

18.3.09

To All Members & Editors of NBA

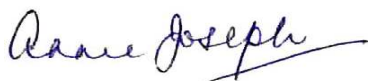
Sub: Kasab Trial

We have been informed by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, that the Ministry of Home Affairs has information that some of our Member channels propose to run programmes /news reports comprising the interrogation/ confession of Kasab, the terrorist arrested in connection with the Mumbai terror attack.

Please be advised that in Writ Petition (Civil) No7368 of 2008 titled Act Now for Harmony and Democracy and Another vs. UOI & others, the Delhi High Court is seized of a similar issue challenging a print media report where the interrogation/confession of an accused after the Batla House encounter in September 2008 was reported. In the said proceedings the High Court has expressed displeasure on the subject news report. The NBA has intervened in the said writ petition and has been called upon to assist in addressing the media related issues that arise in the proceedings.

Member channels will note that any programme/news report containing the text or details relating to Kasab's interrogation/ confessions are likely to invite similar action as above apart from being in violation of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines issued by the NBA from time to time. Most importantly any such programmes /news reports may be prejudicial to national interest; may interfere with the course of justice and may therefore also amount to contempt of court.

Accordingly member channels are hereby advised to desist from running any programme/news reports containing the text or details or any other similar material relating to Kasab.



Annie Joseph
Secretary General