had seen his press card delivered by ESPIT press union. This incident immediately followed him telling them he was investigating complaints against KTEL and police officers for assisting the trafficking of undocumented and illegally arriving foreigners/migrants sent to Greece by Turkish trafficking networks. ESPIT has denounced the arrest and detainment of its member "noting that this is not the first time that colleagues have been attacked by police forces, during reporting, with inappropriate conduct and abuse of power".

UPDATES

05 Mar 2019: On 6 July 2018, the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), the largest organisation of journalists in Europe, representing over 320,000 journalists in 71 journalists' organisations across 45 countries, has sent an alert to the Council of Europe's platform on the safety and protection of journalists regarding the detention and intimidation against Greek journalist Tony Bosnakoudis. The journalist was investigating and documenting police and a company links to illegal traffic of foreigners/migrants sent to Greece by Turkish trafficking networks. At the police station, the policemen forced him to erase the recorded video showing the traffic and put him under pressure to stop his investigation. Additionally, the journalist was prosecuted and will now appear on trial on 7 March 2019 at the Alexandroupolis Court. In October 2018, the same policemen who were intimidating the journalist were arrested by the Greek authorities and are now accused of being members of a trafficking network.

- ➔ Keep Talking Greece report : "Two policemen arrested for being involved in migrants' trafficking ring"
- ➔ Article published by Faros web radio: "Greek journalist files lawsuit against Police"

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



- ➔ Article published on the website of Faros radio : "Greek journalist arrested"
- ➔ Statement by the Union of journalists from the periodical and electronic press (ESPIT) : "καταγγελλουμε νεο κρουσμα παρεμποδιση δημοσιογραφικησ λειτουργιασ απο αστυνομικουσ κατα δημοσιογραφου"

STATE REPLIES



20 Jul 2018 | Reply from the Greek Authorities

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