



ALL INDIA MUSLIM PERSONAL LAW BOARD

آل انڈیا مسلم پرسنل لا بورڈ

Ref. No.....

Date.....

PRESS STATEMENT

New Delhi: 05/11/2019

There are few days left for the landmark Judgement to be delivered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Babri-Masjid Case of Ayodhya. The same is expected to be delivered before November 17, 2019.

During 40 days of hearing, lawyers for all the parties advanced their submissions in Court with open mind which was widely reported in the media. We have already made it clear that the Supreme Court verdict may give finality to the issue and entire country is bound to obey the same.

We have always been in support of the freedom of Press and shall take all steps which may ensure freedom of press. However, in a multi-cultural and multi religious society like us, media has also an important duty to play in protecting the rights of minorities, Dalits, Adivasis, women and all suppressed classes.

We need to point out, at this stage, that recently, except for some quarters of the press who have been fair, very large section has started reporting the Ayodhya case in a manner which violated the basic principle of neutrality in reporting of an issue. A large section of Press, mainly electronic media, is involved in rabble rousing and propaganda. Such coverage may help in spreading hatred and animosity among the citizens of the country.

Given the sensitivity of the *Babri Masjid dispute*, the Supreme Court has passed direction dated 30.10.2015 in CA No 10866-67 of 2010 directing



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that earlier orders passed by the High Court dated 20.08.2002 and 17.02.2003 in relation to the media reporting shall continue to remain operative during the pendency of this case.

We want to remind our media fraternity that the News Broadcasting Standards Association (NBSA) has also issued an advisory to the media with regard to coverage of *Babri Masjid dispute*.

A matter, which is before the Supreme Court, must be reported in the Press from a legal point of view without any adjective, personal opinion, prejudice, bias or emotional narrative in the garb of freedom of press. We expect our vibrant media to follow and abide by the basic principle of neutrality and also consider orders passed by the Supreme Court to this effect and further follow the advisory issued by the self-regulating institution of media.

Issued by

Vaquar Uddin Latifi
Office secretary AIMPLB
For Md. Wali Rahmani
General Secretary AIMPLB

