OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, DELHI.

No. 661/PRO/PHQ dated Delhi, the 10/11 2014.

To

The Editor,
Indian Express,
New Delhi.

Subject :- Rejoinder to the news-item i.e.**"Trilokpuri riots: Police were violent with Muslim women".**

Sir,

This is with reference to the above-mentioned byline news –item appeared in your esteemed newspaper on 08.11.2014. The headline and contents of the news-item are factually incorrect, baseless, misleading and far removed from the truth.

The report states the male police officers had used force against the Muslim women. Fact is that a large contingent of women police force was deployed in the area, so the question of male police officers dealing with women did not arise.

The Muslim women living in the community have nothing to fear and by effectively quelling the riot and maintaining the dignity and honor of the women in the area, it has been probed that women from every community including Muslim are absolutely safe. Not a single case of crime against women or even misbehavior with women has been reported in Trilokpuri during the time riots broke out in the area or even after that.

The allegation of 'torture, high-handedness, abuse of power, discrimination and hostility of local police against the Muslim community' is denied and it appears that the report has been written at the behest of those who have vested interest in creating law and order problem in the area.

The report in clearly an attempt to cash on to the frayed nerves of the local community whose lives were thrown out of the gear, when passions ran high. Not only does the story lack credibility, such reports and reporters, also unfortunately contribute to tearing the social fabric of the society, in which the two communities are enmeshed.

It is expected that the reporter as well as the top management of the Indian Express would exercise greater responsibility in covering law and order situations. Responsible coverage of the facts of riot in Trilokpuri, would have helped information and empowering the local community. On the other hand, coverage done with a bias against a section of the community can be extremely damaging and undermines the efforts made by the Police and the Administration to dispel fear and induce communal harmony. Such stories exacerbates the crisis and causes disbelief, hatred and doubts in the minds of people. It is suggested that Media should play its role responsibility and be neutral its approach, rather than acting as agent provocateur.

Needless to say, the concerned correspondent ought to have verified the authenticity of the facts from the police before publishing such types of news-item containing serious imputations against the police. It has unnecessarily cast aspersions on the working of police. Therefore, it is requested that, in future, whenever any matter involving police action is reported, necessary inputs may kindly be obtained from the concerned police authorities.

In view of the above stated facts, it is requested that this rejoinder may be published in order to put the matter in proper perspective with the same prominence for your esteemed readers.

Yours faithfully,

(**Rajan Bhagat**)

Public Relation Officer,
Delhi Police, Delhi.