



Date: January 09, 2023

To,  
Times Now,  
Grievance Officer,  
Kirtima Maravoor  
Email: [legalnow@timesgroup.com](mailto:legalnow@timesgroup.com)

**Subject: Complaint against show “देवभूमि Uttarakhand में 'जमीन जिहाद' पर बुलडोजर एक्शन की बारी!” that aired on Times Now Navbharat on January 2, 2023**

Dear Madam,

We, at Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP), are writing to you with regards to a news segment that aired on Times Now Navbharat on January 2, 2023, titled “देवभूमि Uttarakhand में 'जमीन जिहाद' पर बुलडोजर एक्शन की बारी!”. The show is based on the decision given by the Uttarakhand High Court, wherein the court had allowed the use of force to evict 4,000 families living on what the Railways claims is its land. On December 20, 2022 the HC had directed Railways to give the residents one week’s time to move out, by January 7, 2023 and after that, “to use the forces to any extent determining upon need, to evict forthwith the unauthorized occupants”.

The debate show can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obCLI6phdwo>

Over this news, the channel presented a report and declared that something called “*Zameen Jihad*” was taking place in Devbhoomi, Uttarakhand. It is best known to the hosts and the channel what this term “*Zameen jihad*” means and an explanation or definition of the same would be much appreciated, in response. Our organization has found, over the past three years, especially since during the lockdown following the Covid-19 pandemic, a systematic and disturbing trend in commercially driven electronic media channels, a specific media stigmatization of minorities where on a series of issues, related to land, housing, social security etc, the term ‘*Jihad*’ is added as a suffix. That a channel like Times Now also participates actively in this debilitating trend is disturbing, at the very least.

It is also pertinent to mention here, if the channel is not already aware of this (!), that using such terms is both denigrating and demeaning towards the Muslim community, besides perpetuating stereotypes that can create attitudes and actions therefore which can cause violent harm and mischief. It would also be interesting to know the “source” of this news tid-bit so that the channel, the esteemed NBDSA and the complainants can test it for authenticity.

Reporting on news involves an exercise of imparting information. Questioning of the bit of news information in a prejudicial or hysterical way, without any rational basis to that questioning, with an intention to pitch views of only one segment/community amounts to stigmatizing the section that is thus portrayed. Laws, statutory guidelines and evolving jurisprudence have tested and assessed this kind of portrayal and held it to be in fact creating an unequal, partisan playing field that both demeans right to life and right to life with dignity of that particular targeted section. In practice, therefore it attacks the right to equality and non-discrimination, too.

### **The contents of the show**

The segment starts with the anchor spreading his communal diatribe. He makes the following comments towards the beginning of the show:

***“Naye saal ka agaaz hote hi jihadi gang ne dev bhoomi Uttarakhand mei bhawandar shuru kar diya. (As soon as the New Year began, the jihadi gang started creating havoc in Dev Bhoomi, Uttarakhand.)”***

***“Hazaron log Dhami Sarkar ke khilaaf morcha khol kar beth gaye hai, boriya bistar lekar. (Thousands of people have come out to protest against the Dhami government.)”***

***“Uttarakhand high court ne haldwani ne ki awaed gafoor basti todhne ka aadesh diya. Aur yeh jo basti hai, gafoor basti, railway ki sarkari zameen par awaed kabza karke yeh basayi gayi. (Uttarakhand High Court ordered the demolition of illegal Gafoor village. And this settlement, Gafoor village, was built by occupying the government land of the railways.)”***

***“Congress aur Owaisi ne vote bank ki rajneeti ko hawa dene ke liye talwaar maajhni shuru kardi (Congress and Owaisi started wielding their swords to fuel vote bank politics)”***

***“Maamla Supreme Court phunch chuka hai jaha 5 january ko iski sunwayi hogi, aur agar stay nahi mila, toh 10 Jan ko iss zameen jihad ke khilaaf Dhami sarkar ka bulldozer yaha chalega. (The matter has reached the Supreme Court, wherein the case will be heard on January 5. And if stay is not granted by the SC, the bulldozer of the Dhami government will be used against this “zameen jihad” by January 10.)”***

***“Aur aisa kyu kaha jaa raha hai? Kyuki dev bhoomi mei aisi kayi sundar jagah hai jaha par kabza kiya jaa raha hai aur kis maksad se kabza kiya jaa raha hai, ye hiss report ke baad aapko pata chalega. (And why is that being said? Because there are many beautiful places in Dev Bhoomi that are being occupied and for what purpose are they being occupied, you will know after the report)”***

It is evident from the very beginning of the show that the anchor is presenting the issue of eviction of the Muslim community with a communal agenda. While the anchor has spoken about the decision of the Uttarakhand High Court, the anchor has not presented the legal aspect of the judgment, but rather has used terms such as “zameen jihad” and “bulldozer action of the Dhami government” to spread stigma, even hatred against the Muslim community. This also amounts to creating a narrative that is anti-Muslim’ to add fuel to the existing, perpetuated animosity against a minority Indian community that has been widely prevalent, conspicuously due to reportage such as this example. The channel must be aware that the “mainstream”, “commercial” media, which it is also a part of, has been responsible for disseminating such a stigma-driven for several years now leading to sharp, recent remarks from the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India (September-November 2022).

The anchor then presents a report, which is nothing but a brazen, unsubstantiated attack on the so-called intentions of the Muslim community. The trend of using the suffix of ‘jihad’ to propagate their communally divisive narrative has caught traction in the mainstream news media. The moment any news wherein a person from Muslim Community is involved, news channel rush to label it as some kind of *Jihad*.

The following was said through the report titled, ‘*Devbhoomi mei zameen jihad* (“Zameen jihad” in Devbhoomi)’

**Timestamp- From 1:03 till 4:24**

“*Devbhoomi mei zameen jihad ke khilaaf bade bulldozer ki jihadi gang dharna pradarshan par utar aya* (the Jihadi gang came out on a sit-in protest against the bulldozers that started towards the “Zameen Jihad” in Devbhoomi)”

“*Haldwani mei hazaro logo ne dera daal diya hai aur raat din dharna pradarshan chal raha hai. Makshad ek hi hai- ki zameen jihad ki sajish ke khilaaf dhami Sarkar ke bulldozer action ko kisi tarah roka jae* (Thousands of people have camped in Haldwani and sit-in protests are going on day and night. There is only one aim - somehow stop the Dhami government's bulldozer action against the conspiracy of land jihad.)”

“*Dev bhoomi mei zameen jihad ki sajish. Masjid mazaar ke naam sarkari zameen ki chori. Haldwani mei ek aur shaheen bagh* (Conspiracy of Dev Bhoomi Mei Zameen Jihad. Theft of government land in the name of Masjid Mazar. Another Shaheen Bagh in Haldwani)

“*CAA ke khilaaf jis tarah se shaheen bagh ko rashtravaad virodhi system ne sajisho ka adda banaya tha, kuch vesa hi haldwani mei karne ki kashish ho rahi hai* (The way Shaheen Bagh was made a base of conspiracies by the anti-nationalism system against the BJP, there is an attempt to do the same.)”

“*Saekado log uttarakhand ke sehar haldwani mei jama ho rahe hai, bheedh lagataar badhti jaa rahi hai, dharn ke naam par logo ko dhami Sarkar ke khilaaf bhadhkaya jaa raha hai* (Hundreds of people are gathering in district Haldwani of Uttarakhand, the crowd is constantly increasing, people are being provoked against the Dhami government in the name of sit-in protest)”

“*Mulanao ki takreer karwayi jaa rahi hai taaki pradarshan kaariyo ko bhadhkaya jaa sake* (Mulanao's speech are being done so that the protests can be provoked.)”

The report then shows videos of protests in the background. The people from the muslim community can be heard making speeches. One such protestor can be heard saying the following on the mic-

“*ae allah yeh maaye-behene- bethi hui hai  
yeh humari izzatein hai  
yeh humari fatimaayein hai  
aaj humare saaro par haath rakhne wala koi nahi raha  
aaj inn maa beheno ke sarr ke aanchal par haath rakhne wala koi nahi raha*”

(O Allah, this is our mothers and sisters sitting out

This is our honor.

This is our “fathima”

Today there is no one to lay a hand on our heads.

Today, there is no one to put their hands on the head of these mothers and sisters.)”

The report then shows the image and videos of women protesting and the following comments are then made-

**“Mahilayon ko bhi inn zameen jihadiyon ne maidaan mei utar diya hai taaki jab awaed basti par bulldozer chalane sarkari log phunche toh unhe shield ki tarah istemaal kiya jaa sake** (Women have also been brought to the field by these land jihadists so that when government people blow bulldozers on the settlement, they can be used as shields)”

**“Haldwani mei utara mombatti gang. Delhi ki tarah haldwani mei bhi kanoon virodhi mombatti gang utar chuka hai. Haldwani mei bhi candle light protest shuru ho chuka hai** (The Candle Gang has also come to Haldwani. Like Delhi, the anti-law candle gang has also come down in Haldwani. Candlelight protest has also started in Haldwani)”

**“Aaiye zara samjhte hai ki purri saajish hai kya** (Let's understand what the whole conspiracy is)”

Then, the report presents the following facts as a conspiracy for “zameen jihad”

**“haldwani mei railway ki 2.2 km lambi patti par awaed kabza kar liya sarkaari zameen par gafoor colony basa di gayi 4000 se zada pariwar basa diye gaye sarkaari zameen par 8-10 masjid bana di gayi**

(In Haldwani, there has been illegal utilisation of the 2.2 km long stretch of land of railways.

A gafoor colony has been settled on government land.

More than 4000 families are living there

8-10 masjids were also established on government land)”

**“Zameen jihad ki yeh saajish 60 saal pehle shuru hui thi, lekin pichle 2 dashak mei sarkaari zameen ki loot zada tezsi se hui thi aur dekhte hi dekhte devbhoomi haldwani uttarakhand mei gagan chumbi masjid ki baad si hi aa gayi** (this conspiracy of zameen jihad started 60 years ago, but since last 2 decades, the stealing of government land sped up. gradually this conspiracy of zameen jihad started 60 years ago, but since last 2 decades, the stealing of government land sped up. Gradually, Devbhoomi Haldwani, Uttarakhand had ample of mosques belong to land kissers)”

**“Railway ne awaed kabzo ke khilaaf court ka darwaza khatkhataya** (railway approached the courts against illegal land acquisitions)”

**“Aadalt ka aadesh aate hi railway ne 7 january tak zameen khali kar dene ka notice jaari kar diya** (as soon as the decision of the court came, railway notified for the eviction of people till January 7)”

**“Ab 10 january ke baad iss basti par bulldozer prahar shuru hoga** (after January 10, this colony will see bulldozer action)”

**Timestamp- From 5:32 to 6:09**

**“4365 ghara ko court ke aadesh par todh diya jaega** (4365 houses have been received court's direction of being demolished)”

**“Court ka aadesh aate hi jihadi gang ne bawandar shuru kar diya** (The jihadi gang started creating havoc as soon as the court order came)”

**“Zameen jihad par siyasi bawaal** (political havoc over “zameen jihad”)

**“Vote bank par aafat aate dekh, congress anan-fanan mei maidaan mei kood gayi** (as soon as the Congress saw an issue over their vote bank, they got in the field quickly)”

**“Dehradun se delhi tak congress action mei aa gayi** (from Dehradun to Delhi, congress came to action)”

**“Salman khurshid, aur Imraan pratapgarhi sc phunch gaye aur high court ke aadesh ko challenge karne ke liye arzi daal di. 5 jan ko supreme adalat iss par sunwayi ke liye tayar ho gayi hai.** (Salman khurshid and imraan pratapgarhi reached the Supreme Court to challenge the decision of the High Court. The Supreme court agreed for a hearing on Jan 5)”

### **Time stamp- From 6:35**

**“Halwani mei basi iss awaed gafoor colony mei 40,000 ka vote bank hai, ab tak congress inhe apna pakka vote bank maanti rahi hai** (This illegal gafoor colony counts as 40,000 votes for the Congress)”

The report then shows the videos and pictures of Asaduddin Owaisi, and the following is said:

**“Lekin hyderabadi bhaijaan ab unhe apne pale mei karne ke liye talwar bhaanch rahe hai** (but, hyderabadi bhaijaan is now attempting to take them under his own wing)”

**“Bhaijaan gyaan de rahe hai ki awaed basti ko kaanoni krar de Dhami Sarkar** (bhaisaab wants the Dhami government to give a legal status to this illegal colony)”

The report then moves on from “Zameen Jihaad”, and introduces the term “Mazhar Jihad”. The report then showcases a video of a bulldozer breaking a *mazhaar*.

**“Devbhoomi mei mazaar jihad. Devbhoomi mei sarkari zameen ki loot ke liye mazhaar jihad bhi chalaya jaa raha hai** (“Mazhar Jihad” in Devbhoomi. A “Mazhar Jihad” is also being run to loot government land in Devbhoomi)”

**“Uttarakhand ki rajdhaani Dehradun ke jungalo mei saekado mazdaare banayi gayi hai jinmei 17 mazhaaro par bulldozer chal chuka hai** (the Capital of Uttarakhand, Dehra, has unaccountable number of Mazhars, out of which 17 have been demolished by bulldozer action)”

**“Pehle mazhaarein unn ilaako mei banayi gayi jo maidaan ilaake hai** (first the Mazhars were made on common ground areas)”

**“Lekin ab toh Podi ke uchaayi walo sthaano par dhalade se mazhaar jihaad chal raha hai** (but now, the high land in Podi is being used for “Mazhar Jihaad”)

**“Mazaar jihaad ki saajish ko kon hawa de raha hai? (Who is fueling the conspiracy of Mazhar?)”**

The report then concludes and the following statements are made:

**“Kya musalmaano ki awed bastiyan basa kar devbhoomi ki demography badalne ki saajish ho rahi hai? Kya vote bank banaya jaa raha hai? Kya mazhaar banakar arthic loot ka shadyantra ho raha hai? (Is**

there a conspiracy to change the demography of Devbhoomi by establishing illegal settlements of Muslims? Is a vote bank being created? Is there a conspiracy to loot the economy?)”

*“Ab devbhoomi mei mazhaar jihaad aur zameen jihad ki ulti ginati shuru ho chuki hai (Now the countdown for Devbhoomi Mei Mazhar Jihad and Land Jihad has started.)”*

*“Awaed mazhaaro par toh already bulldozer chal chuka hai, ab baari 10 jan ke baad zameen jihaad par bhi bulldozer chalane ki hai (bulldozer action had already begun for illegal mazdars, and now after January 10, bulldozers will also be used over “Zameen Jihad”)*”

*“Aise mei sawaal yahi hai ki haldwani ko shaheen bagh bana kar jihadi group dhaami Sarkar ke majboot irado ko rok paenge (A question that rises is whether by turning Haldwani into Shaheen Bagh, jihadi groups will be able to stop the strong intentions of the Dhami government)”*

It is pertinent to note that throughout this nine- minute segment, the channel was trying to goad the audience into accepting a prejudicial, anti-Muslim narrative. With your vast viewership, this prejudicial view has already reached large sections of the people through the TV channel and also through your social media platforms including Youtube, Twitter and Facebook. This persistent stigmatization and attack on the minority community to drive home the point that Muslims are always up to sinister activities by terming everything they into “Jihad” is harmful to the social fabric of this country.

The channel has used all its resources to showcase this judgment of the Uttarakhand HC as an action against the conspiracy of the Muslim community, conveniently not portraying the full facts of the case, or the arguments made by the petitioners while approaching the Supreme Court. The show portrays a group of people protesting against a decision of the court which affects their life, a right guaranteed to us under our Constitution, as an enemy “gang” that wants to further a conspiracy and harm the peace and harmony of our country.

Be it the protests at Shaheen Bagh (to which also the programme alludes) or the current protests at Haldwani, minority residents were exercising their fundamental rights under Article 19 of the Constitution.

The show is also clearly also aimed to spread communal hatred by bringing the issue of Shaheen Bagh and the protest headed by women against the controversial CAA. If the channel truly cared about values of secularism and fraternity, it would abide by them. However, it is clear that in utter disregard of these constitutional values, the channel has brazenly forwarded its anti-minority narrative and gone full throttle in showing Muslim community in a bad light.

Using terms like “Jihadi gang” “Zameen Jihad” and “Mazhaar Jihad”, the channel has resorted to base tactics to spread communal tension and hatred which is unbecoming of a news channel that should be adhering to the Fundamental principles of Self-Regulation and other guidelines issued by the National Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA). By resorting to such kind of reportage, the channel also has committed offences under the Indian Penal Code.

### **Conclusion**

Through the content of the show, the channel has acted in complete violation of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards issued by the NBDSA and few other guidelines pertaining to maintenance of religious harmony.

It further amounts to certain offences related to hate speech, hurting religious sentiments 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.

We are sure that a channel such as yours is aware of the recent matters pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, wherein specifically the role of television channels and anchors has come in for sharp questioning. We are also sure that the channel would be aware that the Supreme Court has granted stay over the evictions of the residents of Haldwani, and asked to look at this issue with a humanitarian point of view

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 NBDSA. 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.