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To,

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TV Today Network Ltd.
India Today Mediaplex
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Subject: Complaint against the ‘Black and White Show’ aired on Aaj Tak on September 30, 2022

Dear Sir,

We, at Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) are deeply concerned about the contents of the show titled ‘Black and White Show’ anchored by Sudhir Chaudhary that aired on Aaj Tak on September 30, 2022 and are hence preferring a complaint against the same.

The complete show may be viewed here: [\(606\) Black and White Show | Sudhir Chaudhary Show | Congress President Election | Gujarat Garba News - YouTube](#)

At the outset, we would like to state that the said Hindi news show had themes of communal divide throughout its narrative and did not try to mask this in any manner, with the host Sudhir Chaudhary manipulating facts and actively participating in the communal diatribe. The show was flagged off by the host with a communally polarising question: *Muslim yuvaon ka garba ke pandolon mei jaane ka makshad akhir hai kya?* (What is the reason for Muslim youth to go to garba pandals?) The opening remark itself being brazenly divisive and the narrative of the show carries on with the same to a whole another level. The host has made no attempts to mask his and his channel’s prejudice against Islam and its followers questioning why Muslims should take interest in participating in a festival that is celebrated by Hindus. The concept of unity in diversity has clearly been lost upon the channel and its host and they seem to have forgotten that in India all festivals are celebrated by households and in the public sphere by people belonging to all religions. In fact, one can find more stories of harmony in festivals than any other time of the year and it is festivals that bring people together irrespective of their religious background or otherwise.

We have extracted transcripts of the show where utterly brazen remarks have been made by the host along communal lines which go not only against the ethics of journalism and

principles of self-regulation but threaten to destroy the secular fabric of the country; which has in any case been under threat because of shows like these.

Extracts from the show:

0:15-1:27

Breaking news to aapne bahut suni hogi, lekin aaj hum aapke liye ek breaking vishleshan karenge. aaj hum aapko garba pandalo mein muslim ladkon ki maujudagi par ho rahe vivaad ke baare mein bataen jiske baare mein desh mein log baat kar rahe hain charcha kar rahe hain. (You must have heard a lot of breaking news, but today we will do a breaking analysis for you. Today we tell you about the controversy over the presence of Muslim boys in garba pandals, which people in the country are talking about.)

..lekin koi bhi samachar channel aap ko iske baare mein bata nahi raha navratri ke dauran ahmedabad aur indore ke kai garba pandalo se ye shikayate ayi ki vah kuchh muslim ladke apna hindu naam rakh kar een pandalo mein ghuss gaye. (But no news channel is telling you about it. During Navratri, there were complaints from Garba pandals in Ahmedabad and Indore that some Muslim boys got entry in these pandals by keeping their Hindu names.)

..aur jab unki sandigdh paristhitiyon ko dekhate hue unhen pakade gaye toh hindu mahasabha ke logon ne pita and iske baad unhen police ke havale kar diya gaya (And when they were caught in view of their suspicious circumstances, they were beaten up by the people of Hindu Mahasabha.)

...aur jab unki sandigadh paristhitiyon ko dekhate hue unhe pakade gaye toh hindu mahasabha ke logon ne pita. iske baad unhen police ke havale kar diya gaya (Now the people opposing this move is claiming that Hindu extremism is torturing the Muslim youth in the guise of Garba and the situation has come to such an extent that it is now being written at the gate of many Garba pandals that entry for Muslim boys is prohibited.)

aur pravesh se pahle logo ke id card ki janch karen ja rahe hain. jab ki sthaniye logo ka sawal ye hai ki ye muslim ladke apna dharm chhupa kar akhir vah kiss mansha se aana chahte hain. (And before entering, the ID card of the people is going to be checked. The question of the local people is that why do these Muslim boys want to come to the garba pandal by hiding their religion?)

8:00

...breaking news to aapne bahut suni hogi, lekin aaj hum aapke liye ek breaking vishleshan karenge. us khabar ka vishleshan karenge ji par hamare desh mein aaj kal bahut bahas ho rahi hai. (You must have heard a lot of breaking news, but today we will do a breaking analysis for you. We will analyze that news, but there is a lot of debate in our country these days.)

...aur vah khabar hai garba karyakramon mein muslim yuvakon ke upar lagayi gayi rok. (And that news is the ban imposed on Muslim youths in garba programs)

...Pichle hafte se ab tak 7 se zada aise mamle saamne aa chuke hai jahan muslim youvako ke saath ya toh maar peeth ki gayi hai ya police ne unhe giraftaar kar liya hai. (Since the last week, more than 7 instances have been reported where Muslim boys have either been beaten up or were arrested by the police)

...inn sab ghatnaon ke baad humare desh ka ek khaas varg yeh keh raha hai ki muslim yuva ka garba karyakramon mein jaan apradh kese ho sakta hai? (After all these incidents, a certain section of our country is saying that how can there be a crime in the garba programs of Muslim youth?)

....Humara toh dharam nirpeksh desh hai, humare desh mei ek samvidhan hai aur uss samvidhan ke tehaet aise desh mei muslim yuvaon ko aise apna nishana kese bana sakte hain? (We have a secular country, we have a constitution in our country and how can the leaders of that constitution target Muslim youth in such a country?)

....Inn baton ko sunkar aapko bhi aisa lagega ki humare desh mei hindu tyoharo ke naam par muslim samudyay par atyachaar shuru ho gaya hai. Lekin kya yeh sach hai ya iska koi dusra pehlu bhi hai. Toh dusra pehlu kya hai yahi batane hum aapke saamne aye hai. (Listening to these things, you will also feel that atrocities have started on the Muslim community in the name of Hindu festivals in our country. But is this true or is there any other side to it? So what is the other aspect, we have come here before you to tell you.)

...yeh muslim yuva akhir garba pandalo mei jana kyu chahte hai aur kya iske peeche love jihad ka maksad ho sakta hai? Kyuki abhi tak jitney bhi aaropi mile hai unhone apna naam badal kar hindu naam rakh kar inn karyakramo mei hissa liya hai. (Why do these Muslim youth want to go to Garba pandals and can love jihad be the motive behind it? Because all the accused have been found in these programs by changing their names to Hindu names.)

...Inn ladko ko naam badal kar chori chipe jaane ki kya zarurat hai. Inn garba pandalo mei muslim ladke hi kyu jaa rahe hai? Muslim ladkiyan kyu nahi? (Why do these boys need to change their names and go secretly? Why are only Muslim boys going to these garba pandals? Why not Muslim girls?)

...Garba koi sanskritic karyakaram ya live concert nahi hai. Garba navratri ke tyohaar se juda ek dharmic anushthaan hai jismein hindu deviyon ki aarti se pehle unhe prashan karne ke liye nritya kiya jata hai, jo dharmic bhavnao se juda hua hai. (Garba is not a cultural event or live concert. Garba is a religious ritual associated with the festival of Navratri in which before the aarti of Hindu goddesses, dance is performed to question them, which is associated with religious sentiments.)

...Lekin aaj kal agar aap dekhenge toh humare desh ka ek khaas varg isse aise pesh kar raha hai jese inn dharmic anushthano mein muslim yuvayon ka hona unka ek samvidhanic haq hai aur yeh adhikaar unse cheena jaa raha hai. (But nowadays if you see, a certain section of our country is presenting it as if these being present in these religious institutions is a constitutional right of the muslim youth which is being taken away from them)

...Aaj jo log keh ki muslim yuvayon ka i-card check karna gaerkanoni hai. Aaj hum unn tamam logo se yeh puchna chahte hai ki jab delhi ke shaheen bagh mein naye kanoon ke khilaaf, nagrikta kanoon ke khilaaf andolan ho raha tha, aur vaha aane wale logo ka bhi i-card check kiya jaa raha tha, tab yeh sawaal kyu nahi uthaya gaya? (Today, those who say that it is illegal to check the I-cards of Muslim youth, we want to ask all those people that when there was an agitation against the new law, against the citizenship law, and the I-card of the people coming there was also being checked, then why was this question not raised?)

...Main aapko apna tajurba bata sakta hu jab maine khud shaheen bagh mein jaane ki koshish kit hi toh mujhe jaane nahi diya gaya tha. Aur tab maine yeh prashn uthaya tha ki shaheen bagh ki uss sadak par jana mera samvidhanic adhikaar hai, toh humme kese roka jaa sakta hai. Lekin tab nahi jaane diya. (I wasn't allowed to go. And then I raised the question that it is my constitutional right to go to the road of Shaheen Bagh, so how can we be stopped. But then he didn't let me go)

...Aur sochiye, jin logo ko bharat mata ki jai kehne mein aapatti hai aur jo log rashtra gaan par khade hone se inkaar karte hai, aaj vahi log garba pandalo mein jaane ki maang kar rahe hai. (And imagine, those who have any objection to saying Bharat Mata Ki Jai and those who refuse to stand on the national anthem, today the same people are demanding to go to Garba pandals.)

12:10

...Pichle dino Ahmedabad mein aayojit ek karyakaram mein bajrang dal ke karyakartaon ne kuch muslim yuvaon ke saath maar peeth ki. (Recently, some Muslim youths were beaten up by members of the Bajrang Dal, at the programme organized in Ahmedabad)

...Inn logo par aarop tha ki apni pehchaan ko chipa kar hindu naamo ke saath iss aayojan mein pravesh kiya aur baad mein iss karyakarm ke dauran apne mobile phone se yeh kuch hindu ladkiyon ke videos bana rahe the. (These people were accused of hiding

their identity and entered the event with Hindu names and later during this work, they were making videos of some Hindu girls from their mobile phone.)

...Lekin durbhagya dekhiye iss khabar ko leke humare desh mei bas itni charcha hui ki Ahmedabad mei kuch Muslim ladko ko garba karyakaram mei shamil hone se roka gaya aur jab who shamil hue toh unhe peeta gaya. (But unfortunately, there was so less discussion in the country about this news that some Muslim boys were stopped from joining the Garba program in Ahmedabad and when they joined, they were beaten up.)

...Lekin aapko kisi ne nahi bataya hoga ki yeh ladke apna naam badal kar, pehchaan badal kar aur dharam badal kar kyu gaye aur vaha jaa kar yeh kar kya rahe the. (But no one would have told you that these boys had entered by changing their name, changing their identity and changing their religion, and what they were doing by going there.)

...Ahmedabad ki tarah indore ke jis pandal se inn ladko ko police mei hirasat mei liya, unn sabhi ladko ne abhi apne galat naam register mei likhwaye the aur aarop hai ki yeh ladke bhi inn pandalo mei hindu ladkiyon ki videos bana rahe the, tasveerein kheench rahe the, jiske baad logo ko inn par shaq hua aur logo ne inhone pakda aur police ke hawale kar diya. (Like Ahmedabad, all the boys from the pandal in Indore from where these Muslim boys were detained by the police, all those boys had written their wrong name in the register and it is alleged that these boys were also making videos of Hindu girls in these pandals, taking pictures, after which people got suspicious of them and people caught them and handed them over to the police.)

Halaki inn saari ghatnaon ke baad ab naubat yeh aa gayi hai ki Madhya Pradesh ke garba pandalon ki police ne suraksha badhayi hai. (All these incidents have come to light and the police have increased the security of garba pandals in Madhya Pradesh.)

...Indore aur Bhopal mei pandalon ke bahar hindu rashtriya sanghathon ke log poster leke khade hai ki yaha gaer hindu logo ke praves par paabandhi hai. Gujarat ke kayi pandalon ke bahar tilak kiya jaa raha hai. (Outside Indore and Bhopal pandals, people of Hindu Rashtriya Sanghas are standing with posters that there is a ban on the entry of non-Hindu people here. Tilak is being done outside many pandals in Gujarat.)

...Yaha ek sawal yeh bhi hai ki islam dharam mei jis naach gaane ko, sangeet ko varjit mana gaya hai aur murthi pooja ko islam ke khilaaf bataya gaya hai, akhir uss islam ko manne wale ladke inn pandalo mei kyu jana chahte hai. (There is also a question here that Islamic religion, in which dance song, music has been considered forbidden and idol worshipping has been considered against any slam, after all that, the Muslim boys want to go to these pandals)

...Kyuki inn pandlon mei toh murti pooja bhi hoti hai, garba bhi hota hai, naach bhi hota hai aur gaana bhi hota hai. Iss baat ko pata karne humari team ke 2 log Madhya pradesh ke pandaalon mei gaye jaha jaake unhe 2 baatein pata chali. (Because in these pandals,

there is idol worship, garba dance, and songs. To confirm these talks, two people from our team went to Madhya Pradesh's pandals where they found out two things.)

...Pehli ki yeh saare ladke garba khelne nahi balki vaha hindu ladkiyon se dosti karne ke liye vaha par aate hai kyuki jo garba nirtya hai who ek group mei kiya jata hai aur uss dauran yeh ladke hindu ladkiyon ke beech aaram se ghul mil jaate hai aur fir unse dosti karne ki koshish karte hai. Aur yeh pehli baar nahi ho raha hai. (Firstly, all these boys do not play Garba but come there to befriend Hindu girls because the Garba which is dance done in a group and during that time these boys mix comfortably among Hindu girls and then try to befriend them. And this is not happening for the first time.)

...Aaj jab humne iss issue par research kiya, toh humne paya ki varsh 2002, 2004, 2009, 2012 aur 2021 mei bhi aisi kayi ghatnaein ho chuki hai jaha muslim ladko par love jihad ke aarop lage hai aur har saal iss mudde par kaafi behas hoti hai lekin iss saal iss mudde ko ek alag hi rang de diya gaya hai. (when we did our research, we found that in the year 2002, 2004, 2009, 2012 and 2021, similar incidents took place where Muslim men wherein accused of love jihad. And every year there is a lot of debate on this issue but this year the issue has been given a different colour.)

...Saudi arab ke jis mecca mei islam ki utpatti hui, jo islam dharam ka Kendra hai, aaj vaha gaer musalmon ko pravesch karne ki ijazat nahi hai. Lekin yahi log chahte hai ki unhe hindu dharam ke tamam anushthano mei bina kisi apatti ke shamil hone diya jae. (Islam originated in Saudi Arabia's Mecca, which is the center of Islam religion, where today non-Muslims are not allowed to enter. But these people want them to be allowed to participate in all the rituals of Hindu Religion without any objection.)

...Yaani yeh log isse apna samvidhanik adhikaar samajh rahe hai jabki yeh mamla dharmik bhavnao se juda hua hai. (That is, these people are considering it as their constitutional right, while this matter is related to religious sentiments.)

...Muslim samuday ke jo log apne dharam ki auraton ke liye hijab ko zaruri mante hai aur unhe pardah mei rakhna chahte hai, aaj who khud keh rahe hai ki agar muslim ladko ne garba ke pandon mei hindu ladkiyon se dosti kar bhi li toh konsa bada pahad tot gaya. (Those of the Muslim community who consider hijab as important for the women of their religion and want to keep them within pardah, today they themselves are saying that even if Muslim boys make friends with Hindu girls in garba pandas, then what is the big deal?)

The channel and impact

Aaj Tak's Youtube channel itself has a reach of 53.8 million subscribers and the video in question has over 3.5 lakh views in less than a week, along with 194 comments on the same. A majority of these comments hail the vile contents of the show which goes to show the influence the host and the channel has on its viewers and subscribers. In a country like India where people from multiple cultures and religions have been living together as one nation

since independence, shows with content like these seek to divide them along communal lines to destroy the harmony that has largely prevailed all these years.

What the show entailed

The host's specific questions like *Inn garba pandalo mei muslim ladke hi kyu jaa rahe hai? Muslim ladkiyan kyu nahi*, are completely unwarranted and baseless. Does the host know how many Muslim girls are involved in participation/playing *garba* in these pandals? Is there any data to backup such claims being made on national television?

Another contentious comment made by the host was - *Aur sochiye, jin logo ko bharat mata ki jai kehne mei aapatti hai aur jo log rashtra gaan par khade hone se inkaar karte hai, aaj vahi log garba pandalo mei jaane ki maang kar rahe hai*. (And imagine, those who have any objection to saying Bharat Mata Ki Jai and those who refuse to stand on the national anthem, today the same people are demanding to go to Garba pandals.) Clearly this is a presumptuous comment which lays bare the prejudice of the host and his intention to alienate the minority community and create feelings of hatred against it. One does not need to read much into this comment other than the fact that it is meant to incite Hindus against Muslims. It appears that the host, through every comment, is pushing his and the channel's communal agenda to the teeth and has left no stone unturned to portray the Muslim community in bad light.

The host also brings the entire religion and its philosophy in question wherein he says - *Yaha ek sawal yeh bhi hai ki islam dharam mei jis naach gaane ko, sangeet ko varjit mana gaya hai aur muthi pooja koi slam ke khilaaf bataya gaya hai, akhir uss islam ko manne wale ladke inn pandalo mei kyu jana chahte hai*. (There is also a question here that Islamic religion, in which dance song, music has been considered forbidden and idol worshipping has been considered against any slam, after all that, the Muslim boys want to go to these pandals).

The host also presents "data" that the channel's team went to the pandals and found that Muslim boys are befriending Hindu girls. By any measure, is making friends across the religious divide, a crime? Is boys and girls becoming friends a point of news? The host also makes ludicrous comments about non-Muslims not being allowed at Mecca, then why do Muslims want to participate in Garba. It is clear and apparent how the host is trying to grab on every straw that allows him to incite hatred and communalise certain reported incidents.

The host also says - *Yaani yeh log isse apna samvidhanik adhikaar samajh rahe hai jabki yeh mamla dharmik bhavnao se juda hua hai*. (That is, these people are considering it as their constitutional right, while this matter is related to religious sentiments.) It is utterly unclear how people from all walks of life coming together to celebrate a festival hurts anyone's religious sentiments.

The host also made contentious comments against Muslim community - *Muslim samuday ke jo log apne dharam ki auraton ke liye hijab ko zaruri mante hai aur unhe pardah mei rakhna chahte hai, aaj who khud keh rahe hai ki agar muslim ladko ne garba ke pandon mei hindu ladkiyon se dosti kar bhi li toh konsa bada pahad tot gaya.* (Those of the Muslim community who consider hijab as important for the women of their religion and want to keep them within pardah, today they themselves are saying that even if Muslim boys make friends with Hindu girls in garba pandas, then what is the big deal).

Conclusion

Through the content of the show, the channel has acted in complete violation of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards issued by the NBDISA and few other guidelines pertaining to maintenance of religious harmony. It further amounts to certain offences related to hate speech, misinformation and promoting enmity under the Indian Penal Code. As such, in view of the elaborate and detailed complaint made herein above, we expect your channel to take responsibility of the grievances raised herein and act upon the same responsibly.

In view of this, it is in best interest, that you remove the above-mentioned content from all social media accounts of your channel and your own website, and issue a public apology for the communal reportage. In an event we do not receive a satisfactory response from you, we will be compelled to submit a complaint to the NBDISA. 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.

Yours sincerely,

Nandan Maluste, CJP President

Teesta Setalvad, CJP Secretary