

**EXTRACT FROM THE JUDGMENT OF MEDIA ETHICS OBSERVATORY
ON THE COMPLAINT OF CHIEF EDITOR OF “168 ZHAM” NEWSPAPER SATIK
SEYRANIAN AND CHIEF EDITOR OF “ARAVOT” DAILY ARAM ABRAHAMIAN
VERSUS “AZG” DAILY**

The subject of the complaint of Chief Editor of “168 Zham” newspaper Satik Seyranian and Chief Editor of “Aravot” daily Aram Abrahamian was the piece “Campaign of Armenian National Movement launched on the “Chief’s” Order” published by “Azg” daily on March 11, 2009. In the applicants’ opinion, the piece contained untrue passages about “Aravot” and “168 Zham” newspapers. The article coarsely violates a number of the Code of Conduct provisions, signed by the conflict parties, the appeal of heads of “168 Zham” and “Aravot” noted.

By examining the piece of “Azg” daily MEO concludes that Points 1.1 and 1.3 of the Code of Conduct have been violated. Point 1.1 stipulates: “Prior to publishing, to check the accuracy of information from any source, not to conceal and not to distort facts, and not to publish obviously false information.” According to Point 1.3, it is necessary “to rely on accurate facts when making analysis and comment”. MEO considers the party affiliation to Armenian National Movement, attributed to “168 Zham” and “Aravot” newspapers, not to be an evaluating opinion, but nothing else than not proved false information. The author of the piece should have checked the information. Thus, the comments of the author regarding those newspapers are based on untrue information.

At the same time, MEO calls “Azg” daily and the other media, members of the self-regulation initiative, not to allow the political struggle between the party groups to become a struggle between the media, to refrain from pieces, discrediting each other, and to adhere to “common standards of professional journalism”, as the preamble of the Code of Conduct says.

Adopted at the MEO session of May 12, 2009

***The full version of the MEO judgment was published
in “Azg” daily on May 20, 2009***