

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to you in connection with the reports *Gang Selling AK-47s 'Bound For Western Europe'* (written) and *Criminal Gang Selling Military Weapons* (video) which Sky News aired on Sunday, 07 August 2016.

The reports are made in such a way as to imply that Romania is used freely and unchecked as a transit area for weapons for terrorists who would carry out Paris-style attacks. We believe that such a serious allegation should be backed by very well documented facts rather than the author's personal suppositions and one single incomplete statement by a supposedly criminal gang member.

Such allegations can cause serious damage to the image of our country which is unfair to say the least considering that Romania is one of the members of the coalition against terrorism, fighting this war since the beginning, shoulder to shoulder with its allies, including the UK.

There are quite a few elements of bad journalism in these reports, from incorrect statements that are not supported by simple geography or political reality such as the fact that Romania is not a Schengen country to the failure to provide the right of response to the Romanian authorities, either through their Embassy in London or the relevant agencies and the police.

The Romanian authorities would like to make the following points as to the content of the report:

- The weapons shown in the video are not military grade, but rather hunting weapons;
- The report does not provide any fact to support the idea that the weapons were indeed products of smuggling or their origin for that matter, apart from a short statement by one of the supposed gang members;
- It also does not provide any fact to support the main allegation of the report, i.e. the smugglers have some sort of permanent business connection with terrorists;
- Considering how crime rings behave, it is strange that real smugglers would agree to being filmed while they carry out their business.

While we do not want to question the author's motives, we do believe that for the sake of truth the least Sky News and Mr Ramsay can do is to follow up on the investigation and present Romania's point of view as well. Therefore, we turn to you for assistance in making sure that Sky News does deliver on the promise in its code of conduct to provide accurate information and prevent any kind of defamatory statements.

Please note that we have tried to contact Mr Ramsay, but he was unavailable. Therefore, we have sent a letter with our comments to Sky News since the channel, contrary to its code of conduct, failed in its turn to ask for some sort of statement from Romania before publishing and airing the reports.

Yours sincerely,

Cosmin Onisii

Chargé d'affaires a.i.