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**EXTRACT FROM THE JUDGMENT*
OF MEDIA ETHICS OBSERVATORY
ON THE COMPLAINT OF ANNA SIMONIAN
ON A PHOTO STORY BY GAGIK SHAMSHIAN,
STORED ON “ARAVOT” DAILY WEBSITE**

The subject of Anna Simonian’s complaint was the photo story by Gagik Shamshian “Reportedly, The 38-Years Old Young Man Shot Himself Death”, placed on “Aravot” website (www.aravot.am) on February 7, 2012.

MEO notes that the identification in the piece of name and surname of the person, who has committed suicide, is not acceptable and runs counter Point 4.3 of Code of Conduct of Media Representatives: “to be especially tactful when the sources of information or the heroes of publications are (...) persons, who have committed suicide”; as well as “when collecting information about people that have suffered tragedy or sorrow, when taking interviews or photos of such people, or when broadcasting video or audio materials about them, to be tactful towards them”.

MEO considers that Point 4.4. was also violated during the selection of photos for the story. In this regard, MEO reminds about the necessity to be more delicate while reporting on tragic events. MEO calls the media who had joined the self-regulation initiative to comply with requirements of Point 4.5 of the Code of Conduct: “To respect the presumption of innocence: when publishing the names of crime suspects before the trial, to consider the public need for doing so - striking a balance between the presumption of innocence, the right of crime suspects to fair trial, and the right of the public to be informed.”

MEO suggests “Aravot” daily, which had published the photo story, be more careful while covering tragic events and selecting materials and photos on them.

***Adopted at the MEO session of February 17, 2012
In the following composition:***

Gegham BAGHDASARIAN, Chief Editor of “Analyticon” journal
Mesrop HARUTYUNIAN, media expert
Gegham MANUKIAN, Director of the News and Current Affairs Programs of

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Ashot MELIKIAN, Chairman of Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression
Emmanuil MKRTCHIAN, General Director of “ArmlInfo” news agency
Boris NAVASARDIAN, President of Yerevan Press Club
Nouneh SARKISSIAN, Managing Director of Internews Media Support NGO

MEO was established by the media, joining the self-regulation initiative, which make 48 as of today. In its judgments MEO is guided by Code of Conduct of Media Representatives, adopted at the self-regulation body’s meeting on March 10, 2007.

*** Full text of the MEO judgment was placed on “Aravot” website www.aravot.am on February 29, 2012**