

**EXTRACT FROM THE EXPERT JUDGMENT OF MEDIA ETHICS OBSERVATORY
ON THE ARTICLE “IF YOUR NEIGHBOR IS A POLICEMAN”
PUBLISHED IN “ARAVOT” DAILY ON JUNE 25, 2008**

Analyzing the piece “If Your Neighbor is a Policeman”, the Media Ethics Observatory concludes that “there are no obvious violations of Code of Conduct and of international standards”. At the same time, one phrase arose some doubt: “(...) Ghevondian, making use of his police connections (...)”, which, according to the author of the article, is based on witness evidence, but as it was not followed by an appropriate reference, it was perceived as the author’s words. Besides, the expressions disputed by the plaintiff as “data discrediting his honor and reputation” and “factual inaccuracies” “are not facts but conclusions or evaluating opinions, based on the facts containing in the article”. Neither the truth of this conclusions nor their agreement to reality can be proved. As an argument the MEO refers to one of the clauses of the decision of European Court on Human Rights on the case of “Lingens vs. Austria”.

Some acute expressions are also used in the article, which reflect the stereotypes rooted in the society, but they either cannot be viewed as an insult from the point of view of professional journalist ethics.

Adopted at the MEO session of October 31, 2008