



Date: March 9, 2023

To,

Suraj Rao

Resident Grievance Officer for YouTube

Email: support-in@google.com

Subject: Complaint against Youtube accounts illegally selling and displaying firearms

Dear Sir,

We, at Citizens for Justice and Peace, are writing to you about our concerns regarding a Youtube channel promoting the sale of firearms. We came across this channel which can be accessed on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/@vishnugang>

It is called 'Vishnu gang' and has 90.2k subscribers and has posted 40 videos. The titles of these videos are clear enough and mention words like 'pistol' 'gun' 'katta' (colloquial term in North India for a gun) which must make it easier for anyone looking for such content to find the channel. The last video was posted just 2 weeks ago.



VISHNU GANG

@vishnugang 90.2K subscribers 40 videos

WELCOME TO MY YOUTUBE CHANNEL VISHNU GANG SAMAN LENE KE LI... >

The men are selling pistols with bullets and asking people to contact them on their Whatsapp number which is available on the channel. **This is a brazen violation of Indian law.**

Further, we also came across another account that displays firearms and bullets called 'Random gun' and account name is @GUNA2Z007. This channel has 14.8k subscribers and has posted 62 videos.

The account can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/@GUNA2Z007>



RANDOM GUN

@GUNA2Z007 14.8K subscribers 62 videos

WELCOME  >

We are sure that you are aware that such sale and display of firearms on Youtube is a violation of its community guidelines on firearms which clearly states:

Don't post content on YouTube if the purpose is to do one or more of the following:

- Sell firearms or certain firearms accessories through direct sales (e.g. private sales by individuals) or links to sites that sell these items.

Here are some examples of content that isn't allowed on YouTube.

- Links in the title or description of your video to sites where firearms or the accessories noted above are sold. You can link to sites that discuss or review these items as long as those sites don't sell those items directly.
- Displaying a firearm with the intention to sell that firearm via private sale. This includes giving the seller's phone number, email address, or other contact information....

It also violates community guidelines on **Sale of illegal or regulated goods or services policies:**

Don't post content on YouTube if it aims to directly sell, link to, or facilitate access to any of the regulated goods and services listed below. Making the sale of these items or facilitating the use of these services possible by posting links, email, phone number or other means to contact a seller directly is not allowed.

This list includes firearms and certain firearms accessories.

The contents of the Vishnu Gang channel clearly violate these guidelines and yet are available on your platform.

It is possible that you may have **failed to monitor** this **gross violation being committed with impunity on your channel displaying such content.** Hence we are urging you to take immediate action against the channel and terminate the channel.

We also urge you to make your mechanism of scrutiny of such accounts stronger so that such content does not reach to such wide audience as there is serious apprehension of misuse and resultant violence by such sale of firearms, which is completely illegal.

A failure to do so not just encourages the culture of impunity towards such offenders but also directly encourages a culture of public violence, prohibited under Indian law.

Such a “sale of firearms” is not only violative of guidelines of Youtube but is also a punishable offence under **Indian penal law. Under the Arms Act, 1959, section 2(1)(c), “arms” includes firearms.**

Section 5 of the Arms Act, 1959 states:

[(1)] No person shall—

- (a) 2[use, manufacture] sell, transfer, convert, repair, test or prove, or
- (b) expose or offer for sale or transfer or have in his possession for sale, transfer, conversion, repair, test or proof,
any firearm or any other arms of such class or description as may be prescribed or any ammunition, unless he holds in this behalf a licence issued in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder...

Evidently, these accounts are illegally selling firearms of various descriptions while displaying a contact number as point of contact for such sale. One does not know how many such illegal and unauthorized sales have been carried out by this channel and its owner.

This requires urgent action and we urge to act immediately to terminate these accounts as they have already reached a wide audience and committed serious criminal offences as per the penal laws of the country.

We hope to hear from you soon.

In anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

Nandan Maluste, CJP President

Teesta Setalvad, CJP Secretary