

News Broadcasting Standards Authority

Order No. 30 (2014)

Alleged violation on News 24 on 14.11.2013 at 07:01:37 hrs – Complaint received from the Section Officer, MIB showing a rape victim without blurring her face

1. The above complaint dated 7.4.2014 was received from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, relating to a news item on News 24 channel showing a rape victim without blurring her face. NBSA considered the complaint. In the first instance, the broadcaster chose not to respond on the ground that after going through the logs of the last three months (90 days), they were unable to pin point the exact date and time of the broadcast. NBSA furnished the date and time of the programme. The Legal Head then responded that the said telecast of November 2013 was more than 3 months old and therefore they were unable to respond to the complaint.

2. NBSA at its meeting held on 1.5.2014 considered the complaint and viewed the CD and decided to issue a notice to the broadcaster calling upon them to file its response and also decided to call the broadcaster for a hearing at the next meeting of NBSA.

3. At the hearing held on 2.6.2014, the broadcaster was heard. The following representatives of News 24 appeared before the NBSA:

1. Mr. Kaushik Moitra, Legal Head
2. Ms. Jyoti Lata, Company Secretary
3. Mr. Rajeev Ranjan, Associate Editor, News 24
4. Mr. Shashi Shekher Mishra, Executive Producer

4. The representatives of the channel were asked to explain the reason why they did not respond in spite of reminders. Mr Moitra stated that it was never their intention to show any disrespect and that they could not give a reply to the Notice, as the broadcast could not be verified by its library in the absence of exact date and time of the broadcast and passage of time. He however agreed to submit a written response within two days and the hearing was concluded.

5. NBSA at its meeting held on 17.7.2014 considered the response dated 3.6.2014 given by the broadcaster and also the submissions made at the hearing. The broadcaster has acknowledged the violation. It has explained it as inadvertent and unintentional and that it has initiated measures to strengthen the existing mechanism to ensure that such violations do not occur in future. It has also expressed its regret and sought condonation. It has offered to run a ticker with corrigendum/regret message.

6. Having regard to the gravity of the violation, it was decided that the broadcaster should be asked to air an apology and not a ticker on their channel News 24. The text, date and time of broadcast would be given by the NBSA.

7. NBSA therefore directs that News24 Broadcast India Ltd. (News 24 channel) to tender an apology on **September 5, 2014 at 9.00 pm** the following text (static) on full screen in large font size with voice over (in slow speed) expressing regret for the said telecast on their channel News 24 by stating the following:

न्यूज 24 ने बीएसपी सांसद के खिलाफ अपनी घरेलू नौकरानी से कथित बलात्कार के लिए एफ. आइ. आर. दर्ज किये जाने के बारे में समाचार प्रसारित करते हुए न्यूज 24 ने बलात्कार पीड़ित का चित्र उसका चेहरा धुँधला किये बिना दिखा दिया था. न्यूज 24 को पेट है कि 14.11.2013 को 07:01:37 बजे प्रसारित समाचार में एक बलात्कार पीड़ित का चेहरा बिना धुँधला किए अनभिप्रेत रूप से दिखा दिया गया. इस अनभिप्रेत त्रुटि के लिए न्यूज 24 को पेट है.

8. The video of the said programme, if hosted, on the website of News 24 or other links shall be removed.

9. NBSA further directs the NBA:

- (i) To send a copy of this order to the MIB and the news channel;
- (ii) To circulate this order to all Members & Editors of NBA;
- (iii) NBA to also host a summary of this order on its website and to include such summary in its next Annual Report;

10. Proof of compliance of telecast of the apology to be submitted to News Broadcasters Association on compact disc within 7 days of the telecast.

Sd/-
Justice R.V Raveendran (Retd.)
Chairperson

Place : New Delhi

Dated : 27.8.2014