



Date: January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

To,

Justice (Retd.) A.K. Sikri Chairperson,  
News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA)  
C/o News Broadcasters Association  
Mantec House, C-56/5, 2nd Floor, Sector 62, Noida - 201 301  
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Cc: Ms. Annie Joseph,  
For and on behalf of NBSA News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority  
C/o News Broadcasters Association

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

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” on January 10, 2023.

Before going into the contents of the show, we would like to bring to your notice that we had sent our complaint to the channel on January 9, 2022. However, having not received any response from the channel within the stipulated days, we are escalating our complaint to this forum.

**Copy of CJP’s complaint to the channel dated January 9, 2023 has been marked and annexed hereto as Annexure A**

**Video downloaded from YouTube dated January 2, 2023 has been marked and annexed hereto as Annexure B**

[This show on YouTube shows that it has been watched by 21K (21,367) persons. Furthermore, the show has more than 600 people commenting inciteful messages in the comment section on YouTube.]

## About the show

At the outset, we would like to state that the said Hindi news show had themes of communal divide throughout its narrative. 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. Our organisation 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 stigmatisation 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. Through this show, the channel has used such terms that are 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.

## 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 in front of 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 sarkaar 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 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 attacks on the 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 dhaami 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 majaan ke naam sarkaari 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, dharne ke naam par logo ko dhaami 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)”

**“Halwani 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  
sarkari 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 sajish 60 saal pehle shuru hui thi, lekin pichle 2 dashak mei sarkari zameen ki loot zada tezzi se hui thi aur dekhte hi dekhte devbhoomi haldwani uttarakhand mei gagan chumbi masjido 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, 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)”

***“Aadalat 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 gharo 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, Hyderabad 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 Jihad”, 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 jihad chal raha hai** (but now, the high land in Podi is being used for “Mazdar jihad”)”

**“Mazdaar jihad ki sajish ko kon hawa de raha hai? (Who is fueling the conspiracy of mazdar jihad?)”**

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 jihad 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 jihad 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 Dhama government)”*

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.

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 the channel’s vast viewership, this prejudicial view has already reached large sections of the people through the TV channel and also through their 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, through this show, brazenly forwarded its anti-minority narrative and gone full throttle in showing Muslim community in a bad light. The content of the show was downright offensive, aimed at ridiculing one particular community, amounting to hate speech and instigate communal violence.

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).

## **Violations of Law**

### **The Violations of NBSA principles**

Following are some of the codes of ethics and principles of self-regulation as laid out by the NBDSA, violated by the Times Now Navbharat:

#### **SECTION – 1**

##### **FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**

- 1) Professional electronic journalists should accept and understand that they operate as trustees of public and should, therefore, make it their mission to seek the truth and to report it fairly with integrity and independence. Professional journalists should stand fully accountable for their actions.
- 3) News channels recognize that they have a special responsibility in the matter of adhering to high standards of journalism since they have the most potent influence on public opinion. The broad principles on which the news channels should function are, therefore, as stated hereinafter.
- 4) Broadcasters shall, in particular, ensure that they do not select news for the purpose of either promoting or hindering either side of any controversial public issue. News shall not be selected or designed to promote any particular belief, opinion or desires of any interest group.
- 6) Broadcasters shall ensure a full and fair presentation of news as the same is the fundamental responsibility of each news channel. Realizing the importance of presenting all points of view in a democracy, the broadcasters should, therefore, take responsibility in ensuring that controversial subjects are fairly presented, with time being allotted fairly to each point of view. Besides, the selection of items of news shall also be governed by public interest and importance based on the significance of these items of news in a democracy.

#### **SECTION – 2**

##### **PRINCIPLES OF SELF REGULATION**

###### **1. Impartiality and objectivity in reporting:**

Accuracy is at the heart of the news television business. Viewers of 24-hour news channels expect speed, but it is the responsibility of TV news channels to keep accuracy, and balance, as precedence over speed. If despite this there are errors, channels should be transparent about them. Errors must be corrected promptly and clearly, whether in the use of pictures, a news report, a caption, a graphic



or a script. Channels should also strive not to broadcast anything which is obviously defamatory or libelous. Truth will be a defense in all cases where a larger public interest is involved, and in even these cases, equal opportunities will be provided for individuals involved to present their point of view. This also applies in cases where television channels report on those holding public office, though by virtue of doing so, no person can claim immunity from scrutiny from or criticism by news channels.

## **2. Ensuring neutrality:**

TV News channels must provide for neutrality by offering equality for all affected parties, players and actors in any dispute or conflict to present their point of view. Though neutrality does not always come down to giving equal space to all sides (news channels shall strive to give main view points of the main parties) news channels must strive to ensure that allegations are not portrayed as fact and charges are not conveyed as an act of guilt.

## **9. Racial & Religious Harmony:**

### **9.1 Racial and religious stereotyping should be avoided.**

9.2 Caution should be exercised in reporting content which denigrates or is likely to offend the sensitivities of any racial or religious group or that may create religious intolerance or disharmony.

## **3. Law & Order, Crime & Violence**

3.3 Reports on crime should not amount to prejudging or pre-deciding a matter that is, or is likely to be, sub judice.

## **Violations of Indian Penal Code**

Further, the inflammatory and unverified content of the show amounts to inciteful, hate speech which is a punishable offence under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC):

**Sections 153A** [promotion of enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony],

**295A** [deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs],

**298** [uttering, words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings of any person] and

**505 (1) and (2)** [publication or circulation of any statement, rumour or report causing public mischief and enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes].

The channel also stands in violation of the **Cable Television Network Rules, whereby the programme Code under Rule 6 states that**

(1) No programme should be carried in the cable service which: -

- (c) Contains attack on religions or communities or visuals or words contemptuous of religious groups or which promote communal attitudes;
- (e) Is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote-anti-national attitudes;
- (h) Contains anything affecting the integrity of the Nation;
- (i) Criticises, maligns or slanders any individual in person or certain groups, segments of social, public and moral life of the country;

In order to respect the diverse religions and composite cultures of India, it is essential to keep a check on the unverified claims and hate propaganda against Muslims. Targeting a particular community fosters a spirit of discrimination and needs immediate attention to protect the secular fabric of India.

In the case of **Amish Devgan vs. Union of India and others [Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 160 OF 2020 decided on December 7, 2020]**, the Supreme Court held thus,

*“The unity and integrity of the nation cannot be overlooked and slighted, as the acts that ‘promote’ or are ‘likely’ to ‘promote’ divisiveness, alienation and schematism do directly and indirectly impinge on the diversity and pluralism, and when they are with the objective and intent to cause public disorder or to demean dignity of the targeted groups, they have to be dealt with as per law....Such threats not only insidiously weaken virtue and superiority of diversity, but cut-back and lead to demands depending on the context and occasion, for suppression of freedom to express and speak on the ground of reasonableness. Freedom and rights cannot extend to create public disorder or armour those who challenge integrity and unity of the country or promote and incite violence.”*

*“In this context, it is necessary to draw a distinction between ‘free speech’ which includes the right to comment, favour or criticise government policies; and ‘hate 10 speech’ creating or spreading hatred against a targeted community or group....The object of criminalising the latter type of speech is to protect the dignity (as explained above) and to ensure political and social equality between different identities and groups regardless of caste, creed, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, linguistic preference etc.”*

In **Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan v. Union of India** (Ref: AIR 2014 SC 1591, at para. 7.), the Supreme Court has unambiguously stated that hate speech is an effort to marginalise individuals based on their membership to a group that can have a social impact. Moreover, the Court stated that hate speech lays the groundwork for broad attacks on the vulnerable that can range from discrimination, to ostracism, deportation, violence, and even to genocide.

The Law Commission Report, 2017 stated that *“hate speech has the potential of provoking individuals or society to commit acts of terrorism, genocides, ethnic cleansing etc. Such speech is*

*considered outside the realm of protective discourse. Indisputably, offensive speech has real and devastating effects on people's lives and risks their health and safety. It is harmful and divisive for communities and hampers social progress. If left unchecked hate speech can severely affect right to life of every individual."*

In the Sudarshan News case (***Firoz Iqbal Khan v UOI – WP[CIV] NO. 956/2020***), the Supreme Court had observed that, *"the edifice of a democratic society committed to the rule of law under a regime of constitutional rights, values and duties is founded on the co-existence of communities. India is a melting pot of civilizations, cultures, religions and languages. Any attempt to vilify a religious community must be viewed with grave disfavour by this Court as the custodian of constitutional values constitutional values demands nothing less."*

Free Speech is not Hate Speech, Hon'ble Sir as the latter often misuses positions of power and privilege to further marginalise and stigmatise a section that is structurally, socially and politically disadvantaged. Unchecked proliferation of such telecasts by the electronic media have the deleterious impact of misinforming and prejudicing public discourse, often as a precursor to social ostracization and even violence.

Further, the broadcast is also prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony and has disturbed public tranquility as it blatantly promotes hatred, distrust and discrimination against the minority community by placing blame on them for some sort of deep-rooted conspiracy against the rest of Indians. In doing so, the statements displace harmony and exacerbate religious tensions by portraying Muslims villains and wrongdoers.

Moreover, these discriminatory statements and unverified claims amount to generating an atmosphere that can lead to mass violence and targeting of the Muslim community. The hatred perpetrated by the Media has destroyed and damaged the lives of ordinary people. Since March 2020, in a seemingly concerted and perpetrated way news broadcasters are misusing and manipulating the term "jihad" and using it as a tool in public discourse to further objectify the Muslim community. Such dehumanisation has resulted in calls for elimination of the community, thus making them targets of vigilante violence.

We, thus, humbly urge this esteemed Authority to take cognizance of this show aired by Times Now Navbharat and take necessary action against them for spreading misinformation and fake news and also in the process hurting the religious sentiments of the minority community.

## **Prayers**

We humbly urge the NBDSA to:

1. Direct the broadcaster to remove this program from all their social media accounts and website.

2. Direct the broadcaster to issue a public apology on its channel for spreading misinformation and communal agenda while abdicating its duty to present verified news to its viewers. This apology should be widely telecast and displayed commensurate to the coverage and promotion of the initial broadcast itself.
3. Direct the broadcaster to refrain from broadcasting or posting any such content which would contravene the tenets of our constitution which promotes harmony, dialogue and fraternity between all sections of Indians
4. Impose monetary penalty upon the broadcaster as it may deem fit
5. Take any other action against the broadcaster that it may deem appropriate

**Declaration to be given as per Regulation 8.4**

- The facts stated in the complaint are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.
- We have placed all relevant facts before the NBDSA and have not concealed any material facts.
- We confirm that no proceedings are pending in any Court of law or other Tribunal or Statutory Authority in respect of the subject matter complained of before the NBDSA.
- We shall inform the NBDSA forthwith if during the pendency of the inquiry before the NBSA the matter alleged in the complaint becomes the subject-matter of any proceedings in a Court of law or other Tribunal or Statutory Authority.

Yours sincerely,

Nandan Maluste, CJP President

Teesta Setalvad, CJP Secretary

**Annexures**

Annexure A- Copy of CJP's complaint to the channel dated January 9, 2023

Annexure B- Video downloaded from Youtube dated January 2, 2023