OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE: DELHI

No. 164 /PRO/PHQ dated, New Delhi, the 10/07/2008

To

The Editor,
Indian Express,
Delhi.

Subject: - Rejoinder about Box item mentioning Delhi as "CRIME capital".

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Sir,

This refers to the above box news item appeared in Indian Express today dated 9-7-2008. The caption is factually incorrect and misleading.

The news item starts "Sending another chilling reminder that the Capital has been found to be among the top ten crime infested cities in the world". This itself is highly misleading as this refers to the total incidence of crime and not the rate of crime. Since crimogenic factors vary, it is not entirely feasible or advisable to compare crime in one city with another. This, notwithstanding, crime can broadly speaking be compared on the basis of the population and the common yardstick adopted worldwide is viewing the incidence of crime per lakh of population. United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime conducts periodical surveys regarding crime trends.

The Eighth United Nations survey on crime trends and the operations of Criminal Justice Systems (2000-2002), the grand total of recorded crimes rate per lakh of inhabitants of 54 countries down loaded from the Website www.unodc.org/unodc indicates that crime per lakh of population in India which is167.7 (in 2006) is substantially lower than the crime per lakh of population than 49 of 52 countries listed in the UN survey. Only 3 of the 52 countries listed have a lower crime rate. The chart is enclosed herewith for ready reference. The crime rate of Delhi is 357.2(in 2006). Crime in metropolitan/other cities are invariably higher than the overall country ratio. Still in comparison with the crime incidence shown in the UN Survey, Delhi figures very very low as far as incidence of crime per lakh of population is concerned.

According to Crime In India-2006, Annual NCRB publication, NCT of Delhi has higher rate (crime per lakh of population) of total cognizable compared to other States and Union territories. Delhi has 357.2 as rate of total cognizable crime among the all States and Union Territories of India following Pondicherry which ranks first with a rate of 447.7.

According to the same report the comparative rate of total cognizable crimes of 35 "Mega" cities with population of more than 10 lakhs in 2006 was: Indore

769.1, Bhopal 719.5, Jaipur 597.1, Vijaywada 579.8, Jabalpur 559.0, Patna 494.0, Nagpur 470.6, Bangalore 462.2, Faridabad 443.8, Ahmedabad 425.7, Kochi 420.6 and Delhi 414.4. Even amongst Indian Mega cities, Delhi is ranked 02.

Crime in Delhi is under control and in fact declining and there is no spiraling crime graph as has been indicated in the caption as CRIME capital. Heinous crime has fallen by 8.49 % with 1035 cases during the year 2008 (upto 30th June) as compared to 1131 cases in the corresponding period of last year. Likewise non-heinous crime has fallen by 12.08% with 24089 cases during the year 2008 (upto 30th June) as compared to 27353 cases in the corresponding period of last year. The head-wise comparative crime statement is enclosed herewith, which is self-explanatory.

Delhi is a vibrant city with increasing urbanization, some of an unplanned nature, a population crossing 165 lakhs and vehicular numbers touching 56 lakhs. There are a variety of crimogenic factors which impact crime. These include socio-economic factors such as unemployment, disparities in income and living conditions, lack of basic civic amenities particularly in jhuggi-jhopris and unauthorized colonies, adverse sex ratio, continual in-migration outpacing the development of infrastructure and availability of working opportunities, a consumer culture with umpteen TV channels continually selling a life style, particularly through advertisements, which many want but cannot legitimately obtain, the rendering of state boundaries infructuous because of the expansion of transport and communication facilities causing unfetted movement of criminals, criminal gangs etc.

Due to the large number of vehicles in Delhi (more than 56 Lakhs) the incidence of accident cases in Delhi in 2006 was 9699. This is almost equal to the total cognizable crime of Kolkata which is 9381. In fact, it is higher than the total incidence of cognizable crime in 24 of the 35 other Mega cities listed in the Crime in India-2006. This had also resulted in the high incidence of MV Theft i.e. 9366.

In view of the above stated facts and circumstances, it is requested that the correct facts of the matter may be published with the same prominence for your esteemed readers. It will also be appreciated if the reporter is advised to get the facts verified from the concerned authority before publishing such sensitive matters which tends to cause alarm among the general public.

(RAJAN BHAGAT)
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
DELHI POLICE

Crime recorded in criminal (Police) statistics, by type of criminal including attempts to commit crimes

Grand total of recorded crimes

Country	Court		Rate per 100,000 inhabitants	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
Albania	4,670	5,303	149.11	168.35
Argentina	1,178,530	1,340,529	3,258.76	3,674.70
Austria	484,664	552,411	6,034.16	6,863.95
Azerbaijan	14,607	15,520	180.09	189.92
Belarus	112,189	132,867	1,125.27	1,338.71
Belgium	950,523	973,548	9,240.04	9,421.74
Bolivia	37,553	`31,138	435.80	353.48
Canada	2,502,219	2,516,918	8,050.38	8,025.37
Chile	550,282	593,997	3,572.80	3,810.36
Costa Rica	41,668	40,263	1,076.37	1,021.39
Croatia	97,512	101,853	2,185.39	2,281.14
Cyprus	12,815	13,023	1,683.97	1,702.35
Czech Republic	358,577	372,341	3,507.21	3,650.04
Denmark	473,290	491,026	8,831.69	9,137.07
El Salvador	53,110	44,762	841.81	697.55
England & Wales	5,525,316	5,899,450	9,398.52	
Finland	516,175	520,194	9,949.40	10,005.65
Germany	6,363,865	6,507,394	7,729.42	7,888.23
Holy See (Vatican City State)	18			
Hungary	465,694	420,782	4,571.45	4,141.96
Iceland	53,702	60,242	19,043.26	21,211.97
Italy	2,163,826	2,231,550	3,749.81	3,868.17
Japan	2,735,612	2,853,739	2,153.40	2,244.39
Kuwait	19,666	19,350	864.44	831.19
Latvia	51,082	49,329	2,165.41	2,109.88
Lithuania	79,265	92,646	2,276.42	2,670.68
Luxembourg	22,646	26,046	5,146.82	5,866.22
Maldives	6,416	7,026	2,291.43	2,448.08
Malta	15,929	17,023	4,032.66	4,287.91
Mexico	1,512,448	1,516,029	1,521.93	1,503.71
Moldova, Republic of	37,830	36,302	885.95	853.16
Morocco	270,844	283,702	928.50	957.13
Myanmar	19,873	18,301	41.24	37.51
Nepal	9,644	8,872	40.89	36.78
Netherlands	1,357,617	1,422,863	8,464.47	8,813.57
Northern Ireland	139,786	142,496	8,274.79	8,398.92
Oman	11,015	11,782	444.51	464.22
Panama	21,916	21,058	756.51	716.26
Peru	158,263	161,621	600.69	604.21
Philippines	76,997	85,776	98.31	107.30
Poland	1,390,089	1,404,229	3,597.44	3,672.89
Portugal	218,353	218,360	2,149.78	2,145.62
Romania	340,414	312,204	1,519.16	1,400.02
Saudi Arabia	79,785	84,599	374.84	386.54
Scotland	475,963	481,760	9,398.95	9,530.37
Slovakia	93,053	107,373	1,729.93	1,996.15
Slovenia	80,059	81,697	4,049.52	4,159.73
South Africa	2,620,974	2,683,849	5,848.82	5,918.73
Sweden	1,189,393	1,234,784	13,372.98	13,836.67
Switzerland	275,591	307,631	3,811.24	4,219.90
Tunisia	120,217	130,375	1,242.68	1,332.94
United Kingdom	6,141,065	6,523,706	10,399.77	11,014.38
United States of America	11,876,669	11,877,218	4,162.61	4,118.76
Uruguay	120,274	134,010	3,598.86	3,987.21