

8th of October 2014

To the attention of His Excellency **Andrej A. LEPAVCOV**, Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to the European Union

Excellency,

We are writing you on behalf of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), which represent about 320,000 media professionals in more than 60 countries, to express our deep concern regarding the case of the Macedonian journalist Tomislav Kezarovski.

Our colleague has been sentenced in 2013 to 4,5 years of imprisonment by a tribunal in Skopje for writing investigative articles published in 2008 by the magazine Reporter 92. He is currently under house arrest, unemployed and with very difficult living conditions. His next judicial hearing by the Court of Appeal of Skopje will be on the 24th of October 2014.

Despite our repeated international calls to put an end to this absurd judicial case where our colleague Tomislav Kezarov, and indirectly his family members, is being punished firstly for revealing the identity of a police source (« protected witness ») and secondly for protecting his journalistic sources, we are deeply saddened to see that your government continues to ignore the basic international principles and values of independent journalism and is doing nothing to protect press freedom, investigative journalists and freedom of expression.

As mentioned by the last EU Progress Report regarding « the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia », « questions continue to be raised both inside and outside the country about possible political influence over certain court proceedings. (...) The widespread use of defamation actions continues to impinge on the freedom of expression.»

Excellency, ending all judicial prosecutions against our colleague Tomislav Kezarovski is now a unique opportunity for the Macedonian authorities to send a positive message to the public, the international journalistic community and the European institutions.

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The EFJ calls on the Macedonian authorities to act immediately and substantially so that journalism ceases to be socially and economically the most dangerous profession in your country.

Excellency, we would highly appreciate if you would accept a short meeting with a delegation of our team based in Brussels and if you could forward our messages to the authorities of your country.

Yours sincerely

**Mogens BLICHER BJERREGARD**  
President

**Ricardo GUTIERREZ**  
General Secretary

