IMMEDIATE

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE: DELHI.

No. 410/PRO/PHQ Dated Delhi the 30/04/2013

To

The Editor,
Indian Express,
New Delhi.

Sir,

Apropos the news-item captioned 'NIA finds Liyaqat crossed over with family, SSB verified his claim with J&K Police' published today i.e. 30th April 2013 in the Indian Express, we have the following facts to submit to set the record straight.

It is unfortunate that the correspondent has without verifying the facts come to certain conclusions which attempt to show the Delhi Police in a poor light. The assertion that there is 'substantial evidence' that contradict the Delhi Police's claim that Liyaqat was arrested from near Gorakhpur is not supported by any facts. The article itself says that Liyaqat had crossed over from the Sunauli check post into India. After this border check post, the next town in the Indian territory is Gorakhpur, from where Liyaqat was actually apprehended. The assertion that 'substantial evidence' that Liyaqat was not apprehended from Gorakhpur is not tenable. We reaffirm that he was indeed arrested at Gorakhpur.

The article goes on to say that the SSB officials at the Sunauli check post had informed the visiting NIA team that Liyaqat and some others who were travelling with him had informed them that they were returning as part of the J&K Government's rehabilitation policy. Further, that the SSB had verified this claim of Liyaqat from J&K Police and after verification, the SSB had even arranged for sending Liyaqat and others to Jammu. Without going into the merits of this baseless reporting, it must be stated that in the absence of any official communication from the investigating agency, publishing these unverified and pending investigation claims/counter claims is unprofessional. The assertion that the SSB had verified from the J&K Police about the veracity of Liyaqat's claim and had even arranged to send Liyaqat and others to Jammu is not correct. It would have been only appropriate that he had confirmed the facts either with the J&K Police or the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is seized of the report submitted by the J&K Police in this regard. The SSB officials have confirmed to Delhi Police that they had not verified from J&K Police the antecedents or the destination of the group of people hailing from J&K and had crossed into Indian territory from Nepal at Sunauli border. The Commandant SSB has categorically denied having made any statement on these lines to the NIA or to your reporter.

It is requested that our rejoinder is published with the same prominence as your original story so that your readers get the correct picture of the whole affair.

Yours sincerely,

(Rajan Bhagat)
Public Relation Officer,
Delhi Police.