

**Mr Michalis Chrysochoidis**  
Minister for Citizen Protection  
4, Panagioti Kanellopoulou Avenue  
10177 Goudi, Zografos  
Greece

Paris, 17 April 2012

Dear Minister,

**Request to remove Reuters images posted on the Athens police website**  
**[www.astynomia.gr](http://www.astynomia.gr)**

Reporters Without Borders, an organization that campaigns for freedom of information, wishes to draw your attention to the illegal and potentially dangerous reproduction of photographs of the *Reuters* news agency on the website of the Athens police ([http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo\\_content&lang='.'&perform=view&id=11913&Itemid=848&lang](http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang='.'&perform=view&id=11913&Itemid=848&lang)).

These images, taken during clashes that broke out on the sidelines of the demonstrations on 12 February 2012, were illegally uploaded and displayed on the site as part of an appeal for witnesses to help identify the perpetrators of the violence.

We ask once again that they be deleted immediately, as have the images of other news agencies.

While we respect the importance of the job of the law enforcement agencies and do not underestimate the need to restore law and order, we should like to remind you that national and international news organizations cannot in any circumstances be auxiliaries of the police.

May we restate the concerns expressed in our press release of 19 February (<http://en.rsf.org/greece-news-photographers-are-not-police-20-02-2012,41910.html>). The unauthorized reproduction of Reuters photographs not only infringes intellectual property rights, but also puts the agency's staff in serious danger.

During a recent visit, we were able to assess the extent of the distrust felt towards press photographers and journalists by the general public, which is quick to equate the media with government and those international institutions that are regularly attacked by the demonstrators.

The use of these images by the police jeopardises the neutrality of *Reuters* in the eyes of the public, and therefore compromises the safety of its employees. You will be aware that acts of

violence and assassination calls aimed at those who work in the media are regrettably frequent in the current climate. There is also the possibility that those identified in the photographs may carry out reprisals.

If the photographs are not deleted from the police website, you will be responsible for any act of violence that may befall any *Reuters* journalist as a result of the witness appeal to which the agency has unwittingly contributed.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Olivier Basille  
Director, Reporters Without Borders

PS. Here are some examples of images taken by *Reuters* photographer Yannis Behrakis that have been posted on the police website:

[http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories//2012/photos1012/16\\_2\\_2012\\_epeisodia\\_6.jpg](http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories//2012/photos1012/16_2_2012_epeisodia_6.jpg)

[http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories//2012/photos1012/16\\_2\\_2012\\_epeisodia\\_5.jpg](http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories//2012/photos1012/16_2_2012_epeisodia_5.jpg)