



Date: April 12, 2023

To,

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**Subject: Complaint against “Black and White show” aired on Aaj Tak on April 6, 2023**

Dear Sir,

We, at Citizens for Justice and Peace are writing to you about a show aired on Aaj Tak called “Black and White Show” aired on April 6, 2023 where the host Sudhir Chaudhary analysed alleged illegal *mazaars* in Uttarakhand. The show can be viewed here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6gb0BqhiQc>

The main contention about the show is how the host, who has inventively come up with terms like “Hard Jihad”, “Soft Jihad” and “Land Jihad” and so on in the past, has now come up with “*Mazaar jibad*”. Such name calling is in clear violation of previous order and reprimands therein and multiple guidelines issued by the NBDSA, to which the channel has clearly turned a deaf ear.

Through time stamps we have extracted some objectionable portions of the show which are the subject of our complaint:

**Time stamp - 3:25:30 to 3:25:48**

*Aaj humane aaj sab ke liye ek hashtag bhi tayaar kia hai aur wo hashtag hai Mazaar jibad. Agar aapki koi tippani hai, koi ray hai toh aap iss hashtag ke saath tweet kar sakte hai. (Today we have created a hashtag for you which is #MazaarJibad. If you have an opinion then you can tweet with this hashtag)*

**Time stamp - 3:28:26 to 3:29:06**

*Lekin aaj jo bada kbhulasa hum kar rabe hai wo ye hai ki jab in mazaro par bulldozer chalaya gaya aur inki jaach hui tab ye pata chala ki in mazaro me jo kabr bani hui hai unn me se zaadatar me kisi bhi mrut vyakti ke avshesh nahi hai. Yani kabr hai aur mazar bhi bani hai lekin us kabr me koi manav avshesh nahi hai. Kyunki ye asli kabr hai hi nahi. ek nakli kabr banai jati hai (We are making a big revelation that when these *mazaars* were demolished with bulldozers and inspected, it was found that the graves did not have any human remains in them. This means that there is grave but there are no human remains. This is because these are not real graves.)*

**Time stamp - 3:32:21 to 3:32:41**

*“Us nakli kabr ko mazar ka naam dia jata hai aur fir uss mazar ka itna visataar ho jata hai ki wo mazar kisi vishal dhaache me badal jati hai aur fir Dheere Dheere log vahar par aakar rehne lagte hai aur isliye hum ise aaj mazar jibad ka naam de rabe hai.”* (The fake grave is then made into a mazaar and then slowly slowly popel start living around the *Mazaar* and that is why we are calling it *Mazaar jibad*)

**Time stamp** - 3:43:53 to 3:44:28

*Lekin agar aapke aas paas agar aapne aisi mazar dekhi hai toh police ko suchit kijiye, prashasan ko suchit kijiye, local MLA ko suchit kijiye aur unse kahiye ki in mazaro ki jaach ki jaye aur agar asli toh rehne dia jaye lekin agar atikraman kia hua hai to uss mazar par bulldozer chalna chiyaye.* (If you find such *mazaar* around you then inform the police, the administration, the local MLA and ask them to find out if they are real and if they are real then they should remain and if it is an encroachment then they should be bulldozed)

He also explained the difference between a Masjid and *Mazaar*. He explained that it is the grave of a sufi saint. He went on to clarify that he is not against any religion or even mosques. He said this analysis is not on real mosques, *mazaars* but only on illegal ones which are built on government lands. Repeatedly throughout the show he prompts viewers to tweet using “*Mazaar Jibad*”. He also analysed a confidential government report describing the modus operandi behind how these illegal *mazaars* are built by capturing government lands. He even showed a list of illegal *mazaars* on the screen.

After he encouraged his viewers to tweet with #*MazaarJibad* it was found that the twitter social media platform was rife with such tweets. This indicates the influence the host has on the public and how he introduces such vitriolic terms denigrating towards the Muslim community and is spreading widespread animosity against the Muslim minority by using such terms to present news. This virality of such news also indicates the dangerous eco-system of hate that it operates in: electronic media (television channels) generating such content, twitter handles many of whom are emanating from orchestrated trolls contributing to its “spread”, hate offenders from among political and socio-religious outfits using such terms in public speeches and, the culmination, the law and order machinery remaining silent. This combined and spiraled impact suggests a design behind this brand of journalism that feeds into social divisiveness in the public sphere.

Any journalist following the principles laid down by the NBDSA and going by journalistic ethics would have just presented the news as whereby a government report has claimed that illegal *mazaars* were found in Uttarakhand and presenting what has been found or alleged. However, Sudhir Chaudhary is one of the main propagators of the Anti-Muslim narrative and while he claims to be neutral by expressly stating so, his so-called neutrality is laid bare when he uses such terms like “*Mazaar Jibad*” and asks people to look around them for mazaars and report them to the police to verify if they are real.

By indulging in such name calling and encouraging people to use that in hashtags is extremely unbecoming of a journalist who claims to be neutral. It was found that many user on Twitter used this hashtag and expressed some anti-Muslim views thus indicating the vast impact this show has had on the public view and how the show has succeeded in its intention of propagating further, the anti-Muslim agenda.



This invoked posts from many users such as these:

<https://twitter.com/RameshwarAryaji/status/1644401388615790592>

<https://twitter.com/randhirnegi9/status/1644395766755266560>

<https://twitter.com/Pradeep040204/status/1644004564654501889>

<https://twitter.com/Vermashok/status/1644008985320902656>

If the intention of the channel was to simply report on the government report and show a ground report, the same would have been only fact based and the show would not have resorted to any kind of name calling of a specific and marginalized section of the population.

### **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, 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 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.

Yours sincerely,

Nandan Maluste, CJP President

Teesta Setalvad, CJP Secretary