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⚠️ Lvl. 2

State replied

Spain

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Portuguese Journalists Banned from Entering Spain

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Other acts having chilling effects on media freedom

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ

On 7 May 2020, Spanish border guards at the Ayamonte border post banned a team of three Portuguese journalists from Lusa news agency from entering Spanish territory to report on the work of Portuguese cross-border workers in Spain. The journalists showed their official press cards, but were not allowed to cross the border, on grounds of containment measures following the COVID-19 epidemic. While workers in vital sectors from both countries are allowed to cross the border for professional reasons, journalists are banned from crossing into Spain and Portugal. The Portuguese Union of Journalists (SinJor) reiterated that journalists should be considered essential workers, which should have allowed them to cross the border, and filed a protest with Portugal's Ministry of the Interior. The Ministry has announced that it would seek to clarify the situation.

STATE REPLIES



18 May 2020 | Reply from the Spanish authorities



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