



**TRIBUNAL JUDICIAIRE
DE PARIS**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

**THE PROSECUTOR
OF THE REPUBLIC**

Paris, the 26th of August 2024

Press Release

Pavel DUROV, founder and CEO of instant messaging and platform TELEGRAM, was arrested at Le Bourget airport in the outskirts of Paris on Saturday, the 24th of August 2024, then taken into police custody at 8 p.m.

This measure comes in the context of a judicial investigation opened the 8th of July 2024, following a preliminary inquiry initiated by Section J3 - JUNALCO (Fight against Cybercrime) of the Paris Public Prosecutor's Office.

This judicial investigation was opened against person unnamed, on charges of:

- Complicity – web-mastering an online platform in order to enable an illegal transaction in organized group,
- Refusal to communicate, at the request of competent authorities, information or documents necessary for carrying out and operating interceptions allowed by law,
- Complicity – possessing pornographic images of minors,
- Complicity - distributing, offering or making available pornographic images of minors, in organized group,
- Complicity - acquiring, transporting, possessing, offering or selling narcotic substances,
- Complicity - offering, selling or making available, without legitimate reason, equipment, tools, programs or data designed for or adapted to get access to and to damage the operation of an automated data processing system,
- Complicity – organized fraud,
- Criminal association with a view to committing a crime or an offense punishable by 5 or more years of imprisonment,

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- Laundering of the proceeds derived from organized group's offences and crimes,

- Providing cryptology services aiming to ensure confidentiality without certified declaration,

- Providing a cryptology tool not solely ensuring authentication or integrity monitoring without prior declaration,

- Importing a cryptology tool ensuring authentication or integrity monitoring without prior declaration.

The investigative magistrates in charge of this preliminary judicial investigation have requested a co-referral of the Centre for the Fight against Cybercrime (*Centre de lutte contre les criminalités numériques, C3N*) and the Anti-Fraud National Office (*Office National Anti-Fraude, ONAF*) for the pursuance of the investigations.

It is within this procedural framework in which Pavel DUROV was questioned by the investigators.

The custody period was extended until the 25th August 2024 by an investigative magistrate and can last up to 96 hours (that being the 28th August 2024) given the applicable procedure for organized crime offences, as referred to above.

**Laure BECCUAU,
Prosecutor of the Republic**