OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, DELHI.

No. /PRO/PHQ dated Delhi, the /2013.

To

The Editor,
Mail Today,
New Delhi.

Subject :- Rejoinder to the news item i.e. **"Rape Rajya Continues in Capital".**

Sir,

Apropos the above mentioned news item published in your esteemed newspaper on 05.07.2013.

The news-item, based merely on statistics and numbers, shows the inability of your reporter to go beyond the crime figures and analyse them and then come to some meaningful conclusion. It is aimed at sensationalism to create unnecessary panic in women, in particular, and society at large. The reporter has failed to appreciate the sincere and painstaking efforts made by the Delhi Police to provide a safer environment for women in the city, especially after the incident of 16th Dec. 2012 Munirka bus-gang rape case.

The Delhi Police is committed to providing a safer environment for women in the city. Women Help Desks operated by lady staff have been made operational at all police stations round the clock and a dedicated phone connection has been provided to them. Women helplines have been increased from 4 to 10. Women NGOs have been involved to get feedback and suggestions on women's safety issued on a regular basis. A special Commissioner has been appointed as the Nodal Officer for such interactions and meet them on the last Friday of every month without fail. In these meetings representatives of women NGOs and women help groups have been increasingly appreciative of better response at police stations to women complainants who come in distress to lodge reports.

Vulnerable areas have been identified where pro-active policing is required in the interest of women's safety. Security-audit of women's hostels and paying guest accommodations have been done. As many as 218 such premises have been identified and audited. Hostel wardens and owners of paying guest accommodations have been advised regarding the short-falls in security systems in place and measures required to be taken by them. This has resulted in a safer living environment for girl students and working women. Programmes/workshops on gender sensitization of police personnel have been organized. In addition, 266 placement agencies have been checked to ensure that none of them indulges in human trafficking. As a result of these drives, 35 cases against placement agencies have been registered and 52 persons were arrested.

Delhi Police is earnestly striving to improve its response time while attending to women complainants. Such complaints are being recorded verbatim and all complaints having reference to any cognizable offence is immediately registered as FIR without raising any issue of jurisdiction which is reflected in the significant increase in the number of cases of rape, molestation and eve-teasing. In order to prevent the accused from pressurizing the women complaints, the pace of investigation has been stepped up. Evidence is being collected promptly and scientifically and the accused is arrested immediately. Cases are being fast tracked for chargesheeting, prosecution and trial.

Thus, the increase in registration of rape cases can be attributed to the increased awareness amongst the general public as well as the special measures taken by the Delhi Police to streamline its response mechanism. Women now feel more empowered and encouraged to come forth and lodge a complaint. While on the one hand, there has been an exponential rise in registered crime in respect of offences against women, on the other hand the pro-active policy is reflected in the fact that 82% of the cases are solved within the first week and 7% in the second week of investigation. Crimes against women by accused known to the victims continues to be nearly 96% and only 4% of such crimes are committed by strangers. Also, most of them are committed in private spaces and are opportunistic crimes. This shows that crime against women is a complex social issue which needs to be combated at various levels by several stakeholders, only one of which is the police. Needless to say the media has a major role to play by being more responsible and objective in its reporting.

In view of the above stated facts, it is requested that our rejoinder may kindly be published with the same prominence as the news-item to remove any misconception which may have been created amongst readers of your esteemed newspaper and to give them a well balanced and holistic picture so as to instill confidence in the women-folk residing in the city.

Yours faithfully,

(**Rajan Bhagat**)
Public Relation Officer,
Delhi Police, Delhi.

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Copy to Sh. Aroon Purie, Editor-in-Chief, India Today Group.

(**Rajan Bhagat**)
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Delhi Police, Delhi.