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Journalist receives death threats

Artan Hoxha, journalist and host of the program “Xhungel” at News 24 TV, has reported that he has received death threats via SMS. The threats followed public statements Hoxha made as a result of his work investigating the recent police operation in Xibraka near Elbasan, where a drug laboratory was discovered and the persons found in site were arrested. The message he received, published in the media, warned the journalist that he was meddling in things that were none of his business, threatening him with the life of his son first and then his own. The message specifically instructed him not to deal with the Xibraka events.

The journalist has reported this to the police and prosecution and an investigation has started, but so far the authors of the threat have not been discovered. Hoxha is currently under police protection. He has reported that there have been ongoing threats against him related to the latest investigation and reporting he has done. Hoxha is not unknown to threats and pressure due to his work, which for many years has focused on investigating crime reporting. The Union of Journalists issued a statement that condemned the threats and pressure and expressed solidarity to Hoxha, while calling on authorities to investigate and guarantee press freedom in the country.

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