



ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ԶԱՆԳՎԱԾՏՆԻԿԱՆ ԼՐԱՏՎՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄԻԳՐԱՆԵՐԻ ԷԹԻԿԱՆԻ
ԳԻՏՈՐԴ ՄԱՐՄԻՆ

9B, Ghazar Parpetsi str.
0002 Yerevan, Republic of Armenia
Tel.: +374 10 53 00 67; 53 35 41; 53 76 62
Fax: +374 10 53 56 61
E-mail: meo@ypc.am

MEO Composition:

Narineh AVETISYAN
Shushan DOYDOYAN
Ara GHAZARYAN
Mesrop HARUTYUNYAN
Karineh KALANTARYAN
Gegham MANUKYAN
Ashot MELIKYAN
Mesrop MOVSESYAN
Gnel NALBANDYAN
Boris NAVASARDIAN
Nouneh SARKISSIAN
Anzhela STEPANYAN
Ara SHIRINYAN
Gegham VARDANYAN

**EXPERT OPINION OF
MEDIA ETHICS OBSERVATORY
REGARDING THE RA NA DEPUTY GEVORG GORGISYAN'S
LAWSUIT AGAINST "CHORRORD ISHKHANTYUN"
NEWSPAPER**

**(In Addition to the Opinion of the Information Disputes Council on
the Same Lawsuit)**

A. FACTS

1. On November 2, 2020, the Information Disputes Council applied to Media Ethics Observatory to study its [opinion](#) of October 30, 2020, which had been prepared in connection with the lawsuit filed by the RA National Assembly Deputy Gevorg Gorgisyan against "Chorrord Ishkhanutyun" newspaper. The IDC suggested MEO to also discuss it and present an expert opinion from the perspective of journalistic ethics.

2. On February 29, 2020 the website of "Chorrord Ishkhanutyun" newspaper (<https://4rd.am>) published the following [article](#) about RA NA Deputy Gevorg Gorgisyan:

Gorgisyan Would be a Pickpocket

"I'm officially announcing that those who are concerned that there will be a commission member in the "NO" camp with our license were going to carry out ballot stuffing in the polling stations," said Gevorg Gorgisyan, Secretary of "Bright Armenia" parliamentary faction.

"Chorrord Ishkhanutyun": Then they say there is no coronavirus in Armenia. That man openly shows that he has problems, but since he is an "oppositionist", Torosyan does not want to hospitalize him. In Gorgisyan's case one can also claim that masks do not help protect oneself against the virus. After all, at the first sign of danger, he always uses his handkerchief covering his nose and mouth. Gorgisyan seems to have already established a good tradition: on the eve of any serious process, he takes an action or expresses an opinion, which becomes an integral part of that process. And since the BAP has now lain low, the

room for maneuver has narrowed, the deputy with the surname of a hero decided to include his name in the process of constitutional changes with such absurd thoughts. We are officially announcing that if Mikael Minasyan had not created 'Bright Armenia', and if it had not been for the advantage of Gevorg's surname, he would have definitely been a pickpocket.

The RA NA Deputy considered that the media had slandered him with the last sentence of the piece and applied to the court.

3. The IDC initiated a discussion of the court case.

4. The media published another article, in which it clarified that by calling the Deputy "pickpocket" it aimed to "mock" the MP for an earlier public statement made by him.

5. The court proceeding is still ongoing.

6. Prior to that, the IDC concluded that the media had exercised its right to disseminate information and ideas in a proportionate and lawful manner.

B. ETHICAL NORMS

I. Code of Ethics of Armenian Media and Journalists

1. Accuracy and impartiality

1.3. To clearly distinguish facts and information from opinion, comment and analysis;

1.4. To rely on accurate facts and trustworthy information when making analysis and comments.

C. EXPERT OPINION

Media Ethics Observatory

Discussing

the appeal and relevant opinion by the Information Disputes Council regarding the lawsuit filed by the RA National Assembly Deputy Gevorg Gorgisyan against "Chorrord Ishkhanutyun" newspaper,

Admitting that

a sharp satirical expression was made against the politician,

Highlighting that

satirical comments and opinions, especially in the case of politicians, can even be provocative,

Notes the following:

1. The expression was used by the editorial staff in a piece published under

"Satiricon" heading, clearly positioning the piece in question as satirical in terms of genre, using a trick typical of the pamphlet genre, thus displaying honest behavior in front of its readers.

2. There is no confusion either between the news and its comment, as the editorial staff clearly separated them in the piece.

SINCE "Chorrord Ishkhanutyun" is not a member of the self-regulatory initiative and is not obliged to publish the current expert opinion, Media Ethics Observatory nevertheless urges to publish it, for it can help prevent similar disputes that are common now.

***Adopted at the MEO session of November 17, 2020
In the following composition:***

Shushan DOYDOYAN, President of Freedom of Information Center

Mesrop HARUTYUNYAN, Media Expert

Ashot MELIKYAN, Chairman of Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression

Gnel NALBANDYAN, Chief Editor of "Zham" news program of "Armenia" TV company, Chief Editor of "Newmag" magazine

Boris NAVASARDIAN, President of Yerevan Press Club

Nouneh SARKISSIAN, Managing Director of Media Initiatives Center

Anzhela STEPANYAN, Editor of Armavir "Alt" TV company

Gegham VARDANYAN, Producer of Media.am

Media Ethics Observatory was established by the media, joining the self-regulation initiative, which make 60 as of today. In its judgments MEO is guided by Code of Ethics of Armenian Media and Journalists, adopted at the self-regulation body's meeting on March 10, 2007, and revised on May 16, 2015