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## GREECE: MEDIA FREEDOM UNDER ASSAULT

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In a democracy, the media should keep authority and government in check. In Greece, it feels more and more that it works the other way around.

Take the story of Thanasis Koukakis, a 43-year-old financial journalist who works for CNN Greece, and contributes to CNBC, the Financial Times and the Greek investigative outlet Inside Story. Citing national security concerns, in 2020 the Greek National Intelligence Service directly administered by the prime ministers office, intercepted his communications, while he was investigating the affairs of Greek bankers and businessmen. When the journalist became aware of this, the government tried to erase traces of the interception. Shortly after, his mobile phone was infected with the Predator spyware. The software allows the user to gain full access to a targets phone to extract data, contacts, and messages, including those sent through encrypted applications, as well as turn on the microphone and access the camera.

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