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New Delhi: November 2, 2007 — The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) has condemned the attack on NDTV reporter Prakash Singh and cameraperson Habib Ali, who were assaulted and kept in confinement at the residence of JD(U) MLA Anant Singh in Patna yesterday.

Mr G Krishnan, President of NBA, today voiced concern about the growing violence against journalists. He said journalists and media workers provide a service that is essential for any democratic society. They play an indispensable role in enabling citizens to hold open debate and make informed decisions; expose the misdeeds of the mighty & powerful; and keep the public informed. There can be no acceptable political reason for attacking the men and women who help make possible the fundamental right of freedom of expression. He reiterated that criminal intimidation of journalists and preventing them from performing their duties were violations of the freedoms enshrined in and guaranteed by the Constitution.

The NBA welcomes the swift action taken by the Bihar Chief Minister in ensuring the arrest of the culprits and displaying that no individual(s) are beyond the law of the land. President NBA however demanded an independent & impartial enquiry into yesterday's incident. He hoped the enquiry would be speedy and the report tabled in the state assembly in good time. He also urged the Chief Minister and the administration to ensure that journalists and media persons are allowed to perform their duties in a free and fearless manner.

Annie Joseph
Secretary General

Correspondence Address: ME-5, Sah Vikas Apartments 68, Patparganj, Delhi – 110092
M: 9810025212, Fax: 22231805, E: nbanewdelhi@gmail.com
Registered Office: 101-103 Paramount Tower, C-17 Community Center, Janakpuri, New Delhi – 110058