

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE : DELHI

No. /PRO/PHQ, dated, Delhi the 2009.

To

The Editor
Hindustan Times
New Delhi

Subject : **Regarding news item “ ‘For Delhi Police, 2009 was encounter-free”**

Sir,

This refers to the captioned byline news item published in the Hindustan Times today i.e. 27-1-2010. The headline and contents of the report are factually incorrect and tendentious. There appears to be a misconception about the “encounter”.

The report claims that Delhi Police have had encounter-free 2009. It further claims that there had been a “marked change in the police strategy” on pursuing high risk criminals following the Batla House shoot out and go-slow order were issued.

It is clarified that during 2009, the Delhi Police had a number of encounters with the desperate and high-risk criminals. The dreaded criminals were apprehended after exchange of fire in broad day light. The notable encounters are as follows:-

- (i) Satte – Bittu gang- Shoot out at Green Park, on 19-1-2009 in which besides Satte, three others were injured in heavy exchange of fire.
- (ii) Manoj Bakkarwala carrying a reward of Rs. 50,000/- on his arrest was injured in shoot out on 14-7-2009 near Nilothi, Najafgarh .

- (iii) Sonu Kharab along with associates was arrested after exchange of fire on 28-6-2009 at Basant Gaon Road, Vasant Vihar, Delhi.
- (iv) Amit Gujjar, a desperate criminal along with three associates apprehended after exchange of fire on 11-1-2009 at Wazirabad Bridge, Delhi.
- (v) Sandeep Chitania, most wanted desperate criminal was arrested after a shoot out on 4-8-2009 in Rohini area.
- (vi) Narender Bhati @ Nandu @ Ravan was arrested after a shoot out on 28-6-2009 near Loni, U.P.
- (vii) Rahul @ Arun, desperate interstate robber/contract killer/auto lifter was arrested after a shoot out on 9-11-2009 near Aruna Asaf Ali Road, opposite ICSSR Building (P.S.Vasant Kunj).

In view of the above stated facts and circumstances, it is amply clear that the Delhi Police have been steadfast on pursuing high profile criminals and succeeded in cracking them after encounters. It may not be out of place to mention here that all encounters were prominently covered by the national dailies including the Hindustan Times. Hence it is wholly incorrect to say that the Delhi Police had no encounter in 2009. The reporter seems to have filed the report under the wrong notion of encounter confining it to the meaning of death of a criminal or police personnel in shoot out.

Since the report in question has put the efforts of Delhi Police in poor light, it is requested that the correct facts of matter may kindly be published with the same prominence in your esteemed newspaper to place the encounters which Delhi Police had during 2009 in correct perspective for readers.

(RAJAN BHAGAT)
Public Relations Officer
Delhi Police, Delhi