

To:
Donald Tusk
Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland

Brussels, 15 March 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

We know how much you are concerned by press freedom.

We would like to ask you to take a few moments of your time to deal with the request I am outlining for you.

We are writing about the Spanish journalist Pablo González Yagüe, detained in Poland, who has been held at Radom prison since 28 February 2022.

He has served more than two years in prison because his pre-trial detention has been extended eight times by Poland's judiciary. The last time was on 15 February 2024.

Pablo was arrested by officers of the Polish Security Service (ABW) at the Polish-Ukrainian border, while he reported on the arrival of Ukrainian refugees into Poland, four days after the beginning of the Russian large-scale invasion.

The journalist was accused of spying for Russia from the outset. Since then he has spent more than two years in pre-trial detention. No specific charges against him have been made public by the prosecutor's office and no trial has been scheduled.

Pablo has worked several years for different Spanish and international media and his colleagues and employers had no doubt about the quality of his work, as well about his respect for truth and ethics of professional journalism.

The International Federation of Journalists is aware that your government is making every possible effort it can to ensure that Poland is a State where the rule of law prevails and where citizens' rights are consistent with the expectations of a member State of the European Union.

We hope the time is close when Poland is no longer the only EU country in which a journalist is imprisoned.

The International Federation of Journalists and myself, as the president of the Federation, deplore this situation and, until the trial is held, hopefully very soon, we would urge Pablo to be allowed more frequent visits and normal communications, by telephone or similar means, with his wife and children.

Pablo has three children who have been unable to speak to their father for more than two years, which could itself be considered a violation of his human rights.

As provided by the European legislation, Pablo could well serve his pre-trial detention in Spain. This was [recommended](#) by the European Commissioner for Justice, Mr Didier Reynders, in his written answer to the question from a Spanish MEP quoting the European Commission's recommendations to member States on the treatment of prisoners, legal assistance and the Council Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA. It allows a supervision measure in his country until the trial is held in Poland, instead of remaining in custody in a foreign country.

Thank you for your attention.

We look forward to a prompt reply and remain at your disposal for any further questions you may have.

Your sincerely,

Dominique Pradalié

Journalist and President of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), which represents about 600 000 journalists from more than 180 countries.

