OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE: DELHI

No. 254/PRO (Delhi Police) Dated New Delhi the 17.4.2014.

To

The Editor,
The Times of India,
New Delhi.

Subject: **Rejoinder to the news item captioned 'RAW agents raced ahead of ISI to nab IM's Pak operative Waqas in Dhaka' published on 15.04.2014 in Delhi Edition of the Times of India**

Sir,

In the above cited news item, the author of the article has stated that Zia-Ur-Rehman @ Waqas had been 'apprehended' by R&AW in Bangladesh as his passport 'without an entry stamp' had alerted Immigration officials there. Further that he was 'spirited' into India and was 'encouraged to do web chats with his associates, particularly Tehsin Akhtar @ Monu'. The author goes on to state that Tehsin Akhtar @ Monu was then holed up in Rourkela, and was cajoled into a meeting with Waqas at Kathmandu where he was detained by the Nepalese agencies and thereafter, was 'pushed' by Nepal Police into India to be 'arrested' by the Delhi Police. The author has also stated about what he perceives as 'political cowardice' of Bihar authorities at the time of arrest of Yasin Bhatkal last year. It may be seen that the article is not based on facts, but on gross and unverified speculations.

The news article is factually incorrect and seems to be based on the disinformation provided by some vested interests. Correct facts are known to your esteemed newspaper because the same were disclosed in the press conference held on 23.3.2014 and 25.3.2014 at the Delhi Police Headquarters. Briefly, it may be stated that specific information was received on 21st March, 2014 that Waqas was expected to arrive in Ajmer, Rajasthan by train in the morning hours of 22nd March, 2014. Immediately, a strong team was dispatched to Ajmer and a watch was kept over the passengers arriving in the holy city from various destinations. Waqas was spotted alighting from a train and on confirming his identity, he was apprehended. Pursuant to the arrest of Waqas, 3 more terrorists of Indian Mujahideen, namely, Mohammad Mahruf, r/o Jaipur, Mohammad Waqar Azhar @ Haneef r/o Jaipur and Shaquib Ansari @ Khalid r/o Jodhpur were arrested and huge quantities of explosives materials, detonators, electronic circuits/timers etc. were recovered from their possession. Sustained interrogation of Waqas and 3 other Indian

Mujahideen members provided credence to our understanding that Tehsin Akhtar @ Monu was operating from beyond the Indian borders. Acting on a tip off, Tehsin was apprehended while crossing over to the Indian side along the Kakarvita region of Indo-Nepal border.

I shall be grateful if this rejoinder is suitably published.

Yours faithfully,

(RAJAN BHAGAT)
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