OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE: DELHI.

No. 424 /PRO/PHQ dated Delhi, the 26.06.2020 .

To

The Editor,
The Caravan Magazine,
E-mail: editor.thecaravan@delhipress.in

Subject:- **Rebuttal to the news item on the Caravan Magazine by Mr. Prabhjit Singh (Freelance journalist) dated** 24th June 2020 **with caption "Dead and Burried: Delhi Police ignored complaints against Kapil Mishra, other BJP leaders for leading mobs in Delhi violence." on web-link** https://caravanmagazine.in/politics/senior-police-officers-accused-in-delhi-violence-complainants-face-intimidation

Sir,

This refers to the above mentioned byline article published in your esteemed magazine via weblink on 24.06.2020. Mr. Prabhjit Singh, a freelance journalist, has attempted a script full of imagination and concoction, based on malicious, ill-informed and unverified facts regarding the riots that took place in North-East District of Delhi in the last week of February 2020. A mere reading of the "Write-up" leads one to conclude that it has malicious intent. It lacks details, clear identity of alleged complainants, specific time and date of the incident etc. With such lack of clarity any journalist can attempt concoctions hoping to impress the readers. He has displayed a complete lack of knowledge and understanding of the riots that took place in North-East Delhi in which 53 persons lost their lives, including 2 brave policemen and 100 police personnel received serious injuries.

He has appended a video footage of Ms.Rubina Bano, a resident of Chand Bagh, Delhi. Incidentally Smt. Rubina Bano had made a complaint on 18th March, 2020, approximately 22 days after the riots were effectively controlled. It

is a well known fact that more than 750 FIRs were filed in various Police Stations of North-East District in connection with riots and majority of them were filed on the complaints of members of minority community. The number of FIRs filed in connection with riots in the North-East District exceeds the number of FIRs filed during 1984 and 1992 riots. Therefore, there is no question of anyone not being able to file an FIR in the police stations.

Mr. Singh appears to be totally ignorant of the fact that the complaint that he is referring to in the article concerning Smt. Rubina Bano has not been consistent and 'improved' her statement several times. The allegation that Shri Kapil Mishra was seen throwing stones in the night of 23 February 2020 and organising the riots in Karawal Nagar, is nowhere mentioned in the written complaint made on 18th March 2020. Further, the assertions that the police officials made them chant, "Jai Shri Ram" and that they will not provide any help have again not been mentioned in the written complaint. It is clear that "improvements" were made at every occasion, and thus, the statements will always be questionable. These allegations have not been substantiated by CCTV footages. On the contrary, in one of the incidents which occurred at Chand Bagh, Mr. Anuj Kumar, ACP/Gokulpuri and his police colleagues were trapped by the crowd comprising of hundreds of men and women, and a number of them were carrying deadly weapons hidden in their clothes. It may be recalled that it is the same incident in which DCP/Shahdara, Shri Amit Sharma was brutally assaulted by using the deadly weapons and he remained in ICU for a long time, battling for his life. One of the Head Constables Rattan Lal who accompanied these officers received bullet injuries which were fired by the mob and he succumbed to his injuries later on. These incidents have been vividly detailed in the charge sheets filed in the case, wherein many rioters were identified through technical and oral evidence. In a number of CCTV footages, it can be seen that hundreds of women, wearing burqas and carrying deadly weapons, assaulted the police personnel, an event which was widely covered by the national and international media. Even the role of Rubina Bano who has admitted in her complaint about her presence at the time of riots is under scanner for being part of the unlawful assembly responsible for riots in the Chand Bagh area.

The article of Mr Singh also contains a reference to a complaint dated 17th March, 2020 filed by one Mohd. Illiyas, a resident of Yamuna Vihar. Already 02 FIRs have been registered on 26th and 28th February in connection with

the incidents mentioned therein that occurred at Farooqia Masjid and in front of Victoria Public School respectively. There were several other connected incidents in the area which are being looked into by the police. The allegations raised by him appear more to be his figment of imagination rather than having any iota of truth. This complaint appears to be an afterthought as it was submitted in the Relief Camp organised for the victims on 16/03/2020.

Another complaint relied upon in the article was that of one Jamil Rizvi, who has claimed to be a resident of Yamuna Vihar. When the police went to record his statement, it was discovered that he had given a false address in the complaint and one Mr. Ashok Gupta occupied the house. He was not even traceable on his phone.The content of his complaint are identical to that of Mohammad Illyas and the enquiry has revealed no iota of truth in it.

It must be pointed out at this stage that all the complaints which were received in connection with the North-East Delhi riots were duly acknowledged by the District and are being disposed of on merit. Delhi Police has meticulously followed upon these complaints, registered FIRs on cognizable offences and trying its best to take them to its logical conclusion. No discrimination has been made on grounds of community, caste or colour. To put things in proper perspective, more than 400 FIRs have been registered on the complaints of minority community and even other FIRs registered by the Police take into account their complaints.

The credibility of all such complaints on which the author has scripted his story are highly questionable as they seem to be afterthought and submitted after lapse of considerable time. Many of such complainants or their family members are under scanner for their culpability in the riots, and by giving such complaints they are mounting pressures on the police to escape legal action. The content, tone & tenor of such complaints are identical, mainly targeting a particular set of individuals and police officers. Majority of the complaints relied upon by the Writer fall under this category. Delhi Police is fully aware that they will be targeted to dissuade it from pursuing the investigations by those with vested interest. The group of people create atmosphere of distrust, a communal and social discord by playing along the fault lines.

Mr Prabhjit Singh in his attempt to sensationalise the incidents forgot to follow some basic tenets of journalism. He conveniently toed a particular line, little realising that publication of such articles also endanger the social fabric, create animosity and communal discord, and fuel undesirable sentiments. All the complaints which were submitted after considerable delay and fuelled by vested interests became the basis of his script. Treading into such dangerous territories demand exercise of extra caution and tremendous social responsibilities. Mr. Singh conveniently chose to ignore both. He did not go by the investigation conducted by the Delhi Police merely on the presumption that it is partisan. He must realise that police is under judicial scrutiny, whereas he does not hold any accountability to the established judicial process. It warranted more thorough investigative journalism than what has been displayed in his article.

In view of the above, it is requested that this rejoinder be taken into consideration and be published and tweeted with equal prominence, in line with the best professional ethics of objective journalism.

Yours faithfully,

(Mandeep S. Randhawa)IPS

Public Relations Officer,

Delhi Police, **Delhi**