OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE: DELHI.

No. 245/PRO/PHQ dated Delhi, the 14/08/2021.

To,

The Editor,
Hindustan Times,
HT-House 18-20,
Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi

Subject: Rejoinder to the captioned news item "Cops to court: No proof yet to confirm 9-year-old was raped" dated 14th August,2021

Sir,

1. On 14.08.2021, a news article has been published in your esteemed newspaper with the heading that there is "Cops to court: No proof yet to confirm 9-year-old was raped".

2. As a matter of fact, this news has been published on the basis of an order dated 12.08.2021 passed by the Hon'ble Special POCSO Court, New Delhi District, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi; on the application filed by the mother of the victim seeking interim compensation. While granting interim compensation of Rs. 2.5 Lakh (25% of maximum compensation of Rs 10 Lakhs) to the mother of the deceased victim the Hon'ble Court observed that there are no conclusive evidence of rape of the victim, thus only 25 % of maximum compensation (of loss of life) is being granted to the informant i.e. mother of the victim.

3. **It is to mention here that the above observation of the Hon'ble Court is solely for granting interim compensation to the**

deceased victim's family and not with regard to the merit of the case. As per Rule 12 of Part II of Delhi Victim Compensation Scheme, 2018, the interim relief shall not be less than 25% of the maximum compensation awardable. Had there been conclusive evidence of rape of victim at the time of hearing of this application for compensation, more interim compensation could have been ordered by the Hon'ble Court. ***However, liberty has been granted to move a fresh application to that regard, in case the investigating agency collects further material or comes to the conclusion that the victim child was raped.***

4. **It is pertinent to mention in the above context that the investigation into this case is currently underway during which several scientific and medical evidences have been collected. Besides, circumstantial evidences have been gathered.** Expert opinion qua these evidences is yet to be received. The investigating agency is proceeding in a professional manner to carry out evidence-based scientific investigation against the accused persons to take the case to its logical conclusion within a time bound manner.

5. **However, the news article published in your esteemed newspaper gives a grossly misleading impression that the investigating agency has failed to collect any evidence in the case due to which less compensation could be granted to the victim's kin. The Hon'ble Court has not cast any remark on the merit of the investigation with respect to commission of offence or framing of charge against the accused persons, rather the Hon'ble Court's Order was related only to the matter of preliminary compensation payment to the victim's family as per law and procedures.**

6. **More so, the heading given to the story in your esteemed daily "Cops to court: No proof yet to confirm 9-year-old was raped" is highly misleading, erroneous and prejudicial with respect to the investigation into this sensitive case.**

7. It is, therefore, requested that this rejoinder may be published with equal prominence for your esteemed readers to get the right perspective to the issue.

With regards

(Chinmoy Biswal) IPS

Public Relations Officer