

Violations of the Editors' Code monitored by the PCCSL

January 2017

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE	VIOLATION BASED ON EDITORS' CODE	ACTION TAKEN
Jan. 03, 2017	Lakbima Page 01/02 Daughter of MP driving recklessly. Story concerning Yihanya Geethanjali Ratwatte daughter of MP Lohan Ratwatte fined for reckless driving.	6.2 (iii): Identify without consent relatives of a person accused or convicted of a crime.	Spoke to Editor.
Jan. 06, 2017	Lakbima Page 8 A suspect has been remanded for breaking the neck of a woman. Step by step details of murder given.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor
Jan. 08, 2017	Lankadeepa Page 14 Story concerning Tamil Diaspora meeting in Chennai. Reference was made to the group being LTTE.	2.1: Inaccurate, misleading or distorting news.	Spoke to Editor.
Jan. 17, 2017	Maubima Photo in story was used in a previous story. It has been wrongly captioned as "a recent photograph". The photo concerned MP Wimal Weerawansa's arrest in the presence of his daughter.	2.1: Inaccurate, misleading or distorting news.	Spoke to editor.
Jan. 17, 2017	Sudar Oli Page 06 Photo of murdered youth	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to editor and sent a letter.

February 2017

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE	VIOLATION BASED ON EDITORS' CODE	ACTION TAKEN
Feb. 16, 2017	Thinakkural Page 09 Body of 55-year-old person hanging has been recovered	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor.
Feb. 20, 2017	Thinakkural Page 10 Former freedom fighter's body recovered	7.1: Respect private and family lives.	Sent letter Feb. 23, 2017
Feb. 26, 2017	Irida Divaina Page 34 Full figure photograph of Vidya.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion. 6.2.(i): Name victim of sex crime. 7.3: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to editor.

Feb. 28, 2017	Divaina Page 01 Photograph of assassinated prisoner Samayan fallen on the steps of the prison bus.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to editor.
Feb. 28, 2017	Siyadesa Page 01 Photograph of assassinated prisoner Samayan fallen on the steps of the prison bus.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to editor.

March 2017

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE	VIOLATION BASED ON EDITORS' CODE	ACTION TAKEN
March 01, 2017	Divaina Page 24 This story is about a cell phone robbery but they have mentioned the thief as a "Tamil man"	6.4.(i): Prejudicial reference to a person's race.	Spoke to editor.
March 01, 2017	Divaina Page 24 This story concerns the arrest of a boy who stayed with an underage girl. Story adds that he is a Tamil boy.	6.4.(i): Prejudicial reference to a person's race.	Spoke to editor.
March 01, 2017	Divaina Page 07 Story concerns a journalist describing a sand miner in his story as being a notorious crook involved in wheeler-dealing and profiteering.	2.1: Inaccurate story.	Spoke to editor.
March 01,2017	Maubima Page 11 Story concerns a journalist describing a sand miner in his story as being a notorious crook involved in wheeler-dealing and profiteering.	2.1: Inaccurate story.	Spoke to editor.
March 01,2017	Rivira Page 04 Story concerns a journalist describing a sand miner in his story as being a notorious crook involved in wheeler-dealing and profiteering.	2.1: Inaccurate story.	Spoke to editor.
March 02, 2017	Maubima Page 03 Story concerns a journalist describing a sand miner, in this they have mentioned the names of two	6.2.(iii): Identifying relatives.	Spoke to editor.

	politicians as his brothers.		
March 13 , 2017	Maubima Page 03 Story concerns new born child found in a polythene bag on the roadside. Photograph clearly shows this. Headline: 'Upan hatiye bilida polithin urayakin parata: polisiyen pihiten daruwa berila'.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to editor.

April 2017

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE	VIOLATION BASED ON EDITORS' CODE	ACTION TAKEN
April 10, 2017	Rivira Page 15 Dead body found near Hatton bus stand.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor and sent letter.
April 17, 2017	Rivira Page 08 Garbage mountain claims 26 lives. Story concerns Meethotamulla garbage dump. Photograph shows dead body but unidentifiable.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor and sent letter.
April 17, 2017	Maubima Page 06 and 07 Garbage mountain turns into burial ground. Story concerns Meethotamulla garbage dump. Photograph shows dead body but unidentifiable.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor and sent letter.
April 17, 2017	Sudar Oli Page 03 Dead body found in Uda Pussalawa. Dead body of father of four found lying on the side of the road in front of the common toilet. Sensitive and discretion not observed.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor and sent letter.

May 2017

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE	VIOLATION BASED ON EDITORS' CODE	ACTION TAKEN
May 15, 2017	Tamil Mirror Page 07 Kalutara Case: Prison warden replaced Photograph of prisoner's bloodied body fallen on steps of prison vehicle.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor.
May 15, 2017	Daily News Page 01	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor.

	Abandoned mentally handicapped sisters rescued by police Photograph of two mentally handicapped children with woman Police Constable.		
May 21, 2017	Lankadeepa Page 01 (Nimthera) Kosgoda murder case (Mistress and infant killed) Photographs of dead bodies published and steps of murder explained.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Discussed with Editor the violation.
May 22, 2017	Lankadeepa Page 10 Trick turns to suicide Drunk man ties hose pipe to neck and threatens suicide, but goes wrong and dies. Story gives details of incident.	6.5: When reporting suicide, care should be taken not to give excessive detail of the method used.	Spoke to Editor
May 23, 2017	Maubima Page 01 Article about three mentally retarded patients in Habaraduwa Hospital toilet. Photograph published showing one patient.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion. 7.5: The restrictions on intruding into privacy are particularly relevant to inquiries about individuals in hospitals or similar institutions, unless it serves the public interest.	Spoke to Editor and sent letter.
May 29, 2017	Divaina Page 24 The story is about Duli ella Landslide Photograph shows landslide and dead bodies.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor and sent letter.
May 28, 2017	Maubima Page 21 The story is about mentally ill patients in Habaraduwa hospital Photograph of patient published.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion. 7.5: The restrictions on intruding into privacy are particularly relevant to inquiries about individuals in hospitals or similar institutions, unless it serves the public interest.	Spoke to Editor and sent letter recalling earlier letter on the same issue.
May 31, 2017	Thinakkural Page 25 Picture page showing destruction of Cyclone 'Mora'. Photograph of mutilated body of infant.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor

Total violations: 08			
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June 2017

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE	VIOLATION BASED ON EDITORS' CODE	ACTION TAKEN
June 01, 2017	Lankadeepa Page 19 A poem about floods In this poem they have included a photograph of dead child.	6.1: Sensitivity and Discretion.	Spoke to Editor.
June 01, 2017	Divaina Page 13 A murder case in Galle. Dead bodies of victims published	6.1: Sensitivity and Discretion.	Spoke to Editor
June 09, 2017	Siyadesa Page 01 Story concerns motor car accident involving a Ministry Secretary In this story they have mention the name of the ministry and the name of the minister.	6.2.(iii): Identify without consent relatives of a person accused or convicted of a crime.	Spoke to Editor.
June 19, 2017	Siyadesa Page 01 The story is about an inject incident in Kantali In this story they have attach a photograph of the child.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor.
June 20, 2017	Maubima Page 03 The story is about disabled soldier attempting suicide but lawyer stops him. In this story they have published a photograph of the man with his head on the railway track. He is identifiable.	6.5: When reporting suicide, care should be taken not to give excessive detail of the method used. 6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor.
June 20, 2017	Dinamina Page 04 The story is about disabled soldier attempting suicide but lawyer stops him. In this story they have published a photograph of the man with his head on the railway track. He is	6.5: When reporting suicide, care should be taken not to give excessive detail of the method used. 6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor.

	identifiable.		
June 22, 2017	Thinakkural Page 02 Gampol-Elpitiya Muslim youth attacked. Fight between Sinhala and Muslim youth.	6.3: A journalist shall not knowingly or willfully promote communal or religious discord or violence.	Spoke to Editor.
June 28, 2017	Navamani Page 01 Father of four children commits suicide by hanging himself. In this story they have attached photograph of three people hanging from a tree.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion. 7.1: The press shall exercise particular care to respect family lives.	Spoke to Editor and discussed the issue.
June 28, 2017	Metro News Page 01 Father commits suicide after hanging three children. In this story they have attached photograph of three people hanging from a tree.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion. 7.1: The press shall exercise particular care to respect family lives.	Spoke to Editor and sent letter.
Total violations: 09			

July 2017

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE	VIOLATION BASED ON EDITORS' CODE	ACTION TAKEN
July 04, 2017	Metro News Page 01 Former soldiers commit crime. Story headline is misleading says former soldiers when text says they are deserters.	2.1: Inaccurate, misleading, distorting. 2.2: Verify accuracy of reports.	Spoke to Editor.
July 04, 2017	Virakesari Page 01 Former soldiers commit crime. Story headline is misleading says former soldiers when text says they are deserters.	2.1: Inaccurate, misleading, distorting. 2.2: Verify accuracy of reports.	Spoke to Editor.
Total violations: 02			

August 2017

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION BASED ON EDITORS' CODE	ACTION TAKEN
Aug. 6, 2017	Lankadeepa Page 07 (rasavitha) The article concerns the bomb blast at Sri Dalada Maligawa. In this story they have attach a photograph of the mutilated dead body of an LTTE cadre.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor.
Aug. 06, 2017	Siyadesa (Irida) Page 09 The article concerns Gonagalagama village. In this story they have attach a photograph of some dead bodies.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor.
Aug.19, 2017	Divaina Page 01 The story concerns a gem theft. In this article they have named the thief as Police Commissioner's brother.	6.2.(iii): Identify without consent relatives of a person accused or convicted of a crime.	Spoke to Editor.
Aug. 22, 2017	Divaina Page 01 The story concerns a gem theft. In this article they have named the thief as Police Commissioner's brother.	6.2.(iii): Identify without consent relatives of a person accused or convicted of a crime.	Story updated with references. Spoke to Editor to be careful.
Aug. 28, 2017	Daily News Page 04 A tragedy most heinous. All details of rape victim and incident given.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion. 6.2. (i): Name victim of sex crime	Discussed with Editor the violation.
Aug. 30, 2017	Maubima Page 01 Article concerns Arjun Aloysius bond case. Ridiculing of publisher of Janayugaya newspaper – Arjun Aloysius - calling him a rogue.	7.1: The press shall exercise particular care to respect the private and family lives of individuals.	Spoke to Editor.
Total violations: 07			

September 2017

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION BASED ON EDITORS' CODE	ACTION TAKEN
September 11, 2017	Lakbima Page 01 Article concerns an	6.2 (iii) Identify without consent relatives of a person accused or	Spoke to Editor.

	accident involving a motor car and motor bicycle where one person died on the spot and the other in hospital. The motor car driver was identified in the headline and in the article as President's brother. He is in remand.	convicted of a crime.	
September 11, 2017	Daily Mirror Page 01 Article concerns an accident involving a motor car and motor bicycle where one person died on the spot and the other in hospital. The motor car driver was identified in the headline and in the article as President's brother. He is in remand.	6.2 (iii): Identify without consent relatives of a person accused or convicted of a crime.	Spoke to Editor.
September 11, 2017	Ada Page 06 Article concerns an accident involving a motor car and motor bicycle where one person died on the spot and the other in hospital. The motor car driver was identified in the headline and in the article as President's brother. He is in remand.	6.2 (iii): Identify without consent relatives of a person accused or convicted of a crime.	Spoke to Editor.
September 26, 2017	Lankadeepa Page 14 Suicide of Tele Drama Actor. Details of suicide given in detail, step-by-step. Died of hanging.	6.5: When reporting suicide, care should be taken not to give excessive detail of the method used.	Spoke to Editor.
September 26, 2017	Maubima Page 01 Suicide of Tele Drama Actor. Details of suicide given in detail, step-by-step. Died of hanging.	6.5: When reporting suicide, care should be taken not to give excessive detail of the method used.	Spoke to Editor.
Total violations: 05			

October 2017

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE	VIOLATION BASED ON EDITORS' CODE	ACTION TAKEN
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Oct. 06, 2017	Lankadeepa Page 01 Mother abandons newly born infant in jungle. Photograph of infant.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Wrote to Editor drawing his attention to the violation.
Oct. 09, 2017	Divaina Page 03 Commits suicide by burning in aborted love affair. The article is about a 20-year-old girl pouring kerosene oil on her body and setting fire to herself in an aborted love affair.	6.5: When reporting suicide, care should be taken not to give excessive detail of the method used.	Spoke to Editor
Oct. 13, 2017	The Island Page 01 Absence of diplomatic ties won't undermine Lanka-Taiwan cooperation", the strap line of which: "Litro chairman, retired Maj Gen's son. The article concerns the arrest of two people in connection with a fraud.	6.2 (iii): Identify without consent relatives of a person accused or convicted of a crime".	Sent letter to Editor/MD
Oct. 13, 2017	Lankadeepa Page 03 Clash at Education Workshop. The article concerns a fight where the School name is mentioned.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor
Oct. 20, 2017	Ada Page 01 Suspended from School for wrong reasons. Student was vomiting in class. Suspected to be pregnant and suspended. Parents summoned. Name of School mentioned.	7.4: Unnecessary intrusion of a child's private life.	Spoke to Editor.
Oct. 21, 2017	Divaina Page 10 Child is still hospitalized after assaulting by two teachers. Two teachers attack a child. Article mention's the school name.	6.1: 'Sensitivity and discretion, subject to its duty to publish in the public interest'.	Spoke to Editor.
Oct. 23, 2017	Ceylon Today Page 05 Tiger trap. Usage of photograph of child soldier taken in 1991.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion. 7.1: The press shall exercise particular care to respect the private and family lives of individuals.,	Spoke to Mr. Arjuna Ranawana, Director Editorial and sent letter to him and also the Editor Mr. Jayantha Sri Nissanka.
Oct. 23, 2017	Maubima Page 01 and 02	7.1: The press shall exercise particular care to	Wrote to Editor

	School girl gets kicked out of school because of vomiting. Student girl is suspended from School due to vomiting in classroom. Name of School mentioned.	respect the private and family lives of individuals. 7.4: Unnecessary intrusion of a child's private life. or her family or guardian.	
Oct. 28, 2017	Divaina P-10 Maubima P-05 Thinakan P-01 Lakbima P-02 Family commits suicide by eating poisoned ice cream. Story mentions that ice cream was laced with a poisonous substance. Thinakarn names the substance.	6.5: When reporting suicide, care should be taken not to give excessive details of the method used.	Spoke to Editors and sent letter to Thinakarn and copy to Chairman, ANCL.
Total violations: 09			

November 2017

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE	VIOLATION BASED ON EDITORS' CODE	ACTION TAKEN
Nov. 12, 2017	Irida Lankadeepa Page 02 Loan resulted in death. Mother giving children ice cream laced with poison and later takes some resulting in death to the whole family.	6.5: When reporting suicide, care should be taken not to give excessive detail of the method used.	Spoke to Editor.
Nov. 15, 2017	Metro News Page 06 Dead body found in a Meerigama saloon was a daughter of a Police Officer of Meerigama Police Station. Reason for murder unknown. The photograph of the victim has been published. In one photograph they have darkened the face while in the other they have not.	6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to Editor.
Total violations: 02			

December 2017

No violations monitored