OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE : DELHI.

No. 1985 /PRO/PHQ, dated Delhi the 11/10/2012.

To

The Editor,
Hindustan Times,
New Delhi.

Subject : **Rejoinder of news item i.e. "20 Delhi Kids go missing daily, half are trafficked".**

Sir,

Apropos the captioned by-line news item which has appeared in your esteemed newspaper on 11.10.2012. The headline and contents of the news-item are factually incorrect and far removed from the actual situation on the ground.

During the year 2012 till 30th September, 2012 a total of 4017 children were reported missing (14 children a day), of whom 2894 were traced. It has been our experience that the parents and next of kin of a large number of children do not inform the police when the children return home. This is, perhaps, on account of the fact that they do not wish to subject their children to police enquiries. Therefore, even the balance number of 1123 who are yet to be traced is not a totally authentic figure, which could be much less.

Be that as it may, it is important to note that in a recent study carried out by the Delhi Legal Services Authority, a statutory body appointed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, examined 457 children who had gone missing and had returned home. Their analysis of the causative factors is as follows :-

Reasons for children going missing	**Number of children**
Scolded by parent	94 (21%)
Academic Pressure	33 (7%)
Unsound Mind	11 (2%)
Lost their way	79 (17%)
Elopement	35 (8%)
Left on his own volition	176 (38%)
Went to Relative's Place	17 (4%)
Kidnapped/Abducted with criminal intention	12 (3%)

The Delhi Police has taken a number of measures to deal with the issue of missing children. A case of kidnapping is registered suo-motu when a child is reported missing, which automatically gets monitored by a Court of Law. The description of the child is immediately flashed on the wireless to all concerned and is also uploaded on the ZIPNET (Zonal Integrated Police Network). An Anti-Human Trafficking Unit has been created in every district with the sole responsibility of dealing with missing children. If a child (aged 2-8 years) is not traced within four months, the case is transferred to the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the district. The Crime Branch of the Delhi Police has an Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of its own which coordinates the functioning of the district units.

One of the problems which the police have faced about missing children has been the absence of photographs of the children because the families to which they belong are extremely poor. As a Community Policing initiative, a programme called "Pehchan" was launched by the Delhi Police in which people living in the slums are encouraged to get themselves photographed alongwith their children (a photocopy of a presentation on "Pehchan" is enclosed). A copy of the photograph is given to the parents and a copy of the photograph is retained by the police to make identity cards for the children. A photocopy of such an identity card is enclosed. A Standing Order (Standard Operating Procedure) has been issued on the subject (photocopy enclosed) for compliance by all concerned.

The story done by your correspondent gives a skewed picture of the overall situation. He has not cared to verify the facts and to understand the problem in its totality, leave alone mention the efforts made by us to deal with the problem.

It is requested that the correspondent be suitably cautioned to refrain from filing such sensational stories without verifying facts from us. Our rejoinder may kindly be published with the same prominence as the said news-item.

Yours faithfully,

(**RAJAN BHAGAT**)
Public Relation Officer
Delhi Police, Delhi.

Encls : Asabove.