

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE : PHQ : NEW DELHI

No. 205 /PRO/PHQ, Dated 1-8-2008

To

The Editor
Times of India
New Delhi

Subject: Rejoinder about the news report “OLD, LONELY AND NOT SAFE AT HOME”

Sir,

This refers to the above captioned news report published in the Times of India on 29th July, 2008.

The title of the news report is misleading and scary. It unnecessarily creates a sense of insecurity among public in general and senior citizens in particular. The figures referred by the reporter itself suggest gradual decline in the cases committed against senior citizens over the years particularly under the heads murder and robbery. It may be appreciated that the Delhi police has time and again sensitized senior citizens advising them to follow dos and don'ts for their safety and security. A number of schemes like neighborhood watch, eyes and ears, senior citizen help line, servant and tenant verification have been implemented vigorously besides a dedicated senior citizen cell.

It is obvious that the steps taken by the Delhi police for the safety and security of senior citizens have instilled a sense of confidence and trust in them towards police. The increase in registration of senior citizens with Delhi police Senior Citizen cell speaks volume about it. It may not be out of place to mention here that the relatives and persons known to victims were found involved in majority of the cases reported under this category during the current year. One relative, two known persons, two servants and three unknown persons were found involved in eight cases of murder. There are solitary cases of attempt to murder and rape in which relatives of victims happened to be the assailants. In hurt cases five relatives, two neighbors and one unknown person were found involved. There were two cases of kidnapping, in one case accused was found known to the victim and in other case the accused was unknown. It may be appreciated that such crimes are caused due to various crimogenic factors. The reporter is expected to assess the situation in totality instead of trying to scare the public at large by a slanted projection of the situation.

In view of the above facts and circumstances, it is wholly unjustified to term the old and elderly as unsafe. It would be appropriate if the correct facts on the subject are

published with the same prominence in your newspaper. It will also be appreciated if the reporter is advised to state the facts in the correct perspective before publishing such sensitive matters which tend to cause alarm amongst the public in general and a vulnerable section of society in particular.

(RAJAN BHAGAT)
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