

## **Press Council of India**

Item no. Index of adjudications based on the recommendations of the Inquiry Committee.

### **Complaints by the Press** **Section 13**

#### **Inquiry Committee meeting held on 14-15 March, 2017 at Hyderabad**

- 1 Suo-motu cognizance with regard to murder of Shri S. Karthigai Selvan, Journalist of Tamil Weekly magazine in Sattur, Tamil Nadu. (13/209/16-17-PCI)

#### **Inquiry Committee meeting held on April 10 & 11 , 2017 at New Delhi**

- 2 Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. threats to the Journalist by Shri Vijaykant, President, DMDK Party (13/17/16-17)
- 3 Suo-motu cognizance regarding report carried in the Hindu alleged misbehaviour by the President, DMDK Party with the Journalists (13/182/15-16)
- 4 Complaint of Shri Bharat Bhushan Azad, Journalist, Punjabi Tribune, Kotakpura, Punjab against Shri Amrit Pal Singh Bhati, SHO, City Kotakpura Station, Faridkot, Punjab (13/119/14-15)
- 5 Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. murder of Shri Ramchandra Yadav, Journalist, Aryavrat, Darbhanga District of Bihar. (13/175/16-17)
- 6 Complaint of Shri Qutoonbuddin Khan, Press Editor, Budhh Shanti Jansandesh, Kushinagar, UP against Local MP Shri Brahmahankar Tripathi (Cabinet Minister of UP Government) and Police Authorities (13/125/16-17)
- 7 Complaint of Shri Jai Prakash Bharadwaj, Bureau Chief, Dainik Chetna Manch, Ghaziabad, UP against the Police Authorities (13/173/16-17)
- 8 Complaint of Shri Habeeburrahman (Kadam Rasool), Correspondent, Amar Ujala, Bahraich, UP against the Officers of Forest Department (13/163/16-17)
- 9 Complaint of Shri Mohan Nagpal, News Editor/Sr. Journalist, Daily Pilot, Bathinda, Punjab against Inspector General of Police, Bhatinda Range and others. (13/181/16-17)
- 10 Complaint of Shri S. N. Shyam, Journalist, Bihar Press Mens Union, Bahadurpur, Patna against Police Authorities and anti-social elements. (13/154/15-16)
- 11 Complaint of Shri Narendra Patel, Reporter, Bansal News Channel and Shri Jitendra Soni, Reporter, ind-24 News Channel, Satna, MP against Shri Vijay Singh Thakur, Police Station Incharge, Amarpatan, Satna, MP. (13/188/16-17)
- 12 Complaint of Shri Vishwanath Shrivastava, Bureau Chief, Sudarshan Express, Bhind, MP against the Chief Municipal Corporation Officer, Bhind, MP (13/154/16-17)
- 13 Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. registration of a case against the Milli Gazette for allegedly publishing fabricated news (13/229/15-16)
- 14 Complaint of Shri Sayyed Imran Alam, Editor, Aitihashik Sakshya, Lucknow, UP against Shri Tahseen Ahmad, Lucknow and Police Authorities (13/189/16-17)
- 15 Complaint of Shri Ravinaresh Gupta, Correspondent, Dainik Shekhar Times, Shahjahanpur, UP against Shri Sarvesh Sharma, Inspector, P.S. Mirzapur, Shahjahanpur, UP (13/164/16-17)

**Inquiry Committee meeting held on May 15 & 16 , 2017 at New Delhi**

- 16 Complaint of Shri Shamim Khan, Editor, Dainik Mahakaushal Express Sivni, M.P. against the police authorities 13/26/16-17
- 17 Complaint of Md. Sajid Khan, Freelance Journalist, Raisen, M.P. against the Government of M.P. 13/195/16-17
- 18 Complaint of Shri Ramavadh Yadav, Chairman/Journalist, Uttar Pradesh Shramjeevi Patrakar Union, Azamgarh, UP against Shri Ramashray Yadav, Gram Pradhan, Ibrahimpur, Azamgarh 13/146/16-17
- 19 Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. threat to Shri Manoj Kr. Giri, Journalist, Amar Ujala by U.P. State Minister, Shri Radhey Shyam Singh 13/226/16-17
- 20 Complaint of Shri Punyapal Ashok Kumar Shah, Owner/Publisher/Editor, Dakshin Gujarat Vartman, Gujarat against the RNI 13/235/16-17
- 21 Complaint of Shri Avneesh Mishra, Journalist, Swatantra Bharat, Shahjahanpur (UP) against Shri Iftekhar Ahmad, Police Station Incharge, P.S. Khutar, Shahjahanpur and others 13/190/16-17
- 22 Complaint of the Managing Editor, Dainik Hind Gazette, Seoni (M.P.) against Municipal Council, Lakhadon, Seoni (M.P.) 13/176/16-17

**Press Council of India**

Sl.No. 1

File No.13/209/16-17-PCI.

**ADJUDICATION  
DATED 21.06.2017**

**Suo-motu cognizance with regard to murder of Shri S Karthigai Selvan, Journalist of Tamil Weekly Magazine in Sattur, Tamil Nadu.**

**Facts**

A news report that appeared in The Hindu's issue dated 9.1.2017 reporting gruesome murder of Shri S. Kathigai Selvan, Journalist of a Tamil magazine in Sattur (Tamil Nadu) prompted the Council to take suo-motu cognizance of the matter.

It was reported in the news item that Shri Selvan was hacked to death outside Tamil Nadu Hotel on the outskirts of Sattur. The police said an armed gang assaulted Shri Selvan, who was at the hotel, and left him dead in a pool of blood. It was also reported that the Superintendent of Police said that Shri Selvan was also a partner in the leased restaurant of Tamil Nadu Hotel and the motive for the murder was under investigation.

**Reply of Superintendent of Police, Virudhunagar**

Shri M.Rajaranjan, Superintendent of Police, Virudhunagar District, Virudhunagar vide letter dated 9.3.2017 submitted a report stating that that he has conducted a detailed enquiry over the murder of the complainant. According to the report, the complainant was not murdered, in his capacity as a journalist, but due personal enmity with one Athinarayanan and heavy loss incurred by the deceased. He further stated that suitable action has already been initiated against the accused concerned and the investigation is also on the right line.

**Report of the Inquiry Committee**

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 15.3.2017 at Hyderabad, Telangana. Shri A.V.Mathi, Addl. Superintendent of Police, Virudhunagar Distt., Tamil Nadu was present on behalf of the respondent.

The Council took suo motu cognizance when, it came to its notice that a journalist, named Shri S Karthigai Selvan was murdered in Sattur District of the State of Tamil Nadu and called for a report from the State Government. The State Government has submitted its Report. Mr. A.V. Mathi, Additional Superintendent of Police has appeared on behalf of the Director General of Police and Superintendent of Police. He states that in regard to the murder of the journalist, the First Information Report (FIR) was lodged and during the course of investigation, two persons have been arrested and five have surrendered in Court and all of them are in judicial custody. He states that the charge sheet in the case shall be filed within the stipulated period. It may be noted that the journalist has not been murdered in connection with any journalistic work. In view of the aforesaid, the Inquiry Committee is not inclined to proceed in the matter any further and disposes of the matter. It recommends to the Council accordingly.

**Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to dispose of the matter.

**Press Council of India**

Sl.No. 2

F.No.13/17/16-17-PCI

**Suo-motu cognizance with regard to threats to the journalists by Shri Vijayakanth, President, Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK).**

**ADJUDICATION**

**Dated: 21.6.2017**

It came to the notice of the Press Council of India that a prominent politician in Tamil Nadu, Mr. Vijayakanth, Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) reportedly threatened journalists at Salem on 20.4.2016. The news item reported that the DMDK leader and chief ministerial candidate of PWA-DMDK alliance 'Captain' Vijayakanth lost his cool yet again with the journalists in Salem on 20.4.2016. Soon after he alighted from the car to participate in a Consultative Meet with his party candidates for the upcoming Assembly polls, journalists gathered around him to ask questions. A visibly upset, Vijayakanth, folded his tongue and raised his hand as if to assault the media personnel. He then angrily gestured by waving his hands around to make way for him. It was further reported that this is not the first incident that the Captain has been losing his temper, as he had behaved in an unruly manner with the media several times in the past too.

Council took suo-motu cognizance of the matter and response of Shri Vijayakanth, President, DMDK was sought vide Council's letter dated 22.4.2016.

**Written Statement of the respondent**

The Counsel for the respondent vide the written statement dated 23.11.2016 denied that Mr. Vijayakanth had threatened the journalists at Salem, Tamil Nadu on 20.4.2016. He has submitted that on that day when large number of public, his party workers, party people and press people crowded and surrounded Mr. Vijayakanth, then in order to remove crowd and to have a space to go, he had asked his party workers and public to give space to go with his own body language. He alleged that the electronic and print media focused the same as he had threatened the journalist. He has further submitted that the respondent had no intention to threaten any journalist in the open crowd. He has furnished a video CD along with his reply in order to establish his claim that he had no intention to threaten any journalist. He has stated that the respondent have never or ever intend to misbehave with any journalist or reporter. He further stated that in the name of journalist some of the local rowdies and criminals were assembled in front of the respondent and showed slogan against him illegally without any permission. He has submitted that he himself and through his party workers made complaint with the police against the illegal action done by the rowdies in the name of journalist. He further submitted that the respondent also issued a press release dated 31.12.2015 condemning the strangers and local rowdies in the name of journalist who are doing criminal activities against the respondent and his party. He has also enclosed a CD in support of his contention. He has requested the Council to dismiss the suo-motu complaint against the respondent.

**Report of the Inquiry Committee**

The matter came up for final hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 11.4.2017 at New Delhi followed by three adjournments dated 13.7.2016, 6.9.2016 and 6.2.2017.

The complainant is not present whereas Shri G.S.Mani, Advocate appeared for the respondent.

Shri G.S.Mani, Advocate appearing on behalf of the respondent conveys that respondent had expressed regret for the incident and assured that he will not behave in the same way in future.

In view of the Regret and Assurance given by the respondent, the Inquiry Committee is not inclined to proceed any further in the matter. The Inquiry Committee, accordingly, recommends for disposal of the case.

**Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to dispose of the matter.

## **Press Council of India**

Sl. No. 3

F.No.13/182/15-16-PCI

**Suo-motu cognizance regarding report carried in The Hindu with regard to alleged misbehaviour by the President, DMDK Party with the journalists.**

### **Adjudication** **Dated 21.6.2017**

Attention of the Council was drawn towards alleged misbehaviour of Shri Vijayakanth, President, Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) with the journalists on 27.12.2015 by spitting on them and questioning their credentials at a press conference. A news report published in The Hindu, Chennai reported that DMDK leader, Shri Vijayakant turned his ire on the media when asked if the AIADMK had any chance of returning to power after the 2016 Assembly polls. Attending a blood donation camp organised by his party, he spat on the mike of satellite channels and wondered whether they had the guts to pose a similar question to Chief Minister, Ms. Jayalalithaa. It was further reported that this was not the first time that Shri Viajayakant had reacted with caustic words in a press conference. A few months ago, he embarrassed leaders of multi-party delegation that met Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi when he reacted furiously to media questions. The behaviour of the leader of opposition evoked strong condemnation across social media and from journalists.

Taking a suo-motu cognizance of the matter, response of Shri Vijayakant, President, DMDK was sought vide Council's letter dated 4.1.2016.

### **Written Statement**

Shri G.S. Mani, Advocate reply on behalf of the respondent dated 23.11.2016 in which he denied of spiting at any press reporter or press or media on 27.12.2015. He has submitted that on 27.12.2015, the press reporters and journalists belonging to the ruling party and other opponent party and intentionally and repeatedly asked irrelevant questions and compel him to answer for that which is totally unethical. He has stated that the alleged spitting is not at all spitting as the same is a body language. He has submitted that a video clip is produced with this reply can establish that the respondent had no intention to spite at any journalist. (It is pertinent to mention here that no video CD was attached with the reply. He has requested the Council to dismiss the suo-motu complaint against the respondent. He has stated that the respondent has never or ever intent to misbehave with any journalist or reporter. He further stated that in the name of journalist some of the local rowdies and criminals assembled in front of the respondent and shouted slogan against the respondent. He has submitted that the respondent himself and through his party workers lodged complaint with the police against the illegal action done by the rowdies in the name of journalist. He further submitted that the respondent also issued a press release dated 31.12.2015 condemning the behaviour of strangers and local rowdies in the name of journalist who are doing criminal activities against the respondent and his party.

### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

Following three adjournments dated 13.7.2016, 6.9.2016 and 6.2.2017, the matter came up for final hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 10.4.2017 at New Delhi.

Mr. G.S. Mani, Advocate appearing on behalf of the respondent conveys that the respondent had expressed regret for the incident and assured against repetition of such conduct in future.

Observing that it does not behove a public person to conduct himself in view of the regret and assurance given by the respondent, the Inquiry Committee is not inclined to proceed in the matter any further.

The Inquiry Committee, accordingly, recommends for disposal of the complaint.

**Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons findings and adopts the report of the Committee and decide to **Dispose of** the matter.

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**

Sl. No. 4

File No. 13/119/14-15-PCI

Shri Bharat Bhushan Azad,  
Journalist, Punjabi Tribune,  
Faridkot, Punjab.

The Chief Secretary,  
Government of Punjab,  
Chandigarh.

The Secretary,  
Home (Police) Department,  
Government of Punjab,  
Chandigarh.

Director General of Police,  
Punjab Police,  
Chandigarh.

Superintendent of Police,  
Faridkot (Punjab)

Shri Amrit Pal Singh Bhati,  
S.H.O., Kotakpura Police  
Station,  
Faridkot, Punjab.

**Adjudication**  
**Dated 21.6.2017**

This complaint dated 8.11.2014 has been filed by Shri Bharat Bhushan Azad, Journalist, Punjabi Tribune, Faridkot, Punjab against Shri Amrit Pal Singh Bhati, S.H.O. Kotakpur Police Station, Faridkot, Punjab Government of Punjab alleging mental and physical harassment by not taking any action on his complaint of threatening phone calls. The complainant stated that to cover a news regarding kidnapped children when he reached Faridkot on 12.9.2014, Shri Amrit Pal Singh Bhati, SHO, Kotakpura Police Station arrested him along with demonstrators and released him at 9 p.m. Thereafter, the complainant received numerous threat calls. He filed a complaint on 2.11.2014 in this regard in police station Kotakpura, who did not take any action in the matter. In his support the complainant had filed copies his critical writings against local Administration/Police published in Punjabi language (along with English translation) and requested the Council to take action in the matter.

A Notice for Statement in Reply was issued to the respondents on 21.1.2015 followed by a Time Bound Reminder dated 1.5.2015.

**Report form District Magistrate, Faridkot**

The District Magistrate, Faridkot vide his letter dated 14.12.2016 has submitted that the inquiry was conducted by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Faridkot. In the report it has been stated that as per the police record, inquiries were conducted on dated 2.1.2015 by Sh. Bikramjit Singh, P.P.S., Superintendent of Police (Investigation),

Faridkot and on 4.2.2016 by Sh. Baljit Singh, P.P.S., Deputy Superintendent of Police (Sub-Division), Kotakpura. To maintain law and order duty at the place of organised protest with regard to missing children, ASI, Gurmit Singh was deployed on duty to counter the agitation of agitators. In this agitation, 21 agitators were arrested and were brought to the police station City Kotakpura and the complainant, Shri Bharat Bhushan Azad was one of the agitators. Vide DDR No. 29 dated 12.9.2014 u/s 107/151 Cr.P.C., the agitators were presented before the Executive Magistrate, Kotakpura at 8.30 pm, and later released them immediately custody at the same time. Regarding allegations against unknown persons of threatening him on his mobile has revealed that a call was made by one Manjinder Singh @ Kalu r/o Village Dhilwan Kalan and Gurpreet Singh r/o Kotakpura who are minor in age and they are working in Baba Milk Plant, Kotakpura. The above said persons in their statement had said that the call was made by mistake to the complainant and they also felt sorry for this. However, during inquiry, harassment made by the Inspector Amritpal Singh Bhatti to the complainant, has not come to the notice, Hence, keeping in view the facts of above said report, this complaint may be filed.

#### **Reply of Shri Amrit Pal Singh Bhati, SHO, Kotakpura**

Respondent no. 5, Shri Amrit Pal Singh Bhati, SHO, Kotakpura vide his undated reply received in the Secretariat on 23.12.2015 has stated that there is no merit in the complaint and the Council does not carry any jurisdiction to take up the matter. He has requested to dismiss the same.

#### **Response from the Complainant**

The complainant in his letter which was received in the Secretariat of the Council on 14.2.2017 has alleged that the respondent has not made inquiry from the Civil officer but it was done by a Senior Superintendent of Police, Faridkot which is in violation of the orders of the Council. He has requested the Council to direct the respondent to get the inquiry conducted from a Civil officer.

#### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

Following several adjournments, the matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 10.4.2017 at New Delhi. Despite service of notice, there is no appearance on behalf of the complainant, while Mr. Jasvinder Singh, S.P. Headquarter, Faridkot appeared on behalf of the respondent. He has produced letter dated 8.4.2017 before the Committee signed by the complainant, Shri Bharat Bhushan Azad. In the said application, the complainant has prayed for withdrawal of the complaint. The Inquiry Committee talked to the complainant on his mobile number and being satisfied that he had filed the application grant permission to withdraw the complaint.

The Inquiry Committee, accordingly, recommends for disposal of the complaint as withdrawn.

#### **Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons findings and adopts the report of the Committee and decides to **Dispose of** the case being withdrawn.

## **Press Council of India**

Sl. No. 5

F.No.13/175/16-17-PCI

**Suo-motu cognizance with regard to murder of Shri Ramchandra Yadav, Journalist, Aryavrat, Darbhanga (Bihar).**

### **Adjudication** **Dated 21.6.2017**

The Press Council of India in a suo-motu cognizance took note of reports of gruesome murder of Shri Ramchandra Yadav, Journalist, Dainik Aryavrat, Darbhanga District of Bihar, who was shot dead by unidentified assailants on 12.11.2016 while he was returning home after meeting a local Block Development Officer, Kusheshwar Asthan police said the culprits fired Yadav at the back, killing him instantly. It was further reported that Shri Yadav was working for a Hindi daily before he became the Mukhia.

Report on facts of the case was called for from the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar, Director General of Police, Bihar Police, Patna and Superintendent of Police, Darbhanga vide Council's letter dated 15.11.2016.

### **Comments**

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Dharbhanga has submitted the Report on the fact of the case. Report states that on 11.11.2016, the journalist, Shri Ramchandra Yadav was murdered and a case no. 231/16 u/s 302/34 IPC and 27 of Arms Act was registered on 11.11.2016 in Kusheshwar PS. In the FIR, the name of Sikander Yadav, Vinod Yadav, Praveen Yadav, Surender Yadav, Rasiklal Yadav and Trupeet Narayan Yadav were registered as accused. On 29.11.2016, the accused Trupeet yadav and Sikander Yadav were arrested and sent to the judicial custody. Another accused Rasiklal Yadav surrendered on 7.12.2016 before the Court and is in judicial custody.

The Inspector General of Police (Provision), Bihar Patna vide his letter dated 17.2.2017 has forwarded the same report.

The Sub-Division Police Officer, Biraul vide his letter dated 6.4.2017 submitted the same report in which it has been mentioned that a charge sheet no. 14/17 u/s 302/120B IPC and 27 of Arms Act has been filed on 25.2.2017 against three accused and an impoundment confiscation action is initiated against the remaining accused.

### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

Following an adjournment dated 6.2.2017, the matter came up for final hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 10.4.2017 at New Delhi. Shri Suresh Kumar, SDPO, Biraul, Darbhanga appeared on behalf of SSP, Dharbhanga.

The Council took suo-motu cognizance when it came to its notice that one journalist namely Shri Ramachandra Yadav was murdered and called for a report from the State Government and the Superintendent of Police. The report has been submitted and from its perusal, it is evident that for the murder of the said journalist, Shri Kusheshwar Asthan PS case no. 231/16 u/s 302/34 IPC and 27 Arms Act has been registered, on the statement of the son of the deceased. Further, during the course of the investigation, several accused have been arrested. From the perusal of FIR as also from

the result of the investigation, it is evident that the said journalist had left the profession in the year 2001 and thereafter entered politics and the murder had taken place because of the property dispute and not in relation to a journalistic work.

In that view of the matter, the Inquiry committee is not inclined to proceed in the case any further and recommends for its disposal.

**Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons findings and adopts the report of the Committee and decides to **drop the suo-motu proceedings**.

**Press Council of India**

Sl.No. 6

File No.13/125/16-17-PCI.

**Complainant**

Sh. Kitabuddin Khan,  
Press Editor,  
Buddha Shanti Jansandesh,  
Kushinagar (U.P.).

**Respondents**

The Chief Secretary,  
Government of U.P.,  
Lucknow.

The Secretary,  
Home (Police) Department,  
Government of U.P.  
Lucknow.

Shri Brahamshankar Tripathi,  
Cabinet Minister, Govt. of U.P.,  
Lucknow.

The Superintendent of Police,  
Kushinagar (U.P.).

Shri Omprakash Rai,  
Station House Officer,  
Police Station-Vishanpura,  
Kushinagar (U.P.).

Shri Gyanendra Shukla,  
Inspector,  
Padrona, Kushinagar (U.P.).

Shri Durgesh Kumar Singh,  
Chowki Incharge, Sidhua Bazar,  
Under Police Station-Padrona,  
Kushinagar (U.P.)

Shri Atul Sharma,  
Former Superintendent of Police,  
Kushinagar (U.P.).

Shri Vinay Kumar Singh,  
A.S.P. Crime,  
Gorakhpur (U.P.).

Shri Prakash Shukla,  
Deputy District Collector,  
Tehsil Kasya, Kushinagar (U.P.).

Shri Vinay Pathak,  
Station House Officer, PS-Kasya,  
Kushinagar (U.P.).

## **ADJUDICATION**

**Dated: 21.6.2017**

Shri Kitabuddin Khan, Press Editor, Buddha Shanti Sandesh, Kushinagar (U.P.) in his complaint dated 16.8.2016 has alleged that the local MLA-Shri Brahamshanakar Tripathi (Cabinet Minister, Government of U.P.) has been continuously harassing him and his family for the last three years and also registering false cases with the connivance of the police authorities. The complainant further alleged that government authorities are not providing information/records due to which he is facing difficulty in publishing the newspaper. The complainant alleged that he is also being deprived from the government schemes. The complainant submitted that he complained to the National Human Rights Commission in this regard in the year 2009. Pursuant to this, the Superintendent of Police, Kushinagar assured him that they will take action if any incident comes into light but despite that criminal cases are being registered against him. According to the complainant, he filed written complaints to the Station House Officer, Police Station-Kasya on 4.1.2016 and 11.1.2016 with regard to encroachment on his land and manhandling by his co-partner but no was action taken by the police against the guilty. The complainant further informed that he also filed his complaint on the portal of Chief Minister of U.P. wherein the Superintendent of Police, Kushinagar was directed to look into the matter. The Superintendent of Police, Kushinagar forwarded his complaint to the SHO, Kasya for necessary action on 26.2.2016 but on the contrary, SHO filed a criminal case under Section 107/116 against him and an investigation report was forwarded to the Deputy District Magistrate, Kasya, who issued a bailable notice on 9.3.2016. The complainant, who was challenged by the notice and case filed against him. Hon'ble District Judge vide order dated 20.5.2016. The complainant submitted that he wrote several complaints in this regard to His Excellency President of India, Prime Minister, Chief Minister of U.P. and others but no action was taken. While requesting for condonation of delay in filing the complaint, he has requested the Council to take necessary action in the matter.

Notices for Statement in Reply were issued to the respondents-Government of U.P. and Shri Braham Shankar Tripathi, Cabinet Minister of Government of U.P. on 13.12.2016.

### **Written Statement of Superintendent of Police**

The respondent-Shri Atul Sharma, Superintendent of Police, Oraiya (former SP, Kushinagar) vide his reply dated 25.12.2016 while denying the allegations levelled by the complainant submitted that there was a family property dispute between the complainant and his brothers. With a view to maintaining law and order, a report was sent to the Deputy District Magistrate, Kasya for registering the case under Section 107/116 wherein a Notice dated 31.3.2016 under Section 111 was issued to the complainant and others. Since the complainant did not appear on appointed date, a warrant was issued against the complainant, however, on the appeal of the complainant the same was rejected by the Deputy DM's order dated 20.5.2016. The respondent alleged that the complainant levelled false and baseless allegations against the police with a view to pressurise them for taking action against his brothers. The allegation of any torcher and raid, the respondent stated that the matter is related to family property dispute, which is pending consideration before court of law. The respondent further stated that the complaint is false and baseless and is liable to be dismissed.

### **Counter Comments**

The complainant vide his counter comments dated 8.1.2017 while reiterating his complaint, alleged that the written statement of respondent-Superintendent of Police is inaccurate, false, misleading, baseless and completely distorted. The complainant stated that the reply of the respondent is not accordance with his complaint and liable to be rejected. He has requested the Council to take necessary action against the respondents.

A copy of the counter comments was forwarded to the respondents on 22.3.2017.

### **Further communication of the complainant**

The complainant vide letter dated 8.4.2017 submitted that his mother is a landlord in the matter. A case No.493/15 has been registered in the court in the name of distribution of property and for maintenance of peace to avoid dispute amongst the family members. However, by making the distribution with consignment and forcefully, the respondents are making efforts to eject the complainant from home/office. He requested to take the decision accordingly.

### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 10.4.2017 at New Delhi. Sh. Kitabuddin Khan, the complainant appeared in person whereas Shri Arun Kumar Chaubai, Sub Inspector, Police Station- Kasaya, Janpad represented Superintendent of Police, Kushinagar.

The Inquiry Committee has perused the complainant, the written statement and all other connected papers. The grievance of the complainant is that he has been unnecessary harassed by the police. The Inquiry Committee is of the opinion that the grievance of the complainant is absolutely misconceived. It seems that there is dispute amongst the family members of the journalist over the property and for maintenance of peace the police authorities had to submit report to the Magistrate for appropriate action.

The Inquiry Committee finds no merit in the grievance of the complainant and, accordingly, recommends for its dismissal.

### **Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decided to dismiss the complaint.

## **Press Council of India**

Sl. No. 7

File No.13/173/16-17-PCI.

### **Complainant**

Shri Jai Prakash Bhardwaj,  
Bureau Chief,  
Dainik Chetna Manch,  
C-16, Vikram Enclave,  
Shalimar Garden, P.S. Sahibabad,  
Ghaziabad, U.P

6. The District Collector,  
District Ghaziabad, UP

### **Respondent**

1. The Chief Secretary,  
Government of Uttar Pradesh,  
Lucknow, UP

7. The Superintendent of Police  
Ghaziabad, UP

2. The Secretary,  
Home (Police) Department,  
Government of UP, Lucknow,  
U.P

8. Shri Krishnapali  
Chief Head Constable,  
Police Station, Sahibabad,  
S.O.G, Ghaziabad, UP

3. The Director General,  
Government of Uttar Pradesh,  
Lucknow, UP

9. Shri Pankaj Sharma,  
Constable,  
P.S. Sahibabad, S.O.G,  
Ghaziabad, UP

4. Shiv Vipin Kumar,  
Constable,  
P.S. Sahibabad, S.O.G,  
Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh

5. Shri Ravinder Yadav,  
Constable,  
P.S. Sahibabad, SOG,  
Ghaziabad, UP

## **Adjudication** **Dated 21.06.2017**

This complaint dated 2.11.2016 has been filed by Shri Jai Prakash Bhardwaj, Bureau Chief, Dainik Chetna Manch, Ghaziabad, U.P. against the police personnel for allegedly misbehaving and threatening him during collection of news.

The complaint submitted that on 24.10.2016 while he was covering an incident of manhandling by policemen in plain clothes of four gas cylinder delivery boys, the SOG policemen, Sahibabd mal-treated him, trying to snatch his mobile and threatened him with dire consequences. The complainant further informed that the policemen were aware that he is a journalist and he had also shown them his ID proof before the incident took place. He wrote to the Home Minister, Chief Minister.

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 10.4.2017 at New Delhi. The complainant, Shri Jaiprakash Bharadwaj appeared in person. Shri Anoop Kumar Singh, FPS (ASP), GZB appeared on behalf of the respondent.

The complainant confirm that he does not want to proceed in the matter any further.

In view of the aforesaid, the Inquiry Committee is not inclined to proceed in the matter nay further and recommends for its disposal.

**Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons findings and adopts the report of the Committee and decides to **Dispose of** the complaint as matter settled between the Parties.

**Press Council of India**

Sl. No. 8

File No.13/163/16-17-PCI.

**Complainant**

Sh. Habiburrehman @ KadamRasul,  
Corespondent,  
Amar Ujala,  
Bahraich (U.P.).

**Respondents**

The Chief Secretary,  
Government of U.P.,  
Lucknow.

The Secretary,  
Home (Police) Department,  
Government of U.P.,  
Lucknow.

The District Collector,  
District Bahraich (U.P.).

The Superintendent of Police,  
District Bahraich (U.P.).

Shri J.N. Singh,  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Forest Division, KatarniyaGhat,  
District Bahraich (U.P.).

The Range Officer,  
Forest Division, KatarniyaGhat,  
District Bahraich (U.P.).

The Station House Officer,  
Police Station Sujoli,  
District Bahraich (U.P.).

**Adjudication**  
**Dated 21.6.2017**

This undated complaint received in the Secretariat of the Council on 24.10.2016 has been filed by Shri Habiburrehman @ Kadam Rasul, Correspondent, Amar Ujala, Bahraich (U.P.) against the officers of Forest Department, Bahraich for allegedly implicating him in false case as a reprisal measure due to publication of critical writings. According to the complainant, he exposed the misdeeds prevailing in the forest department through column of his newspaper due to which the officers of the forest department harbour personal animosity against him. The complainant further informed that on 7.8.2016 one holy man (Baba Hujur) had expired in Bichchiya Bazar and his funeral rites were conducted by the local people in the reserved forest area. The complainant stated that he was also there for collection of news due to which the officers of forest department registered a case No.0715/16 on 8.7.2016 in Police Station-Sujoli against the 24 local residents including him and his two sons under Sections 142/143/186/188/153A/332/33 IPC and Forest Protection Act. Later on, Section 153A was removed by the Investigation Officer and a chargesheet was filed under general sections. The complainant submitted that he drew the attention of the respondent-Range

Officer, Katarniya Ghat on 3.12.2016 in this regard. He has requested the Council to take necessary action in the matter.

Notices for Statement in Reply were issued to the respondents-Government of U.P. and Forest Officers concerned on 8.12.2016.

### **Written Statement of Regional Forest Officer**

The Regional Forest Officer, Katarniya Ghat Range, Bahriach vide his written statement dated 25.12.2016, while denying the allegation, has stated that the complaint is false and baseless. The respondent alleged that the complainant is habitual of publishing false news against the officers/employees and villagers with a view to harass them and in this way he defames the profession of journalism. According to the respondent, the complainant described himself as main Sewak of Baba Hujur in the news items published in Amar Ujala under the caption "संत बाबा हूजूर का निधन बिछिया में उमडे अनुयायी" and "बाबा के अंतिम दर्शन को उमडे अनुयायी". Besides, the complainant assembled thousands of people on loudspeaker, hence, the complainant was not present there in his capacity as a journalist and thereby violated the Rules of Forest Department. While denying the allegation of curtailment of freedom of press, the respondent stated that State Administration has taken cognizance of the incident and the matter is pending consideration before the Hon'ble court of law.

### **Written Statement of Superintendent of Police, Bahraich**

The Superintendent of Police, Bahriach vide his written Statement dated 26.1.2017 has informed that the matter was investigated by the Circle Officer, Nanapara, Bahraich and it was found that case No.0715/16 registered on 8.7.2016 in Police Station-Sujoli against the complainant and others under Sections 142/143/186/188/153A/332/33 IPC and several Forest Protection Act. During the investigation, the allegations have been proved against the complainant and other accused and a chargesheet No. A/109 dated 25.11.2016 has been filed.

### **Further response from Regional Forest Officer**

The Regional Forest Officer, Katarniya Ghat Range, Bahriach vide his further response dated 31.3.2017 has stated that on 6.10.2016 Baba Hujur had expired in Bichchiya Bazar and his funeral rites were conducted by the local people in the reserved forest area. He has stated that a huge crowd gathered in the funeral of Baba Hujur and three people named Bahadur Singh, Rajesh Ojha and Uvesh Rehman tried to build a mazaar on the forest land where Baba Huzur was buried and it was in violation of Forest Acts. He has further stated that the complainant is in one of several persons who were involved in spreading communal tension in the forest area by building a mazaar in forest areas. He has submitted that the complainant has provided wrong information about the death of Baba Huzur that he died on 7.8.2016 while the truth is that he died on 6.10.2016.

### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 10.4.2017 at New Delhi. There was no appearance on behalf of the complainant, despite service of notice. Shri Saurabh, Inspector, Crime Branch, Behariach and Shri Ranikrishan Pratap Singh, Regional Forest Officer, Katarniya Ghat Range, Behariach appeared for the respondents.

The Inquiry Committee has perused the complaint, the written statement filed by the Regional Forest Officer and the Superintendent of Police. From the perusal of the report of the Superintendent of Police, it is evident that after investigation, the allegation has been found to be true and accordingly, the complainant and others have been charge-sheeted.

In view of the aforesaid, the Inquiry Committee is not inclined to proceed with the complaint any further.

The Inquiry Committee recommends for the disposal of the complaint.

**Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons findings and adopts the report of the Committee and decides to **Dispose of** the complaint.

**Press Council of India**

Sl.No. 9

File No.13/181/16-17-PCI.

**Complainant**

Shri Mohan Nagpal,  
News Editor,  
Daily Pilot,  
Bhatinda (Punjab)

**Respondents**

The Chief Secretary,  
Government of Punjab,  
Chandigarh.

The Inspector General of Police,  
Bhatinda Range,  
Bhatinda (Punjab)

**ADJUDICATION**

**Dated: 21.6.2017**

This complaint dated 10.11.2016 was filed by Shri Mohan Nagpal, News Editor/Sr. Journalist, Daily Pilot, Bhatinda (Punjab) against the Inspector General of Police, Bhatinda Range, Bhatinda (Punjab) for allegedly filing false FIR against him. According to the complainant, he published two news items in his newspaper under the captions “प्रेस क्लब के नाम पर पत्रकारों को धमकियां और गुण्डागर्दी” and “पंजाब केसरी का पत्रकार जसकरण मीत उर्फ मीता उर्फ काला कर रहा प्रेस क्लब के नाम पर गुण्डागर्दी” in its issues dated 22.9.2016 and 26.9.2016. The complainant further informed that earlier he had filed a criminal complaint against some members of “Bhatinda Press Club” before a judicial court, which is still pending whereas the “Press Club of Reporters” at Bhatinda is running parallel and he is the President of this Club. The complainant alleged that in retaliation to this groupism and avenge publication of above said news, some members of Bhatinda Press Club influenced Shri S.K. Asthana, IGP at Bhatinda and alleged that he (the complainant) attacked one person Shri Jaskaran Meet, Press Reporter with lethal weapons and without going into the facts an inquiry, the IGP ordered an inquiry after registering a police case in PS-Civil Lines, Bhatinda under Section 341/323 ST Act. The complainant stated that the IGP did not even bother to call him as how a person of 70 years, patient of blood sugar and hypertension, can attack a person 35-years-old. The complainant stated that in order to oblige a group of reporter IGP took such extreme step of discriminating nature. The complainant has written to the IGP, Bhatinda Range on 2.11.2016 and demanded high level enquiry. The complainant has filed an Affidavit that the subject matter of the complaint is not pending before any judicial court at Bhatinda. He has requested the Council to hold an inquiry in the interest of justice and also in the interest of maintaining the freedom of press.

Notices for Statement in Reply were issued to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab, Chandigarh and the Inspector General of Police, Bhatinda Range, Bhatinda on 8.12.2016 but no reply was received from them.

**Report of the Inquiry Committee**

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 10.4.2017 at New Delhi. The complainant was not present whereas Shri Naveen Saini, AIG (Crime Branch) represented the respondent Inspector General of Police, Bhatinda Range, Punjab Police.

Shri Naveen Saini, the AIG (Crime) appears on behalf of the respondent. The complainant by mail dated 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 has communicated to the Council that he does

not want to proceed further in the matter as the FIR No.168 dated 29.9.2016 of PS-Civil Lines, Bhatinda has been cancelled.

Inquiry Committee gives permission to the complainant to withdraw the complaint.

The Inquiry Committee, accordingly, recommends closure of case for being withdrawn.

**Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to close the case for being withdrawn.

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**

Sl. No. 10

F.No.13/154/15-16-PCI

Shri S.N. Shyam,  
Journalist/State President,  
Bihar Press Men's Union,  
Patna

The Chief Secretary,  
Government of Bihar,  
Patna.

Secretary,  
Home(Police) Department,  
Government of Bihar,  
Patna.

The Director General of Police,  
Bihar Police,  
Patna

**Adjudication**  
**Dated 21.6.2017**

This complaint dated 3.11.2015 has been filed by Shri S.N. Shyam, journalist/State President, Bihar Press Men's Union, Patna regarding attack and police atrocities on journalists in Bihar. The complainant cited following few incidents:

1. दिनांक 30.9.2015 को सीतामढ़ी के वरीय स्वतंत्र पत्रकार व दैनिक जागरण के पूर्व पत्रकार श्री अजय विद्रोही की अज्ञात हमलावरों द्वारा गोली मारकर हत्या कर दी। इस संबंध में थाना सीतामढ़ी टाउन में कांड सं 790/2015के तहत भा दँ वि की धारा 302/34 एवं 27 आर्म्स अक्ट में अज्ञात हमलावरों के विरुद्ध मामला दर्ज किया गया है परंतु पुलिस अभी तक मामले का उद्भेदन तक नहीं कर पाई है।
2. दिनांक 27.9.2015 को प्रैस छायाकार श्री राजेश झा) आज तक,(श्री शशिउत्तम) हिंदुस्तान (और श्री जुलेका रइत्यादि को समाचार संकलन के दौरान पुलिस द्वारा बुरी तरह पीटा गया।
3. बांका में मासिक पत्रिका के स्थानीय रिपोर्टर श्री संजीव कुमार के साथ पुलिस दारोगा ने व्यवहार व गाली गलोच किया।
4. मुजफ्फरपुर में पत्रकार नवीस कुमार रंजन को पुलिस ने झूटे मामले में फंसाकर जेल भेज दिया।
5. भागलपुर में एक प्रैस छायाकार श्री अजित कुमार झा को अज्ञात हमलावरों ने बुरी तरह पीटा।
6. आई-नैक्सट के छायाकार श्री मनीष कुमार की अपराधियों ने म्कोतो क्यक्ले छीन ली व उनकी पत्नी के रुपेय व गहने लूट लिए। पुलिस द्वारा कोई कारवाही नहीं की गई।
7. 24.9.2015को गया के दैनिक भास्कर के पत्रकार श्री मिथिलेश पांडे की गोली मारकर हत्या कर दी गई।
8. कैमूर के पत्रकार श्री देवव्रत की हमलावरों द्वारा हत्या की कोशिश की गई। पुलिस द्वारा कोई कारवाई नहीं की गई।
9. फुलवारी शरीफ के प्रैस छायाकार श्री सुधीर सिंह की कुछ माह पूर्व गोली मारकर हत्या कर दी गई। पुलिस द्वारा कोई कारवाही नहीं हुई।
10. पटना में दिनांक 2.11.2015 को पत्रकार श्री आनंद कुमार को थानेदार ने जान से मारने की धमकी दी। एसएसपी द्वारा कोई कारवाई नहीं की गई।

The complainant prayed before the Council to enact a "Journalist Protection Act" and take action against the erring officials.

Notice for Statement in Reply was issued to the respondent Government of Bihar on 27.11.2015.

### **Complainant's Further Communication's**

The complainant vide his letter dated 13.7.2016 apprised the Council about several other incidents of attack on journalists in Bihar and sought that law be made for security of journalists and also that the Home Minister himself at his level initiate necessary action in the matter.

The complainant vide his letter dated 22.1.2017 has stated that Bihar Police had not taken action on the Council's order and alleged that police is harassing the journalists. On 21.1.2017, Inspector of Madhepura PS misbehaved and beaten the State Head of Sadhna Plus and also snatched his mobile, camera and threatened to kill him. He further informed that on the same day Shikarpur Police arrested a journalist, Shri Manjay Lal at around 10.30 pm.

The complainant vide his further letter dated 6.9.2016 and 13.7.2016 has brought to the notice of the Council about the other incidents of harassment to the journalists by the Bihar Police.

### **Comments from Inspector General of Police, Patna**

The IGP, Patna, Bihar vide his letter dated 1.9.2016 has submitted the Action Taken Report on the incidents relating to attack on journalists and police atrocities in Bihar. In the Report, he has stated that the allegations of assault on the journalists by the police have not been found correct. Due and appropriate enquiry was conducted on the complaints filed by the journalists and their relatives without any delay. It has been further stated that the police is committed to provide security to the journalists and if any complaint received, necessary action will definitely be initiated on the complaint.

The IGP, Patna Bihar vide his further letter dated 6.3.2017, while providing a detailed report on the actions initiated over the incidents on assault on journalists as provided by the complainant, has stated that the investigation in the matter is pending and necessary directions were given to the concerned Superintendent of Police to complete the investigation and furnish the Report.

The IGP, Patna Bihar vide his further letter dated 30.3.2017 furnished the action taken on the incidents of assault on journalists and in one of the cases Charge sheet has been filed while investigation in other cases is pending.

### **Reply from the Complainant**

In response to the Report of the Inspector General of Police dated 1.9.2016, the complainant vide his letter dated 4.12.2016 has stated that the said Report is incomplete and is self-made and factless. Rejecting this Report he requested the Council to direct the police for security of the journalists.

### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

Following three adjournments dated 13.7.2016, 6.9.2016 and 7.2.2017, the matter came up for final hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 11.4.2017 at New Delhi. There was no appearance on behalf of the complainant while Shri Vivekanand, AIG(Q) appeared on behalf of the respondent. The Inquiry Committee has considered the record.

This complaint has been filed by the President of the Bihar Press Men Union. In the complaint, he had narrated the incidents involving the journalists. Mr. Vivekanand, AIG(Q) has appeared on behalf of the respondent and has given details of the result of the investigation of cases in which the journalists are involved. He assures the Council that whenever any case involving journalists shall come to the notice of the Government, it will be investigated expeditiously.

The Inquiry Committee is satisfied with the assurance given and recommends for the disposal of the complaint.

### **Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons findings and adopts the report of the Committee and **Dispose of** the complaint on assurance given by the State Government.

## **Press Council of India**

Sl. No. 11

F.No.13/188/16-17-PCI.

### **Complainants**

Shri Narendra Patel,  
Reporter,  
Bansal News Channel,  
Satna (M.P.)

Shri Jitendra Soni,  
Reporter,  
Ind-24 News Channel,  
Satna (M.P.)

### **Respondents**

The Chief Secretary,  
Govt. of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal (M.P.).

The Secretary,  
Home (Police) Department,  
Govt. of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal (M.P.).

The Director General of Police,  
Madhya Pradesh Police,  
Bhopal (M.P.)

The District Collector,  
Satna (M.P.).

The Superintendent of Police,  
Satna (M.P.).

Shri Vijay Singh Thakur,  
Station House Officer,  
Police Station-Amarpatan,  
Satna (M.P.).

### **Adjudication** **Dated 21.6.2017**

Shri Narendra Patel, Reporter, Bansal News Channel and Shri Jitendra Soni, Reporter, Ind-24 News Channel, Satna (M.P.) in their joint undated complaint, received in the Secretariat of the Council on 22.11.2016, alleged that Shri Vijay Singh Thakur, Station House Officer, Police Station-Amarpatan, Satna (M.P) had brutally beaten them and implicated them in false case. According to the complainants, the news regarding illegal activities of Shri Vijay Singh Thakur was telecast on their reports on 4.11.2016 in the regional news channels. Annoyed with this, the respondent threatened to implicate them in false cases. The complainants submitted that they wrote to the Director General of Police, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal and Superintendent of Police, Satna in this regard on 8.11.2016 and 11.11.2016 respectively but no action was taken. The complainants alleged that on the mid-night of 13/14.11.2016 the respondent-Shri Vijay Singh Thakur and his staff forcibly entered their houses and started to beat them brutally and also misbehaved with ladies in the family. The respondent took them to the Police Station and registered false case under Arms Act. The complainant has requested to take necessary action against the guilty policemen.

A Report on facts of the case was called for from the respondent-Government of Madhya Pradesh vide Council's letter dated 14.12.2016.

### **Comments**

The Superintendent of Police, Satna, M.P. vide his letter dated 31.1.2017 has submitted a Report on the facts of the case. In his report, it has been stated that a case No. 385/16 u/s 20B of NDPC Act was registered against an accused namely Shri Rajesh Kushwaha in Amarpatan PS who was taken into judicial custody. The complainant, Shri Narendra Patel came to the police station and requested the SHO to release the accused. The SHO objected to such request and asked the complainant to go outside. Upon which, the complainant got angry and started abusing him and also threatened him. The SHO registered the entire incident in the Diary Register no. 18 at around 13.58 pm. It has also been stated that on 14.11.2016, the SHO Vijay Singh Thakur, on receiving the information, raided the house of the complainant, Shri Narendra Patel and found one pistol and three bullets and therefore a case no. 410/16 u/s 25, 27 of Arms Act was registered against the complainant, Shri Narendra Patel and the fact that pistol was given by Jitendra Soni to Narendra Patel is mentioned in the FIR. It has been further stated that when the journalists made allegations of man handling by the SHO, then a case no. 411/16 u/s 294/323/506B, 34 of IPC was registered against the Inspector Vijay Singh, Nirmal Singh, Siddharth Patel, Jai Prakash Kushwaha, Chandraprakash Kushwaha and two others. These officials are suspended and departmental enquiry is pending against them.

The Assistant Inspector General of Police (Complaint), Bhopal vide his letter dated 4.2.2017 and the Deputy Collector, District Satna vide his letter dated 7.3.2017 has forwarded the same report.

### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

Following an adjournment dated 7.2.2017, the matter came up for final hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 11.4.2017 at New Delhi. Shri Narendra Patel, the complainant appeared in person. Shri Pannalal Awasthi, Dy. S.P. appeared on behalf of the respondent and states that a Case no. 410/16 u/s 25/27 of the Arms Act has been entrusted for investigation to a police officer from a different District. He also states that the investigation of the said case and the cases filed by the complainant against the police officer shall be concluded within a month.

Let it be done.

In view of the aforesaid assurance, the Inquiry Committee is not inclined to proceed in the matter any further and recommends for the disposal of the complaint with the aforesaid directions.

### **Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons findings and adopts the report of the Committee and **Dispose of** the complaint.

## **Press Council of India**

Sl.No. 12

F.No.13/154/16-17-PCI.

### **Complainant**

Shri Vishwanath Shriwas,  
Bureau Chief,  
Sudarshan Express,  
Bhind (M.P.).

*Vs.*

### **Respondent**

The Chief Secretary,  
Government of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal (M.P.)

The District Collector,  
District Bhind,  
(M.P.).

Shri J.N. Para,  
Chief Municipal Officer,  
Municipal Council,  
Bhind (M.P.).

## **ADJUDICATION**

**Dated: 21.6.2017**

This undated complaint, received in the Secretariat of the Council on 17.10.2016, has been filed by Shri Vishwanath Shriwas, Bureau Chief, Sudarshan Express, Bhind (M.P.) against Shri J.N. Para, Chief Municipal Officer, Municipal Council, Bhind for alleged misbehaviour during collection of news. The complainant submitted that he published a news item in his newspaper issue dated 16.9.2016 regarding an encroachment but no action was taken by the authority on it to publish follow up of the said news item he contacted Shri Para over phone on 22.9.2016 who denied him information by using unparliamentarily language. The complainant further submitted that he gave a written complaint to the District Collector, Bhind on 24.9.2016 but to no avail. While forwarding C.D. of the conversation with the respondent, the complainant has requested the Council to take necessary action against the respondent.

Notices for Statement in Reply were issued to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, the District Collector, Bhind and Shri J.N. Para, Chief Municipal Officer, Municipal Council, Bhind on 17.11.2016.

### **Written Statement**

The respondent, Shri J.N.Para vide written statement dated 13.4.2017 submitted that after publication of the impugned report, an inquiry on the said place was conducted and the temporary encroachment was removed from the road. The complainant enquired about the encroachment and he was apprised on the action taken on it but the complainant repeatedly sought similar information. Annoyed with this, the complainant has filed complaint with false allegation. The respondent submitted that he did not misbehave with the complainant and respects the journalists.

### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

The matter came up for final hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 11.4.2017 at New Delhi followed by an adjournment dated 7.2.2017. The complainant, Shri Vishwanath Shriwas appeared personally whereas Shri Indra Singh Negi, Project Officer represented on behalf of the respondent District Magistrate, Bhind.

The Inquiry Committee has heard the complainant and the representative of the respondent District Magistrate, Bhind. The allegation of the complainant is that when response from the Chief Municipal Officer, Bhind was sought, he misbehaved with him. In support of the allegations, he produced before the Inquiry Committee a CD. The Inquiry Committee has heard the recorded conversation between the complainant and the said Chief Municipal Officer. The Inquiry Committee is of the opinion that the grievance made by the complainant is absolutely misconceived.

The Inquiry Committee, accordingly, recommended to the Council to Dismiss the complaint.

**Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to Dismiss of the complaint.

**Press Council of India**

Sl. No. 13

F.No.13/229/15-16-PCI

**Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. registration of a case against The Milli Gazette for allegedly publishing fabricated news**

**Adjudication**  
**Dated 21.6.2017**

Attention of the Council was drawn towards the news dated 16.8.2016 w.r.t. registration of a case against The Milli Gazette published in The Indian Express, The Pioneer and Hindustan Times. It has been reported in the news items that the Delhi Police questioned a journalist Shri Pushp Sharma for at least four hours in connection with a story published in The Milli Gazette on the Ayush Ministry alleging that the Ministry does not consider Muslim candidates as Yoga Trainers or Teachers for World Yoga Day for foreign assignement. It has been further reported that the police also registered an FIR under IPC Section 153-A and Section 468 against The Milli Gazette for publishing the article based on what newspaper and the journalist, Shri Pushp Sharma, said was an RTI reply sent by the Ministry. It has been also reported that the Ayush Ministry denied that it had sent the reported RTI reply. Police sources confirmed that Shri Sharma, who has been asked to join the probe was questioned at Kotla Mubarkpur PS two days after an Under Secretary at the Ministry lodged a complaint in this regard. According to the news reports, Shri Sharma confirmed that the police took him to the Kotla Mubarakpur Police Station where they misbehaved and threatened to implicate him in a false case. It has been further reported that the Ayush Ministry in its complaint stated that the RTI reply was fake.

Meanwhile, The Milli Gazette, New Delhi vide his letter dated 28.3.2016 while expressing gratitude for taking suo-motu action in the matter has informed that the Milli Gazette published a report authored by veteran journalist, Shri Pushp Sharma under the title "We don't recruit Muslims: Ayush Ministry" in the issue dated March 16-31, 2016 based on the Ayush Ministry's reply to an RTI. The Editor, Mili Gazette has further informed that the report stated that Muslims were not recruited for the assignment by the AYUSH Ministry. According to him, Shri Sharma sought information from Ministry of AYUSH regarding YOGA related queries vide applications dated 17.9.2015 and he received many responses from AYUSH Ministry on his three RTI applications and in one of the papers sent by the Ministry, it was specifically mentioned that "*As per Government Policy-No Muslim candidate was invited, selected or sent abroad*". Shri Sharma, thereafter, prepared and submitted the same along with letters of the Ministry to Milli Gazette. He has submitted that the news report on the issue was published in Milli Gazette's online edition of 11.3.2016. Upon publication of the said report on Milli Gazette website, AYUSH Ministry, instead of responding to the facts contained in the same claimed the report is false and fabricated and complained to the police and a FIR No.0225 of 2016 dated 15.3.2016 under Sections 418, 468, 471, 153A IPC was registered at PS Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi. He has mentioned that a bare perusal of the FIR shows that none of the offences alleged therein are made out. He has alleged that Shri Sharma was harassed by the police and various agencies by questioning and interrogating him many times. He has further alleged that despite submitting all documents pertaining to RTI applications and their respective replies to the police on 16.3.2016, the police served a notice under Section 41A & 91 Cr.PC dated 16.3.2016 asking Shri Sharma to come again on 17.3.2016. Accordingly, Shri Sharma visited to the PS on 17.3.2016 where police again issued notice Section 41A and 91 Cr.PC dated 17.3.2016. According to him, Shri Sharma again visited to PS on 18.3.2016 and he was issued a letter dated 18.3.2016 directing him not to leave Delhi and the country without the permission of the police and that he will joint

investigation again when and if required. He has alleged that imposing such a condition on a professional journalist is a serious violation of his rights as a citizen as well as his professional duties. The Editor has stated that the AYUSH Ministry, till date, has failed to reply to various queries by the media about the real situation as regards to the recruitment of Muslims by the ministry. According to him, the ministry issued a statement through Facebook on 11.3.2016 and thereafter the ministry issued a statement through PIB on 12.3.2016. They replied to the Ministry's Facebook post through a statement on their website immediately on the same day since the Ministry's statement talked about an altogether different issue. They have also reported the statement of the Ministry, issued through the PIB on 12.3.2016 on their website. The editor has stated that the said news report was published in good faith and with a sense of duty and responsibility towards the society and thereafter the same news was carried by many newspapers, news portals and TV channels due to its important nature. He has requested the Council to issue censure to the AYUSH Ministry and direct withdrawal of the said FIR.

A report on facts of the case was called for from the Commissioner of Police, Delhi vide Council's letter dated 22.3.2016 followed by a reminder dated 21.4.2016 but received no response.

In his mail letter dated 12.4.2016 the affected journalist-Shri Pushp Sharma, The Milli Gazette reiterated the allegation regarding registration of case against him by the police.

Council vide his e-mail dated 21.4.2016 asked to Shri Pushp Sharma to provide a copy of the RTI reply given by the Ayush Ministry.

### **Reply of Pushp Sharma**

In response to Council's letter dated 21.4.2016, Shri Pushp Sharma vide his another e-mail letter dated 11.5.2016 informed the Council that all the documents have been submitted to investigating Officer, Kotla, Mubarakpur Police Station since it was a part of investigation. Shri Sharma has also stated that once police submits documents taken from him as part of investigation then he shall come with 2<sup>nd</sup> set of document proving how a gang operates on the name of Yoga. Shri Sharma further stated that since 18.3.2016 he has been ordered not to leave Delhi/Abroad and he is facing unconstitutional travel restriction ban.

### **Comments from Addl. DCP, South, New Delhi**

In response to Council's letter dated 22.3.2016, Shri Nupur Prasad, IPS, Addl. Deputy Commissioner of Police, South, New Delhi in his comments dated 2.6.2016 has stated that the complaint is against Shri Pushp Sharma for allegedly reporting a news in the newspaper Milli Gazette and in that news he had used a document stating that the said document have been provided to him by the Ministry of Ayush but the said document is fake and have been used to disturb harmony. During the course of enquiry a case vide FIR NO. 225/2016 u/s 418/468/471/153A IPC dated 15.3.2016 was registered in Police Station, K.M. Pur, New Delhi. During the course of investigation, many documents have been collected from the Ministry of Ayush and Mr. Pushp Sharma. The alleged fake document is without any dispatch number and there is no signature of any officer on that document. He further stated that the details given in the documents have been denied by the Ayush Ministry and none have correlated the details of the fake letter. Also there is no enclosure as mentioned in the alleged document. He also stated that the alleged person, Shri Pushp Sharma has been arrested by the local police on 13.5.2016 and his

bail application has been dismissed by Shri Dhiraj Mor, Ld. MM, LD Saket Court and the accused was sent to the Judicial Custody till 30.5.2016.

### **Response from the Respondent**

The editor, Milli Gazette in his letter dated 11.7.2016 has stated that the matter is sub-judice and also the newspaper were and remain committed to publish any rejoinder by the Ministry of Ayush. He has requested the Council to direct the Ministry of Ayush to send its rejoinder to them for publication and to withdraw its police complaint once they published its rejoinder.

### **Enquiry Report from Addl. DCP, South, New Delhi**

Shri Nupur Prasad, IPS, Addl. Dy. Commissioner of Police, South District, New Delhi vide his letter dated 6.7.2016 submitted that a detailed enquiry report has already been provided to PCI but further enquiry revealed that in case, the Editor/Publisher of the news magazine, Milli Gazette, Dr. Zafarul Islam Khan was examined and his statement u/s 161 Cr.P.C. was also recorded. He further stated that the accused Pushp Sharma was arrested on 13.5.2016 and sent to judicial custody for two days on 14.5.2016 by the Ld. Duty MM. He further stated that the counsel of accused filed the bail application of the accused on 14.5.2016 and the bail application was fixed for 16.5.2016. He submitted that on 16.5.2016, the accused was produced from Jail and he was sent to judicial custody till 30.5.2016 and the bail application of the accused was also dismissed by the LD MM. He further submitted that during investigation of the case, 469 and 466 IPC have been added in the case. The case is presently pending investigation.

A copy of the aforesaid enquiry report was forwarded to the editor, Milli Gazette on 7.11.2016.

### **Cross Complaint Filed by the Ministry of Ayush**

Vide communication dated 29.3.2016, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting forwarded a reference of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Ayush relating to complaint against the Milli Gazette for allegedly using fabricated documents to publish misleading and incorrect news captioned "*we don't recruit Muslims Modi Government Ayush Ministry*". This being a cross complaint related to relevant matter considered u/s 13 (13/229/15-16) was simultaneously placed before the Inquiry Committee.

### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

Following two adjournments dated 12.7.2016 and 6.9.2016, the matter came up for final hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 11.4.2017 at New Delhi. Shri Pushp Sharma, the concerned journalist appeared in person. Shri Sanjeev Kumar, SHO, Jamia Nagar, Shri Jagdish Yadav, ACP, Defence Colony, Shri Mukesh Walia, SHO, Kotla Mubarakpur, Dr. I.V. Baswanand, Director, MDNYY, Dr. I.N. Acharya, Director, CCRYN, Shri K.Sinha, Under Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Smt. Banarnai Naik, Under Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Shri Aryan Biswas, Under Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Smt. Shiela Dubey, Under Secretary, Ministry of Ayush and Smt. Sushma, Section Officer, Ministry of Ayush appeared for the respondents.

It is a common ground that the subject matter of the complaint is pending trial before the Court of competent jurisdiction. Therefore, the Inquiry Committee is no inclined to proceed in the matter any further.

The Inquiry Committee, accordingly, recommends for disposal of the complaint.

**Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons findings and adopts the report of the Committee and **Dispose of** the complaint.

**Press Council of India**

Sl. No. 14

File No.13/189/16-17-PCI.

**Complainant**

Sh. Sayyed Imran Alam,  
Editor,  
Atihasik Sakshya.  
Lucknow (U.P.).

**Respondents**

The Chief Secretary,  
Government of U.P.,  
Lucknow.

The Secretary,  
Home (Police) Department,  
Government of U.P.,  
Lucknow.

The Director General of Police,  
Uttar Pradesh Police,  
Lucknow.

The District Collector,  
Lucknow.

The Sr. Superintendent of Police,  
Lucknow.

The Station House Officer,  
Police Station-Ashiana,  
Lucknow.

Shri Tehsin Ahmed,  
Barabanki (U.P.).

**Adjudication**  
**Dated 21.6.2017**

This complaint dated 26.11.2016 was filed by Shri Sayyed Imran Alam, Editor, Atihasik Sakshya, Lucknow (U.P.) against the anti-social elements for allegedly sabotaging his office premises due to publication of critical writings and subsequent inaction of the police authorities in the matter. According to the complainant, he published news in his newspaper on 27.8.2016 and 6.10.2016 regarding involvement of Shri Tehsin Ahmed with drug mafia. The complainant alleged that, annoyed with this, Shri Teshin Ahmed and his associates attacked his office on 16.10.2016 and took away computer, scanner, printer and important documents. The complainant further alleged that Shri Tehsin Ahmed also sabotaged his office on 24.11.2016. The complainant gave a written complaint to the Sr. Superintendent of Police, Lucknow but no action has been taken so far. Alleging that the police is protecting the guilty, he has requested the Council to take necessary action in the matter.

Notices for Statement in Reply were issued to the Government of U.P. and Shri Tehsin Ahmed on 5.1.2017.

### **Comments of Sr. Superintendent of Police, Lucknow**

The Sr. Superintendent of Police, Lucknow vide his written statement dated 30.1.2017 informed that the matter was investigated by the Circle Officer, Cant, Lucknow, who in his investigation report dated 28.1.2017 submitted that during the inquiry Shri Tehsin Ahmed informed that the brothers of the complainant were his tenants but they do not want to vacate his house. After many efforts, they vacated his house on 24.11.2016 but they did not pay the rent. Annoyed with this, the complainant filed false complaint. The respondent further submitted that Shri Tehsin Ahmed also informed that neither the complainant lived in his house nor his office was there. All the witnesses have too denied any such incident took place on 16.10.2016 and 24.11.2016 as alleged by the complainant. The respondent stated that neither the complainant appeared for recording his statement nor he offered any witness, however, he informed over telephone that his affidavit/complaint be treated his statement. The respondent further submitted that with regard to complaint by him to the Police Station-Ashiana, the matter was investigated by the Sub-Inspector, Shri Rajwant Singh and the allegations were proved false and baseless. The respondent also submitted that keeping in view the criminal record of Shri Tehsin Ahmed, the Inspector Incharge, Police Station-Ashiana has been directed to be vigilant on the activities of Shri Tehsin Ahmed.

### **Comments of District Magistrate, Barabanki**

The Additional Officer (Complaints) on behalf of the District Magistrate, Barabanki vide his letter dated 15.2.2017 informed that the matter has been investigated by the Deputy District Magistrate, Nawabganj, Barabanki. The Deputy District Magistrate, Nawabganj, Barabanki in his Report dated 10.2.2017 has stated that during investigation it has come to know that the complainant presently is not residing in Village Tikra Usma and he is living somewhere in Lucknow now. He has further stated that due to the aforesaid reason, Notice has not been served on the complainant.

### **Counter Comments**

The complainant vide his point-wise counter comments dated 1.3.2017 while reiterating his complaint has alleged that the written statement filed by the respondent authority is based on false facts. According to the complainant, the respondent in his investigation report referred the address of another house of Shri Tehsin Ahmed. The complainant further informed that he was also tenant of Shri Tehsin Ahmed from where he was running his press office and the rent was paid timely. The complainant also informed that he had appeared for recording his statement and submitted his statement in writing.

The complainant vide his further responses dated 28.1.2017, 28.3.2017 15.4.2017, 26.4.2017 informed that the respondent Tehsin Ahemad has registered fake FIR against him in connivance with the local police.

### **Comments from Shri Tehsin Ahmed**

The Notice for Statement in Reply issued to the respondent-Shri Tehsin Ahmed was received back undelivered from the postal authorities with the remarks “लेने से इंकार किया”. Therefore, the District Magistrate, Barabanki was requested vide Council’s letter dated 18.1.2017 to serve the Notice to Shri Tehsin Ahmed under intimation to the Council.

Shri Tehsin Ahmed vide his letter dated 3.4.2017 has stated that the complainant is a very clever person and he very cleverly mentioned his address as Aurangabad Khalsa, Lucknow and not mentioned the house number while his both houses are registered under Municipal Corporation. He alleged that the complainant is involved in extortion of money through his profession of journalism. He has further stated that he never allotted his house to the complainant on rent and never took any rent from the complainant.

### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

The matter came up for final hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 11.4.2017 at New Delhi. Syed Imran Alam, the complainant appeared in person while Shri Dharmendra Kumar Yadav, Dy. Superintendent Police appeared on behalf of the respondent.

The Inquiry Committee has heard the complainant as also the representative of the respondent. The Inquiry Committee is of the opinion that the matter relates to the landlord-tenant dispute and has nothing to do with the journalistic activity.

The Inquiry Committee, accordingly, recommends for dismissal of the complaint.

### **Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons findings and adopts the report of the Committee and **Dismiss** the complaint.

**Press Council of India**

**Sl.No. 15**

**File No.13/164/16-17-PCI.**

**Complainant**

Sh. Ravinesh Gupta,  
Correspondent,  
Dainik Shekhar Times,  
Shahjahanpur (U.P.).

**Respondents**

The Chief Secretary,  
Government of U.P.,  
Lucknow.

The Secretary,  
Home (Police) Department,  
Government of U.P.,  
Lucknow.

The District Collector,  
Shahjahanpur (U.P.).

The Superintendent of Police,  
Shahjahanpur (U.P.).

Shri Sarvesh Kumar Sharma,  
Sub-Inspector/H.C.P.,  
Police Station-Mirzapur,  
Shahjahanpur (U.P.)

**ADJUDICATION**

**Dated: 21.6.2017**

This complaint dated 15.10.2016 was filed by Shri Ravinesh Gupta, Correspondent, Dainik Shekhar Times, Shahjahanpur (U.P.) against Shri Sarvesh Kumar Sharma, Sub-Inspector, Police Station-Mirzapur, Shahjahanpur (U.P.) for allegedly misbehaving and manhandling him during collection of news. According to the complainant, he went to the Police Station on 13.10.2016 for collection of news where the Sub-Inspector, in inebriated condition, misbehaved with him by using unparliamentary language. The complainant further informed that he apprised the Superintendent of Police, Shahjahanpur, concerned SHO and Inspector General of Police, Bareilly Division and about the incident and sought action against the Sub-Inspector. The complainant vide his further letter dated 19.11.2016 informed that during the meeting of District Journalists Organisation held on 11.11.2016 under the chairmanship of District Collector, Shahjahanpur, the Addl. Superintendent of Police, Shahjahanpur informed that the Sub-Inspector has been transferred. The complainant stated that he is not satisfied with the action taken by the authority as the Sub-Inspector is still working in the police station. He has requested the Council to take strict action against the Sub-Inspector.

Notices for Statement in Reply were issued to the respondent-Government of U.P. on 6.12.2016.

**Written Statement of Superintendent of Police, Shahjahanpur**

The Superintendent of Police, Shahjahanpur vide his written statement dated 28.12.2016 informed that the matter was enquired by the Additional Superintendent of Police Rural, Shahjahanpur in pursuance to the letter dated 27.10.2016 of Inspector

General of Police, Bareilly Zone, Bareilly. The respondent further informed that the complainant substantiated his allegation during the investigation. The respondent also informed that Shri Ganga Prasad Pathak, Head Constable (Retd.), Police Station-Mirzapur also sent a complaint to the Inspector General of Police, Bareilly Zone indicating the allegation of demanding money from him by the complainant. The respondent submitted that on receiving complaints from the public, Shri Sarvesh Kumar Sharma, H.C.P has been transferred to Police Lines, Shahjahanpur vide order dated 1.11.2016.

A copy of the written statement of the SP, Shahjahanpur was forwarded to the complainant on 24.3.2017.

#### **Written statement of Inspector/HCP, Shahjahanpur**

The respondent, Shri Sarvesh Kumar Sharma, Inspector/HCP, Shahjahanpur vide letter dated 8.4.2017 submitted that when he was posted at Police Station-Mirzapur, the complainant used to visit the Station frequently and often fiddle with the confidential documents placed on the table. He used to sneakily look out for records or documents without permission. On objecting him to such misconduct, the complainant used to argue with the Police Officers and passes demoralising remarks. Further, the complainant also lodged a false complaint before the higher officers and pressurised also on them to take penal action against him. In this regard, the matter was investigated by Deputy Superintendent of Police on the order of Senior Superintendent of Police who found that the allegations are false and baseless. The respondent added that Shri Mahesh Chander, Mirzapur has filed a case No.203/2014 U/S 323,504,336 203/2014 against the complainant and his three brothers at the Police Station. Having enough evidences against them, a charge-sheet has been filed on the matter before the court. The respondent stated that he is an honest and conscientious police official and ensures to be the same as always.

#### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

The matter came up for final hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 11.4.2017 at New Delhi. The complainant was not present whereas Shri Dhenonjoy Singh, S.O., Police Station-Mirzapur, Shahjahanpur represented the respondent.

Despite service of notice, the complainant has not chosen to appear. The Superintendent of Police, Shahjanpur is represented. From the report of the Superintendent of Police, it is obvious that he has taken action against the erring police personnel. In view of the aforesaid, the Inquiry Committee is not inclined to proceed in the matter any further. The Inquiry Committee recommends to the Council to Dismiss the complaint.

#### **Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to Dismiss the complaint.

## **Press Council of India**

Sl. No. 16

File No.13/26/16-17-PCI.

### **Complainant**

Shri Shamim Khan,  
Editor,  
Dainik Mahakaushal Express,  
Sivni (M.P.)

### **Respondent**

The Chief Secretary,  
Government of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal (M.P.)

The Secretary,  
Home (Police) Department,  
Government of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal (M.P.)

Shri Avadhkishore Pandey,  
Superintendent of Police,  
Seoni (M.P.).

### **Adjudication**

**Dated 21.06.2017**

This complaint dated 30.4.2016 has been filed by Shri Shamim Khan, Editor, Dainik Mahakaushal Express, Sivni (M.P.) against Superintendent of Police, Seoni for allegedly harassing and trying to implicate him and other journalists in false cases maliciously due to publication of critical writings. According to the complainant, after posting of Shri Avadhkishore Pandey as Superintendent of Police on 21.12.2016, the incidents of looting and firing tremendously increased in Seoni district and he exposed the lazy system of the police through his newspaper time to time. Annoyed with this, the Superintendent of Police maliciously started to take false action against the journalists, reputed persons and common men. The complainant further submitted that he published a news item of a truck accident in his newspaper on 25.4.2016 and thereafter on 27.4.2016 the respondent posted the clipping of the said news on Whatsapp Group stating that "please peruse the news passed below that one side police is trapping the robbers with the help of people and on other one journalist was trying to distract the police by giving information of a truck accident and when no action was taken by the police then he creates a story! Now you consider and decide the malicious intent inherent in the news". The complainant stated that as a responsible citizen and journalist, he gave information over mobile regarding communal tension in Faizganj Chowk to the respondent on 8.4.2016. The complainant alleged that during a press conference on 27.4.2016, the respondent targeted him by saying that a journalist, provoke the riots and then he gives the information. According to the complainant, he complained to the Director General of Police, Bhopal and thereafter his statement was recorded by the D.I.G., Chhindwara. The complainant apprehended that he might be entangled in a false case. He has requested the Council to take necessary action in the matter.

Notices for Statement in Reply were issued to the Government of Madhya Pradesh on 5.7.2016.

### **Written Statement of Superintendent of Police, Seoni**

Shri A.K. Pandey, Superintendent of Police, Seoni in his written statement dated 26.7.2016 while denying the allegation has stated that Seoni is a very sensitive district for communal viewpoint, therefore, he took some tough decisions for peace under the law. While describing his achievement during his six months tenure the respondent has informed that he also created a WhatsApp Group for conversation between the police and press.

According to the respondent, on 25.4.2016, a truck took place mishap near by-pass and information in this regard was not received by the police but the complainant published news on 25.4.2016 by criticising the police under the caption “बकरियों से भरे ट्रक के उपर मेहरबान पुलिस”. With regard to allegation of posting the said news item on WhatsApp, the respondent submitted that his write-up was in connection with the news item under the caption “रीवा से नागपुर तक चलता है हाजी शकील का सिक्का” posted by the complainant on WhatsApp. The respondent further submitted that the complainant made a complaint to the DGP, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal and matter is being investigated by the DIG, Chhindwara. The respondent alleged that the complainant often publishes false and defamatory news without taking the version of the concerned and thereby violated the norms of journalistic ethics. He has requested the Council to dismiss the complaint.

### **Counter Comments**

The complainant in his counter comments dated 29.8.2016 while reiterating his complaint has alleged that the written statement of the respondent is far from truth. The complainant has submitted that an Independent MLA from Seoni, Shri Dinesh Rai Munmun also raised question during Monsoon Session of Legislative Assembly about weak working procedure of the police in Seoni. The complainant also denied the allegation of the respondent that he violated the norms of journalistic ethics. While levelling the allegation of harassment against the respondent, the complainant has requested the Council to take necessary action in the matter.

### **Comments of Superintendent of Police, Seoni**

Shri A.K. Pandey, Superintendent of Police, Seoni in his comments dated 14.10.2016, while reiterating the contents of the written statement, has stated that the allegation of the complainant that the reply filed by him is false and misleading, is absolutely wrong as whatever the reply filed by him is supported by the written evidences. He further stated that he never mentioned anyone name in the Press Conference held on 27.4.2016 and it could not be a basis of the present complaint. He further denied all other allegations of the complainant levelled in the counter comments of the complainant on him.

### **Complainant Further Submissions**

The complainant vide his letter dated 2.10.2016 has stated that after the notice for hearing issued by the Council to the respondent, the respondent police Shri A.K. Pandey pressurized him through Shri Shailesh Mishra, TI by calling him in the police station several times for recording his statement despite the fact that he has already recorded his statement earlier three times.

### **Respondent's Reply**

Shri A.K. Pandey, Superintendent of Police, Seoni vide his reply dated 21.12.2016 has stated that the allegations levelled by the complainant are absolutely false and baseless. He denied putting any pressure on the complainant to withdraw the complaint filed by the complainant before the Council. He alleged that the complainant in his submissions used abusive language.

### **Complainant's Response**

The complainant vide his letter dated 18.12.2016 has submitted his counter comments on the comments of the respondent dated 14.10.2016. He has stated that most of the reply in this is far from the truth and is misleading.

### **Respondent's Reply**

The respondent, Shri A.K. Pandey, SP, Seoni vide his letter dated 15.3.2017 has filed his counter on the response of the complainant dated 18.12.2016. He has stated that the police department has completed the investigation in the matter and in the report, the complainant in his complaint mentioned that he wants his reputation as it was in the tenure of Dr. Raman Singh, then SP but how a police maintain relations with a journalist is the

prerogative of the police as their prime responsibility is to maintain law and order and in that to decide what is more beneficial lies with the police. The complainant has no right to interfere in this. With regard to the allegation of writing on social media, it has been stated in the report that it is the fundamental right of Shri A.K. Pandey, Superintendent of Police. It has been found in the investigation that being aggrieved with not getting the same importance from Shri Pandey as the complainant got earlier, the complainant filed this complaint and it has no basis and deserved to be dismissed.

### **Complainant's Response**

The complainant vide his letter dated 2.5.2017, while reiterating his complaint and other allegations, has requested the Council to direct for investigation against the Superintendent of Police, Shri A.K. Pandey from an IPS Officer of any other range except Jabalpur Range. He further express danger of his life from the Superintendent of Police and requested the Council to direct the police to provide him security.

### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

Following an adjournment dated 4.10.2016, the matter came up for final hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 15.5.2017 at Indore. Shri Shamim Khan, the complainant appeared in person. Shri A.K. Pandey, SSP, Seoni appeared for the respondent.

The Inquiry Committee has heard the complainant and the respondent. The complainant happens to be an editor of a newspaper. His allegation is that because of his critical writings, he is being harassed by the police authorities, particularly, the Superintendent of Police. The complainant admits that at the instance of an individual who has no connection with the police authorities, a case of extortion and another case of wrongful confinement have been lodged against him. In such case, if the police follow the procedure prescribed in the law for proclamation and executes warrant, its action cannot be said to be illegal. The Inquiry Committee is of the opinion that the grievance made by the complainant is misconceived.

The Inquiry Committee, accordingly, recommends for dismissal of the complaint.

### **Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons findings and adopts the report of the Committee and **Dismiss** the complaint.

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**

**Item No. 17**

**F.No.13/195/16-17**

Md. Sajid Khan,  
Freelance Journalist,  
Raisen, Bhopal.

The Chief Secretary,  
Government of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal.

Secretary,  
Home (Police) Department,  
Government of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal.

Director General of Police,  
Madhya Pradesh Police,  
Bhopal.

District Magistrate,  
District: Raisen,  
Madhya Pradesh.

Superintendent of Police,  
Raisen, (M.P.).

Shri Ramsnehi Mishra,  
Additional Supdt. Of Police,  
Raisen, M.P.

Shri Abhay Nema,  
SHO, Raisen,  
Raisen, M.P.

Shri Mohit Kumar,  
Sub-Inspector (Investigation)  
P.s: Raisen, M.P.

Shri Athar @Achhe,  
Ward No.16, Old Tehsil Mohalla  
Raisen, M.P.

Shri Ansar Khan,  
Ward No.16, Old Tehsil Mohalla,  
Raisen, M.P.

Shri Mubarik Khan,  
Ward No.16, Old Tehsil Mohalla,  
Raisen, M.P.

**Adjudication**  
**21.06.2017**

The complaint dated 14.12.2016 has been filed by Shri Sayyad Khalid Qais, State President, Akhil Bhartiya Patarkar Suraksha Samiti Bharat, Bhopal against anti-social elements for allegedly registering false case against Md. Sajid Khan, Freelance Journalist, Raisen, Madhya Pradesh with the connivance of the police due to publication of critical news items.

Shri Sayyed Khalid Qaise was requested vide Council's letter dated 23.1.2016 to advise the affected journalist, Shri Sajid Khan to file formal complaint complying with the requirements of the Inquiry Regulations, 1979.

In response thereto, Shri Sayyad Khalid Qais vide his letter dated 05.01.2017 forwarded the complaint dated 05.01.2017 of Mohd. Sajid Khan.

The complainant submitted that he has filed a written complaint in the police station against some anti-social elements of the area and published news item about their gambling dens. Annoyed with the publication of critical news item and the complaint, they registered a false case No. 583/2016 dated 21.9.2016 against him with the connivance of the police authorities. The complainant has further submitted that the police without any investigation and evidence under the pressure of gambling den owners registered a case against him. He has also submitted that police authorities forcefully got his signatures on blank papers and misbehaved with him. The complainant drew the attention of the police authorities and District Administration on the incident but received no response.

The complainant wrote to the Collector, Raisen, Superintendent of Police Raisen and other Senior Police authorities in this regard but no action has been taken against the culprits. He has requested the Council to take action in the matter.

The complainant vide his further letter dated 02.02.2017 informed that on the complaint of Advocate Shri. B.P Bansal, National Vice-President, Journalist Movement Association (I), the Additional Superintendent of Police, Raisen submitted false, distorted and basless investigation report dated 07.01.2017 to the Superintendent of Police Raisen. The complainant alleged that instead of preparing investigation report with regard to Section 2-3 of National Honour Defamation Act, 1971, the Police took statements of his family and neighbours, which was subjected matter of a family property dispute. The complainant informed that the said statements do not disclose that he violated the Section 2-3 of National Honour Defamation Act. While forwarding a copy of the investigation report 07.01.2017, the complainant has requested the Council to inquire into the matter.

Notice for statement in Reply were sent to the Chief Secretary, Secretary, Home (Police) Department, Director General of Police, Bhopal and District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Raisen and other at Raisen on 20.01.2017.

### **Written Statements of SHO and SI, PS-Kotwali, Raisen**

The respondents-Shri Abhay Nema, SHO and Shri Mohit Dubey, SI, Police Station-Kotwali, Raisena nd vide their spate written statements dated 17.02.2017 informed that one Mohd. Athar filled a complaint dated 17.09.2016 against the complainant for defamation of national flag by submitting a CD and two Photographs. The said complainant was investigated by Shri Mohit Dubey, SI and found that the complainant displayed a banner of National Flag in the front of his shop mentioning his own name and name of a weekly newspaper, Ekal Satya and during the investigation, the complainant removed and destroyed the banner. Since the allegations proved true, a case was registered against the complainant. The respondents submitted that the complainant could not produce any identity card to establish he is journalist. During the investigation, the Public Relations Office, Raisen also denied having any information regarding appointment of the complainant as journalist in any newspaper or magazine. The respondents further submitted that the complainant is history-sheeter and several criminal cases are registered against him since 2004.

### **Written Statement of SP, Raisen**

The respondent-Superintendent of Police, Raisen vide his written statement dated 25.02.2017 while returning the original copy of the Notice for Statement in Reply issued by

the Council to him has reiterated the written statement as submitted by the SHO, Police Station Kotwali, Raisen above.

### **Written Statement of District Collector/District Magistrate, Raisen**

The respondent-District Collector/District Magistrate, Raisen vide his letter dated 14.03.2017 has forwarded the investigation report dated 25.02.2017 of Superintendent of Police Raisen as referred above.

A copy of the written statements was forwarded to the complainant on 21.04.2016.

### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 15.05.2017 at Indore, Madhya Pradesh. There was no appearance from the complaint side whereas Ms. Kiran Lata Kerkella, Additional Superintendent of Police, Raisen represented the respondent side.

Despite service of notice the complainant has not chosen to appear. Ms. Kiran Lata Kerkella, Additional Superintendent of Police, Raisen is present before the Committee on behalf of the respondent. It is the allegation of the complainant that he has been falsely implicated in the case at the instance of the brother of a gamble against whom he has published the story. The Inquiry Committee has perused the complaint, the written statement and all other connected papers. The respondent has shown to the Inquiry Committee the photograph of the act done by the petitioner which led to the registration of the case. The Inquiry Committee is of the opinion that the grievance made by the complaint is absolutely misconceived. The Inquiry Committee, accordingly, recommends for dismissal of the complaint.

### **Held**

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to dismiss the complaint.

The matter is placed before the Inquiry Committee along with all relevant papers for consideration.

**Press Council of India**

Sl. No. 18

F.No.13/146/16-17-PCI.

**Complainant**

Shri Ramawadh Yadav,  
Journalist/President,  
Uttar Pradesh Shramjivi  
Patrakar Union,  
Azamgarh (U.P.)

**Respondent**

The Chief Secretary,  
Govt. of U.P.,  
Lucknow (U.P.).

The Secretary,  
Home (Police) Department,  
Govt. of U.P.,  
Lucknow (U.P.).

The District Collector,  
Azamgarh (U.P.).

The Superintendent of Police,  
Azamgarh (U.P.).

Shri RamashreyYadav,  
Gram Pradhan/Asstt. Teacher,  
Village-Ibrahimpur (Sikandpur),  
Azamgarh (U.P.).

**ADJUDICATION**

**21.6.2017**

**Case Summary**

This complaint dated 20.9.2016 has been filed by Shri RamawadhYadav, Journalist/President, U.P. Shramjivi Patrakar Union, Azamgarh (U.P.) against Shri Ramashrey Yadav, Gram Pradhan/Assistant Teacher, Village, Ibrahimpur (Sikandpur), Azamgarh for alleged harassment and fatal attack on him due to publication of critical writings and inaction of the police. According to the complainant, he published news items in the newspapers vizAaj, Swatantra Bharat, Pioneer and Dainik Shree Times in public interest regarding misappropriation in developmental works, illegal encroachments etc. by the respondent-Shri Ramshrey Yadav. Annoyed with this, the respondent started to harass and misbehave with him and his family. The complainant alleged that on 4.4.2016 the respondent along with his associates vandalised his house and also attacked on his elder son and a Case No.129/16 under Section 323/504/506/147/427/236 IPC was registered by him in local police Station. The complainant further alleged that on 17.6.2016 the respondent along with his associates again attacked him and a Case No.0152/16 under Section 323/504/506 IPC was registered but no enquiry has been initiated in both the cases. The complainant submitted that he wrote to the higher police and administrative authorities including Hon'ble Chief Minister of U.P. many times but no productive action has been taken by anyone. He has requested the Council for protection.

Notices for Statement in Reply were issued to the respondent-Government of U.P. and Shri Ramashrey Yadav on 4.11.2016.

### **Reply of Shri Ramashrey Yadav**

The prime respondent-Shri Ramashrey Yadav vide his undated written statement, received in the Secretariat of the Council on 29.11.2016, while denying the allegation levelled in the complaint informed that he and the complainant are family lease holds and the complainant is continuously indulging in tactics to blackmail him in the garb of journalism. The respondent informed that the complainant filed a Petition No.31968/2016 in the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad, which is pending consideration. The respondent stated that the complaint is not maintainable as it has no basis.

A copy of the reply of the respondent was forwarded to the complainant on 8.12.2016.

No response has been received from the Government of U.P.

### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

Following an adjournment on 10.1.2017 the matter came up for final hearing on 16.5.2017 at Indore.

The Inquiry Committee heard the complainant and has perused the complaint and reply filed by the respondent. The inquiry Committee is of the opinion that the issue does not concern the freedom of the press and in fact is a dispute between two individuals. The Inquiry Committee doesn't find any ground to interfere in the matter. The Inquiry Committee accordingly recommends for dismissal of the complaint.

### **Decision of the Council**

The Press Council on consideration of the records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to **dismiss** the complaint.

**Press Council of India**  
**Press Council of India**

Sl. No. 19

F.No.13/226/16-17-PCI.

**Suo-motu cognizance with regard to death threat to Shri Manoj Kumar Giri, Journalist, Amar Ujala by the U.P. Minister, Shri Radhey Shyam Singh.**

**ADJUDICATION**  
**21.6.2017**

**Facts**

The Press Council of India has taken suo-moto cognizance of the PTI report that Shri Radhey Shyam Singh, a then Minister in Uttar Pradesh threatened a local journalist of Amar Ujala, Shri Manoj Kumar Giri in Kushinagar threatening to set him afire for his reportage critical of him. The journalist filed a complaint with the police and handed over the CD containing the threat.

In the meantime, the affected journalist of Amar Ujala, Shri Manoj Kumar Giri vide his email dated 12.2.2017 filed a complaint alleged that the U.P. Minister, Shri Radhey Shyam Singh threatened over mobile on 10.2.2017 to kill him. Apprehending danger to his life, he requests for security and necessary action.

Taking a suo-moto cognizance of the matter, a Report on facts of the case was called for from the Government of U.P. and Shri Radhey Shyam Singh, the then State Minister, Govt. of U.P. on 14.2.2017.

**Reply of Superintendent of Police, Kushinagar**

Shri Raju Babu Singh, Superintendent of Police, Kushinagar vide his reply dated 17.2.2017 informed that the matter was investigated by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kushinagar, who in his Report submitted that on the complaint of Shri Manoj Giri a Case No.506/171F of IPC was registered against Shri Radhey Shyam Singh on 11.2.2017 in the Police Station-Hata and the case is being investigated by the Sub-Inspector, Shri Vikas Yadav. The respondent further informed that the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kushinagar has been directed to investigate the case on merits impartially at the earliest.

Since the detailed report of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kushinagar was not found attached, the Superintendent of Police, Kushinagar was called upon vide Council's letter dated 23.2.2017 to furnish the same.

The Council's notice issued to the prime respondent-Shri Radhey Shyam Singh was received back undelivered from the postal authorities. Re-issued to him on another address on 2.3.2016, no response was filed.

**Report of the Inquiry Committee**

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 16.5.2017 at Indore. Shri Niranjana Kumar Rai, Sub-Inspector appeared on behalf of Superintendent of Police, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh.

When it came to the notice of the Council that the Minister had threatened a journalist of Amar Ujala, it took suo motu cognizance and called for a report from the State Government. The Superintendent of Police had given his report on 17.2.2017 in which, it has

been stated that on the basis of the complaint of the journalist, Shri Manoj Kumar Giri, case No.506/17 I F of IPC was registered against the then Minister. Another report dated 13.5.2017 has been sent by the Superintendent of Police in which he has stated that during the course of investigation, the allegations has been found to be true and charge sheet under Section 504 and 506 and other Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) have been filed in the Court on 16.4.2017. In view of the aforesaid, the inquiry Committee is not inclined to proceed in the matter any further and directs for disposal of the complaint.

### **Decision of the Council**

The Press Council on consideration of the records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to **dispose of** the complaint.

## **Press Council of India**

Sl. No. 20

File No.13/235/16-17-PCI.

### **Complainant**

Shri PunyapalAshokkumar Shah,  
Owner/Publisher/Editor,  
Dakshin Gujarat Vartman,  
Valsad (Gujarat)

### **Respondent**

The Registrar,  
Registrar of Newspapers  
for India,  
New Delhi.

## **ADJUDICATION**

**21.6.2017**

This complaint dated 16.2.2017 has been filed by Shri Punyapal Ashokkumar Shah, Owner/Publisher/Editor, Dakshin Gujarat Vartman, Valsad (Gujarat) against the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) for not taking any action on his applications regarding change of ownership of his newspaper since last eight years. According to the complainant, his newspaper is regularly publishing since 2000 and his father late Shri Ashokkumar Chunilal Shah was founder of the paper but due to his murder in the year 2009, the complainant had given an application dated 9.6.2009 to the RNI for entering his name as owner/editor/publisher of the newspaper. In response thereto, the RNI vide its letter dated 17.9.2009 has sought documents and the same were provided by him on 30.5.2013. The complainant has further submitted that since no further communication received from the RNI, he applied again on 14.10.2014 along with all necessary documents. In response thereto, the RNI vide letter dated 24.6.2016 again sought the documents and the same were provided by him to the RNI on 4.8.2016. The complainant has alleged that despite submitting all documents the RNI is knowingly not clearing his application with regard to name change. He has requested the Council for necessary action in the matter.

A status report of the matter was called for from the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), New Delhi on 10.3.2017.

### **Reply of the RNI**

Shri Ramakrishna Pillai, Assistant Press Registrar, RNI, New Delhi vide his reply dated 30.3.2017 has informed that the complainant's newspaper titled "Dakshin Gujarat Vartaman" (Gujarati weekly) is registered with RNI under Registration No.GUJGUJ/2000/02175 from Valsad (Gujarat). The RNI office has received some documents for change of ownership of the said newspaper. On scrutiny, the documents have been found to be incomplete. Accordingly, the Publisher has been intimated vide RNI's letters dated 17.9.2009, 18.3.2015 & 27.7.2016. He has further informed that RNI has also received complaints against ownership and non-filing of Annual Return by the publisher of the said weekly. The same have been forwarded to the District Magistrate, Valsad for further necessary action.

A copy of the RNI's reply was forwarded to the complainant on 10.4.2017 for information/counter comments.

### **Report of the Inquiry Committee**

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 16.5.2017 at Indore. The Inquiry Committee has heard the complainant. Although Shri Deepak Ranvir, Deputy Director, PIB has appeared on behalf of the Registrar of Newspaper for India but when questioned in regard to the facts of the case, he is unable to give any answer. In fact,

he states that he doesn't know anything about the case. The Inquiry Committee expects that the Registrar of Newspaper for India will authorize such person to represent it before the Inquiry Committee, who knows the facts and circumstances of the case.

It is unfortunate, that a matter of change of ownership is hanging fire since 2009 with the Registrar of Newspapers for India. It is an admitted position that after the death of the owner, an application was filed for change of the name of the owner. According to the respondent, Registrar of Newspapers, the same is not being done, purportedly on the ground that the complainant has not furnished the complete papers. It is unfortunate that the Registrar of Newspapers had not indicated the specific papers, documents or information which are lacking for granting the prayer of the complainant. In the facts and circumstances of the case, the Inquiry Committee directs the Registrar of Newspapers for India to give the details of the documents and information, which have not been furnished by the complainant for change of the ownership, within two weeks. The complainant on receipt of the said information shall furnish those documents and information within one week thereafter. The complainant doing so, the Registrar of Newspapers shall consider the prayer of the complainant and pass appropriate orders within three weeks thereafter. The Inquiry Committee directs for disposal of the complaint with the aforesaid directions.

### **Decision of the Council**

The Press Council on consideration of the records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to dispose of the complaint.

**Press Council of India**

Sl. No. 21

File No.13/190/16-17-PCI.

**Complainant**

Shri Avnish Mishr,  
Journalist,  
Swatantra Bharat,  
Shahjahanpur (U.P.).

**Respondents**

The Chief Secretary,  
Government of U.P.,  
Lucknow.

The Secretary,  
Home (Police) Department,  
Government of U.P.,  
Lucknow.

The Director General of Police,  
Uttar Pradesh Police,  
Lucknow.

The District Collector,  
District Shahjahanpur (U.P.)

The Superintendent of Police,  
Shahjahanpur (U.P.)

The Circle Officer,  
Puvayan,  
Shahjahanpur (U.P.)

Shri Iftekhar Ahmed,  
Station House Officer,  
Police Station-Khutar,  
Shahjahanpur (U.P.)

**ADJUDICATION**

**21.6.2017**

**Facts**

This complaint dated 13.11.2016 has been filed by Shri Avnish Mishr, Journalist, Swatantra Bharat, Shahjahanpur (U.P.) against Shri Iftekhar Ahmed, Station House Officer, Police Station Khutar, Shahjahanpur for allegedly threatening to kill and implicate him in false case due to publication of critical writing. According to the complainant, he published news regarding illegal activities of the respondent. The complainant further informed that he played an important role of mediator in journalist-Jagender Singh murder case by facilitating compromise between State Minister-Shri Rammurty Singh Verma and family of Shri Jagender Singh due to which Samajvadi Party M.P.-Shri Mithilesh Kumar and others harboured grudge against him and he apprehends danger to his life as very often he gets threat of encounter and implication in false cases from them. The complainant submitted that he sent a complaint in this regard to the Superintendent of Police, Shahjahanpur and also registered the complaint on the portal of Govt. of U.P. On the directions of the State Government, an inquiry was conducted by Superintendent of Police, Shahjahanpur and Circle Officer, Puvayan, Shahjahanpur. As per findings of the inquiry while his identity as journalist was questioned, the accused was found innocent. As complainant apprehended danger to his life, he has requested the Council to conduct a high level inquiry into the matter.

Notices for Statement in Reply were issued to the Government of U.P. on 20.1.2017.

**Written Statement of SHO, Khutar**

The respondent-Shri Iftekhar Ahmed, SHO, Police Station-Khutar vide his reply dated 4.2.2017 while denying the allegations levelled by the complainant has submitted that he never threatened the complainant to implicate him in false case or to encounter him, as alleged. The respondent further submitted that neither he has any ill-will or malice towards the complainant nor is he doing any unlawful act on the direction of any powerful person. According to the respondent, he has no information regarding mediator role of the complainant in the Journalist Joginder Singh murder case as he was not posted that time in Khutar Police Station. The respondent stated that the information is duly provided by him to all the journalists, who visit the Police Station. The respondent further stated that no incident of dacoity has taken place during his tenure.

A copy of the written statement was forwarded to the complainant on 16.2.2017.

**Written Statement of S.P., Shahjahanpur**

The Superintendent of Police, Shahjahanpur vide his written statement dated 5.2.2017 has informed that the matter was investigated by Shri R.K. Bhartiya, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Shahjahanpur, who in his report submitted that the allegation made by the complainant of threatening to implicate him in false case by Shri Ifteqar Ahmed, SHO, Khutar could not be proved as no case was registered against the complainant in the Police Station Khutar from either side.

A copy of the written statement was forwarded to the complainant on 26.4.2017.

**Report of the Inquiry Committee**

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 16.5.2017 at Indore.

The Complainant has filed an application seeking permission to withdraw the complaint. Respondent, SHO is represented by his counsel. The Inquiry Committee considered the prayer of the complainant seeking permission to withdraw the complaint. In the facts and circumstances of the case, the Inquiry Committee grants the prayer. The Inquiry Committee accordingly recommends for dismissal of the complaint as withdrawn.

**Decision of the Council**

The Press Council on consideration of the records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to **dismiss** the complaint as withdrawn.

**Press Council of India**

**Sl. No.22**

**F.No.13/176/16-17-PCI.**

**Complainant**

The Managing Editor,  
Dainik Hind Gazette,  
Seoni (M.P.)

**Respondents**

The Chief Secretary,  
Government of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal (M.P.).

The Principal Secretary,  
Urban Welfare Department,  
Bhopal (M.P.).

The Commissioner,  
Urban Welfare Department,  
Bhopal (M.P.).

The Chief Municipal Officer,  
Municipal Council Lakhadon,  
Seoni (M.P.)

The Chairman,  
Municipal Council Lakhadon,  
Seoni (M.P.).

**ADJUDICATION**

**21.6.2017**

This complaint dated 3.9.2016 has been filed by the Managing Editor, Dainik Hind Gazette, Seoni (M.P.) against the Municipal Council, Lakhadon, Seoni for for allegedly adopting discriminatory attitude towards his newspaper in issuing the advertisements. According to the complainant, the Hindi Gazette is largest circulated newspaper in the district but the respondent Municipal Council has given only two advertisements till date. The complainant stated that the reason for not issuing the advertisements to his newspaper is not clear. The complainant informed that in the past, former Chairman of Nagar Panchayat Lakhadon sent a letter dated 22.5.2013 to the Superintendent of Police, Seoni wherein allegation of plotting conspiracy was levelled against him, requesting to take necessary action in the matter. The complainant apprehended that the respondent being biased towards his newspaper, has deprived it of advertisements. The complainant submitted that he drew the attention of the respondent-Chief Municipal Officer, Municipal Council Lakhadon on 6.5.2016 in this regard but to no avail. He has requested the Council to take necessary action in the matter.

**No Written Statement**

Notices for Statement in Reply was issued to the respondents on 7.2.2017 but received no reply from either side.

**Report of the Inquiry Committee**

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 16.5.2017 at Indore. Despite service of notice the complainant has not chosen to appear. The Inquiry Committee has perused the complaint and has heard the Chief Municipal Officer, Lakhadon, and the representative of the government. It is the allegation of the complainant that though it is a widely circulated newspaper had given only two advertisements by the Municipal Council. It

is not a case of the complainant that for his adverse or critical writing the newspaper is deprived of advertisement. In that view of the matter the Inquiry Committee is of the opinion that no case of interference is made out. The Inquiry Committee accordingly, recommends for dismissal of the complaint.

**Decision of the Council**

The Press Council on consideration of the records of the case and report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to **dismiss** the complaint.