OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, DELHI.

No. 266/PRO/PHQ, Delhi, dated the 20/03/2020.

To

The Chief Editor,
The Guardian

Subject: "DELHI'S MUSLIMS DESPAIR OF JUSTICE AFTER POLICE IMPLICATED IN RIOTS" DATED 16.03.2020.

Sir,

This refers to the captioned news item appeared in your esteemed newspaper published yesterday. It is found to be factually incorrect and misleading.

It is clarified that Delhi Police is a professional force. Being a discipline force, Delhi Police is governed by the law of the land. It has never believed in caste and religion and has always responded professionally to complaints/ situations. During the incidents of rioting in North East District of Delhi, Delhi Police has acted in an impartial manner as per provisions of law and the victims were rescued irrespective of their caste and religion.

As regards to the allegations that the gates Police Stations Gokal Puri and Dayal Pur were found locked, are false and baseless. It is informed that the gates of police stations remained opened round the clock to provide help and police services to the affected persons. From 23rd to 25th February, 2020, there were heavy clashes at various points in the area of North East District, all the police officers of the police stations including senior officers were in the field rescuing the victims and controlling the riotous mob.

It has been published that police did not respond to calls from Muslim. In this regard, it is informed that thousands of distress calls were received during fateful days. The police acted to the best of its capacity and available resources. It is worth mentioning here that North East District has the highest density of population in India with several pockets of mixed population areas. Delhi Police acted swiftly and promptly in a professional manner but the high population density of the area and narrow lanes/ by-lanes added to the challenges restricting movement of force as well as vehicles. Despite the prevailing circumstances in the area, the police responded in the minimum possible time.

As regards to the allegations that police is mounting pressure not to file complaints, more than 730 FIRs have been registered against the rioters, a large number of whom have been arrested without discrimination on the basis of creed and religion.

It is published that in one of the incidents, the policemen are seen beating five persons. In this regard, it is informed that efforts are being made to identify these policemen. The injured persons were subsequently taken to GTB Hospital. The incident is being investigated by the Crime Branch.

The allegations against the Delhi Police are strongly rebutted as the same do not hold any merit. Delhi Police have always been appreciated for their professional work and unbiased attitude. During the riots, more than 100 policemen sustained injuries while containing the violence. It goes to the credit of the Delhi Police that the riot was controlled within 36 hours and that too without resorting to firing. Optimum force was used to contain the violence in the whole episode, while exercising maximum restraint.

An important fact which has been ignored is that Delhi Police ensured that disturbances were contained well in time and were not allowed to spread to other parts of Delhi.

In view of the above, it is requested that a rejoinder may kindly be published with prominence to put the facts in proper prospective for your esteemed readers.

Yours faithfully,

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PRO, Delhi Police