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ADVICE OF MEDIA ETHICS OBSERVATORY TO "NEWMAG" MAGAZINE

Regarding the piece "Who Was the Runaway Bride, and What Happened to Her?" published in the online version of the magazine on January 13, 2016

MEO Composition:

Aram ABRAHAMIAN
Gegham BAGHDASARIAN
Levon BARSEGHIAN
Ara GHAZARIAN
Mesrop HARUTYUNIAN
Agnesa KHAMOYAN
Gegham MANUKIAN
Ashot MELIKIAN
Mesrop MOVSESIAN
Gnel NALBANDIAN
Boris NAVASARDIAN
Olga SAFARIAN
Nouneh SARKISSIAN
Gegham VARDANIAN

Media Ethics Observatory

- At the January 27, 2016 session, on its own initiative and with the consent of "Newmag" magazine, discussing the piece entitled "Who Was the Runaway Bride and What Happened to Her?" published in the online version of the magazine on January 13, 2016,
- Guided by the Point 4.1 of Part 4 ("Respect for Privacy and Other Human Rights") of the Code of Ethics of Armenian Media and Journalists which entails for editors and journalists "to respect and protect the human right to private life, including respect to personal and family life, residence, property, health condition, correspondence. Only public interest or protection thereof can justify publication of information regarding the privacy of high rank officials, public figures, and individuals aspiring to power or public attention", and
- Stating that
- a. Although the described event is a matter of public interest, the heroine of the piece is not a public figure and does not aspire to public attention;
- b. The publication of actual data and the accompanying photo is not justified in terms of respecting the principle of protection of private life and allows to identify the heroine of the piece,

Advises to "Newmag":

- To remove the photo as well as any data (name, surname, place of birth, places of education and work) from the piece "Who Was the Runaway Bride and What Happened to Her?";
- In case of need to undertake other measures to settle eventual dispute with the heroine of the piece in extrajudicial procedure.

Adopted at the MEO session of January 27, 2016, In the following composition: Gegham BAGHDASARIAN, Chief Editor of "Analyticon" magazine
Ara GHAZARIAN, Lawyer
Mesrop HARUTYUNIAN, Media Expert
Ashot MELIKIAN, Chairman of the Committee to
Protect Freedom of Expression
Boris NAVASARDIAN, President of Yerevan Press Club
Nouneh SARKISSIAN, Managing Director of Media Initiatives Center
Gegham VARDANIAN, Producer of Media.am

Media Ethics Observatory was established by the media, joining the self-regulation initiative, which make 40 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.