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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTACK ON TIMES NOW ON 21.1.2011 IN BANDA, UP

New Delhi: January 21, 2011 The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) condemns the attack on the crew member of Times Now, a Member News Channel of NBA, in Banda (UP) today. The crew member of the channel was roughed up by a group, alleged to be supporters of BSP MLA, P. Dwivedi. The so called 'supporters' of the MLA damaged Times Now crew equipment and the also threatened and accused the media of being responsible for his being held in Jail.

The NBA voices concern on the growing violence against journalists and media organizations, intolerance & resentment against the media. Journalists and media workers provide a service that is essential for any democratic society and keep the public informed. There can be no acceptable reason for attacking the media who help make possible the fundamental right of freedom of expression. NBA reiterated that preventing the media from performing their duties were violations of the freedoms enshrined in and guaranteed by the Constitution.

The NBA urges the Chief Minister of UP to immediately take action of book the culprits and display that no individual(s) are beyond the law of the land.

Annie Joseph
Secretary General
News Broadcasters Association