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PRESS RELEASE

New Delhi: April 22, 2013Justice (Retd.) J.S. Verma, Chairperson News Broadcasting Standards Authority and former Chief Justice of India & Former Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission passed away late this evening after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife and two daughters who along with their families were with him at the time of his demise.

Justice (Retd.) J.S.Verma, was appointed the first Chairperson of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA), a self-regulatory body set up by News Broadcasters Association (NBA) on 2.10.2008. He believed that self-regulation in the broadcast media is the best way forward in achieving a balance between the media's duty to empower the participatory role of the people in governance. In his frequent interaction with members of NBA he would tell them that in a democracy, it was the media's duty to inform the people of everything of significance; but the right to inform did not include the right to misinform as the media's right is no greater than an individual's right, which was again subject to reasonable restrictions. He advised members that self-regulation was the best way so that there was no occasion for any outside intervention to regulate. During the last four years of his association with NBSA, he took pro active steps to ensure that broadcasting standards improve. The entire electronic news broadcasting fraternity deeply mourns the passing away of this extra ordinary person who lived by his principles and convictions until the very end.

**Annie Joseph
Secretary General**

Brief profile of Justice (Retd.) J.S. Verma:

Justice (Retd) J. S. Verma, was born January 18, 1933 and was the 27th Chief Justice of India from March 25, 1997 until his retirement on January 18, 1998. He obtained degrees of B.Sc. and LL.B. from Allahabad University and then joined the Bar in 1955; became a Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court in 1972; its Chief Justice in 1985; the Chief Justice of Rajasthan in 1986; a Judge of the Supreme Court of India in 1989; and was the Chief Justice of India from 25 March 1997 to 18 January 1998. He was also the Acting Governor of Rajasthan, twice between 1987 and 1989. He headed the Commission to inquire into the security lapses leading to Rajiv Gandhi's assassination (1991-1992); and the Committee to suggest operationalisation of the Fundamental Duties (1998- 1999). He was the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission from 4 November 1999 to 18 January 2003. After demitting office of the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission, Justice Verma engaged himself in pursuing matters of national and public concerns, and advocating measures for amelioration of the polity.

In the aftermath of a gang rape in Delhi on 16.12 .2012, the Government of India on 23rd December 2012 appointed a three member Committee consisting of J. S. Verma , Chairman, Justice Shrimati Leila Seth & Mr Gopal Subramaniam as Members to look into possible amendments of the criminal law to provide for quicker trial and enhanced punishment for criminals committing sexual assault of extreme nature against women. In view of the significance & urgency of the task, the Committee undertook and performed the herculean task within 30 days.