31/12/21

Tutorial #4

Blatant Stings: 2013 AAP ‘Expose’, Anuranjhan Jha, ‘Media Sarkar’.

Case progression (as discussed):

1. Nov, 2013, upcoming Delhi elections.
2. Hidden camera footage of AAP candidates in a negotiation, allegedly willing to exchange money (implied black) for their presence in a rally released on online portal ‘*Media Sarkar*’, CDs.
3. Case Broadcast as breaking news across television, print & digital media [‘8 AAP candidates caught in sting.’ Qt: “*Ye neta wahi karte pakde gaye jiska ilzaam ye dusron par lagate rehte hai.*”]
4. Brunt of the attack faced by activist & mediaperson Shazia Ilmi, whose face & voice were predominant in the footage. Ilmi along with the other candidates denied the accusation; claimed sabotage by either of ‘the big parties’ [BJP & INC], poet Kumar Vishwas also accused.
5. Both Ilmi & Vishwas offer to withdraw candidature, but the party refuses, stating that ‘since the clips are edited, they can’t form a basis for clear judgement’, hence demanding raw footage of the sting.
6. CEO of ‘Media Sarkar’ Anuranjan Jha refuses to furnish raw footage, claiming that he will submit it ‘only to the authorities’ & not to corrupt politicians, taking pride in the ‘expose’ & stating the importance of fearless journalism.
7. Party founder & political analyst Yogendra Yadav restates the importance of raw footage. Yadav & the party are approached by (& respond to) journalists from multiple channels [including but not limited to Arnab Goswami (Times Now) & Sanket Upadhyay (NDTV)]. All around enthusiastic media coverage. Public ire on the AAP increases, prediction poll results drastically change, party’s credibility & popularity take a nosedive.
8. Kejriwal is inked during a pc. Yogendra yadav is attacked and inked on camera in the midst of reporters. Anuranjhan Jha writes a book about the AAP.
9. The raw footage is eventually presented to the EC. The EC provides it to the party.
10. The raw footage is found to have been tampered with in the sting release, crucia bits edited & cut, falsified transcripts misquoting the actual audio & making up figures & statements made during the meeting. AAP airs the footage & demands ‘greater self regulation’ from the media in a pc.
11. Candidates given clean chit. FIRs filed by AAP & Media Sarkar against each other.

Qt Statement:

“*Media Sarkar www.mediasarkar.com is known for exclusive and fearless Journalism. It is very popular Views and News portal (sic) in Indian sub continent (sic). MediaSarkar.com was set up in year 2009 (sic) with the aim to expose bitter (sic) truth of Politics, Society, System and religion.*

*Since its inception in 2009 Media Sarkar did several eye opener Investigative Stories (sic) like Neera Radia’s unethical lobbying collaboration with Industrialists, politicians and Media (sic), Mission Lokpal (expose of AAM AADMI PARTY (sic)) and many more.*

*The web portal MediaSarkar.com(sic)has been conceptualized by well known media personality Anuranjan Jha, a fearless Journalist of Indian media (sic). He has good leadership quality (sic) since his early days. At the age of 30 only (sic) Anuranjan Jha became an Editor and News Director of News channel India News (sic). He has very successfully drove (sic) CNEB News Channel as COO. He is known as a cerebral man who has worked with companies like Zee Network.(sic) India TV, India News, Aaj Tak, Indian express group. He has the credit to launch (sic) India’s first wedding entertainment channel Shagun TV.*

*Initially the portal mediasarkar.com was promoted by Park Media Pvt Ltd, the company owned by Anuranjan Jha. Now Media Sarkar has another feather in their cap as a well known International Media House as a new promoter (sic). Media Sarkar is in big (sic) way now.*

*In a New Structure very senior journalist S N Vinod (sic) will be Editor-in-chief. Anuranjan Jha will continue as CEO.*”

[[About Us, Media Sarkar: Your Fearless Voice](https://www.mediasarkar.com/about-us/) (inaccessible through the web portal Media Sarkar[www.mediasarkar.com](http://www.mediasarkar.com))]

Other Details:

* The case remains to be one of the crowning achievements of both Anuranjhan Jha & his news portal Media Sarkar, both of whom continue to work in & for the news industry, significantly better off than they were before november 2013 (see above: Qt Statement).
* Media coverage of the sting being debunked was considerably less enthusiastic tha the initial response to the sting itself, footage of which was aired & accepted extensively within the first 72 hrs of its release (post which it was proven to be manufactured) “without ascertaining its veracity.”\*
* No public outrage against either Jha or the so called ‘malignant political forces’ behind the operation followed the outrage against AAP itself.
* Both Ilmi & Vishwas lost in their respective constituencies. As of 2022, neither them nor Yadav continue to work for the AAP.
* No conclusive legal action.

\*[qt: 25/11/13, The Hindu], statement directly contradicted by ABVP, the first & primary news channel to do so, who claimed to have seen the raw footage 3 days prior to its release by AAP during a pc [22/11/13, New Delhi, ABVP]

Potential addendums:

* Upon looking it up on the internet the first mention that the allegation & operation were completely ingenuine & totally disproved doesn’t or even that it was questionable doesn’t show up until the words ‘disprove’/‘fake’/‘doctored’/’raw footage’ are actively typed in. Who were the reporters that conducted the sting? On what date did it occur? Where? Why is this information so difficult, or rather, *inconvenient* to access?
* What became of the FIRs? Was there an investigation? If not, why?
* Media Sarkar claims to have added ‘another feather to its cap’ with the entry of a well known international media house as a new promoter meaning Anuranjan Jha’a own company no longer had to bear the full burden of the portal’s promotion. Which house, & when precisely?

The main & only source found for the incident was the crowdfunded documentary ‘*An Insignificant Man*’, directed by Khushboo Ranka & Vinay Shukla.  [<https://photos.app.goo.gl/TvzZdkx2v2oARjgJA>]

Other cases:

Operation Karaoke, Dhairya Mishra (+2)

Uma khurana, Shruti Patel