



MEDIA ETHICS OBSERVATORY OF ARMENIA

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JUDGMENT OF MEDIA ETHICS OBSERVATORY

Regarding NA Deputy Taguhi Ghazaryan's complaint against an Aravot.am piece titled "75-Year-Old Vedi Resident Targeted by Law Enforcement Over a Post"

A. FACTS

- On February 28, 2026, Media Ethics Observatory received a complaint from Taguhi Ghazaryan, a deputy of the RA National Assembly, in which she requested assistance in either correcting or removing inaccurate information associated with her name in an article titled "75-Year-Old Vedi Resident Targeted by Law Enforcement Over a Post," published on "Aravot.am" website (the online version of "Aravot" daily) on February 16, 2026.
- MEO reviewed the published article, the content of the complaint, the response and additional clarifications provided by the editorial team of "Aravot.am," as well as the information received from law enforcement agencies and published by the media.
- On February 16, 2026, "Aravot.am" published a [news piece](#), which contained the following claim: "As learned by Aravot.am, another Facebook user, a 75-year-old woman from Vedi, has drawn the attention of law enforcement agencies for making public calls for violence against representatives of the Armenian authorities."
- According to the piece, the post in question was made under a photo of Taguhi Ghazaryan shared on the Facebook page of the user named "Nare Sose."
- Taguhi Ghazaryan, the complainant, stated that to her knowledge, the Investigative Committee had not initiated any criminal proceedings. She also pointed out that the publication, when introducing her, referred to a different committee of the National Assembly, of which she is not a member.
- The editorial team of "Aravot.am" informed MEO on March 2 that the piece was based on a police brief report. They further admitted the error regarding the deputy's committee affiliation, made the appropriate correction and apologized for the oversight.
- According to additional information provided by "Aravot.am," responses obtained from the RA Prosecutor's Office (March 9, 2026) and from the Communications and Public Awareness Department of the RA Ministry of Internal Affairs (March 16, 2026) confirmed that criminal proceedings had indeed been initiated on February 12 in

connection with the aforementioned post.

B. LEGISLATIVE AND ETHICAL NORMS

Code of Ethics of Armenian Media and Journalists

- 1.1. prior to publishing, to check the accuracy of information from any source, not to conceal or distort facts, and not to publish obviously false information;
- 2.2. to the extent possible, avoid using confidential sources of information and, before promising to keep the source of information confidential, always justify that decision. However, if the provision of information is conditioned upon keeping the source confidential, never to disclose the source;
- 6.3. to admit mistakes and to be ready to correct them.

C. JUDGMENT

Having reviewed the submitted materials, Media Ethics Observatory observes the following:

- The media did not claim in the piece that criminal proceedings had already been initiated. Rather, it indicated that the report regarding the purported offense had been forwarded to relevant investigative bodies for an appropriate decision.
- The piece contained a technical inaccuracy regarding the deputy's membership in an NA committee, which was subsequently corrected by the editorial team, with the correction highlighted in the publication.
- MEO notes that the complainant may have interpreted the piece as reporting on criminal proceedings that had already been initiated, whereas the publication did not make any such claim.
- MEO highlights that it is crucial for media to respond to submitted complaints at the earliest opportunity and ensure prompt corrections when required – a practice followed by the editorial team of “Aravot.am” on this occasion.

Accordingly, MEO reached the following conclusion:

- the piece relied on information provided by law enforcement agencies,
- the piece made no explicit claim regarding the initiation of criminal proceedings,
- the media subsequently corrected the technical inaccuracy contained in the piece.

Taking these circumstances into account, **Media Ethics Observatory does not find any violation of the principles of journalistic ethics.**

***Adopted on March 23, 2026
by the following MEO composition:***

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[Media Ethics Observatory](#) has been established by the media that have joined the Self-Regulation Initiative, which counts 100 members as of today. MEO is guided by the Code of Ethics of Armenian Media and Journalists, adopted on March 10, 2007 and revised at the May 18, 2024 general meeting of the Self-Regulation Initiative.