



Atkins Thomson Solicitors
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8 July 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to your correspondence with Maltese media houses in which you made threats on behalf of your client Turab Musayev.

I note with grave concern that the substance of this case is linked to the investigative work of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia who was assassinated in order to prevent her from exposing linked cases of high level corruption and money laundering.

I consider this to be a classic case of SLAPP - an abusive attempt to harass and intimidate investigative journalists in order to prevent them from doing their work.

Members of the European Parliament have condemned these abusive practices for years now and as a result of our efforts the European Commission is currently working on legislation that would prohibit the very actions that you have undertaken.

Until such legislation is in place, you will find the European Parliament standing side by side with media houses that are threatened and harassed by those they investigate and their legal representatives.

The severity of this case necessitates the use of every platform the European institutions provide to put a stop to the harassment of the free press and the subversion of democracy.

I call on you to immediately retract your threats against Maltese media houses. Failure to do so will make further escalation inevitable.

Kindly advise your client accordingly.

Sincerely,

David Casa MEP

Member of the Media Working Group
European Parliament Quaestor
Member of the European Parliament Bureau