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New Delhi: August 1, 2008 — Mr G. Krishnan, President News Broadcasters Association (NBA) has noted with concern over reports that the BJP has announced that it will boycott CNN IBN and its affiliated channels if the channel does not telecast the tapes of the sting operation carried out on July 22.2008

Mr Krishnan stated that the step taken by the BJP is not in the interest of Broadcasters and the media community and sets a dangerous precedent. Political parties must recognise that editors have the freedom to decide what to telecast and what not to and cannot be subject to any interference. If it happens media organization would loose its independence. A boycott of a network is not the way forward and suggests a new threat to the freedom of the press.

The NBA would suggest that the BJP review its stand and avoid a situation of confrontation which is not in the interests of a harmonious relationship between political parties and media professionals.

Annie Joseph
Secretary General