



July 9, 2018

To,

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SUB: Complaint by CJP against Zee News for telecast of programme titled “Kya Kehta Hain India” on 30.06.2018 available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3duIb8wrNro>

The Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP), a civil and legal rights organisation, is committed to furthering Constitutional Values in the Courts and beyond (cjp.org.in). **Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP)** is a human rights movement dedicated to upholding and defending our fundamental freedoms, in the courts and beyond. With a presence in all states of India, CJP draws its strength from the people who are determined to protect the rights of every individual, especially the weak and marginalised.

We have been concerned at the increasing attempts by sections of our electronic media to foster disharmony, hatred and even incite violence. In this context, your attention is drawn to the programme titled “Kya Kehta Hain India” on 30.06.2018 available at the link mentioned below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3duIb8wrNro>

The above mentioned programme shocked our conscience, as communal hate and violence was propagated from a platform provided by Zee News with its complete endorsement and backing, as declared by the voice-over at the beginning of the programme, which called itself the “Constitution” of Zee News.

The show was introduced with Hariom Panwar, a Hindi Veer-Ras poet, who began his poetry recitation with his polarizing views about Kashmir. He claims that he wrote this poem 28 years ago and had read it in front of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

In his poetry, he said that Kashmir gets its name from Saint Kashyap. He spoke how the problems in Kashmir can only be solved by the soldiers’ guns. “Indian flags are torn in Kashmir, the murderers of Kashmir are set free, traitors are sent food in the mosque, every house has an AK 56, Death to India is written on the chest of Srinagar. Tell Delhi to give the soldiers two days and whichever house doesn’t have an Indian flag will see the worst,” are some of the lines

he read in Hindi. Panwar is a regular face at these poetry meets also called 'Kavi Sammelan' and he recites this poetry on other Hindi news channels as well.

Dinesh Raghuvanshi, another poet, said that soldiers will enter Pakistan's houses and kill them there, in his poetry. He challenged Pakistan to fight India and free the Kashmir land it took over in 1948. He added that all the people who are against the Indian army in Kashmir, those people will not just be taped to the bonnet of the car but all four sides. He questioned Kashmiri's and asked if they have any respect for the country. A Kashmiri shawl weaver who voted in the elections for India was tied to an army jeep with a piece of paper stuck to him which said 'this is the fate of the stone-pelter.' The army had tied him as a human shield and message against stone-pelters in Kashmir. The poet not only encouraged but propagated such violence against citizens of India due to their ethnic and religious identity.

Dr. Anamika, a poet, had some of the most extreme views. She said that Kashmir breeds traitors who betray the country and bombs are grown in containers that store the saffron spice. She asks in her poetry that for how long the country will keep sending lions for dogfights. "Remove Section 370 and enter every Kashmiri house. Whoever doesn't hoist the Indian flags, let the heads of those traitors roll," she says in her poetry. She aims at Arvind Kejriwal, calls him a coward and sings praises for PM Modi for organizing a successful surgical strike.

An elderly poet, Santosh Anand takes the stake and says that stone-pelters need to be taught the final lesson. Such exhortations calling for the killing of fellow human beings and citizens was allowed to be propagated to millions of viewers, spewing hate within households across the country.

Many children were a part of the show on Zee News, which can be seen clearly in the video. A young boy from the audience took the stage to read out his poetry on Indian soldiers. The poetry by all the poets was coloured by the mythology of Lord Ram crossing the sea and burning the Lanka. The divisive rhetoric and its encouragement and celebration reflects on the mindset of public violence and lynchings which has emerged as a major law and order challenge for the country. The rhetoric of violence propagated by Zee News through the programme betrays all its commitments to Media Ethics and is exemplary of its irresponsibility in misusing the power of the media.

Zee News claims that it has more than 150 million viewers and according to the most recent BARC data, Zee News is consistently competing for the top two positions in the TRP and viewership ratings in both urban and rural markets for Hindi news. These shows reach more than half the total number of Indian houses in urban and rural locations.

This hatred keeps growing its tentacles to reach every Indian living room without any opposition and is against the Preamble goal of fraternity and integrity of the nation. Such programmes are aimed at fuelling disharmony within the nation and it undermines the promise of brotherhood, peace and inclusivity on which the Indian nation is premised.

You are hereby asked to issue an appropriately worded regret, to the people of India at large for telecasting such views/poetry on your news channel Zee News for carrying such irresponsible, inciteful and violence inducing content on your news channel, in breach of the allegiance to media ethics and principles which are supposed to bind and guide you as a responsible news channel. India's Constitution promotes harmony, dialogue and understanding between sections of Indians, is



defending human rights in the courts and beyond

based on equality and non-discrimination of all and programmes/views such as these violate these basic, fundamental tenets.

You are also put on notice that failure on your part to satisfy the complainants with an apology on your news channel may result in legal consequences for your channel at the appropriate fora, at your risk to costs.

Authorised representatives of CJP

Anil Dharker, President

Teesta Setalvad, Secretary