

**Question for written answer E-002423/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Niyazi Kizilyürek (The Left)

Subject: Prosecution and criminal proceedings against media workers in the Turkish Cypriot community

Ali Kişmir is a European citizen living in the northern part of Cyprus. On 15 August 2020, he made a written statement referring to the military structure in the Turkish Cypriot community on his personal profile on the social media sharing site Facebook.

Following this, the 'prosecutor' asked for him to be imprisoned for 10 years for 'provocation and defamation of the spiritual personality of the military structure of the Turkish Cypriot community'.

This is an attempt by the 'authorities' to restrict press freedom and freedom of expression through the threat of imprisonment. The use of a 'criminal complaint' to put pressure on Ali Kişmir and all press workers through criminal prosecution is unacceptable.

With this in mind, what steps does the Commission plan to take to secure the civil rights, press freedom and freedom of expression of European citizens, which are being violated in Turkish Cypriot community?

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