



# PRESS CLUB OF INDIA

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Date: 08 July, 2024

## **Press Statement**

The Press Club of India and Indian Women's Press Corps are extremely perturbed to learn that the UP Police have registered FIR under sections 196 and 353 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhinta (BNS) against journalists Zakir Ali Tyagi and Wasim Akram Tyagi for reporting on social media the alleged lynching, leading to the death, of a Muslim man in Shamli district in Western UP.

We also endorse the statement issued earlier in the day by DIGIPUB, a coalition of more than 90 digital media outlets and independent journalists, which states: "Registering an FIR against journalists sharing information in public interest is a grave overreach and misuse of criminal laws that has a chilling effect. While the police has contested that the nature of the incident, saying it was not communal in the nature, there is no cause for filling cases against journalists who are putting out the information available to them."

Reporting publicly available information, irrespective of the medium of the message, qualifies as bonafide journalism. Such arbitrary application of BNS tantamount to intimidation of journalists in direct violation of Article 19(1)(A) of the Constitution. We unequivocally demand the withdrawal of FIR against the two journalists.

Gautam Lahiri  
President,  
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Parul Sharma  
President  
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