



June 17, 2014

Assault on A1 TV crew during police operation

A TV crew of four from A1 Report TV came under assault on June 16 in Lazarat. That day the police forces started a raid on Lazarat, the village which produces marijuana and has been a no-go area for the authorities for more than a decade. The TV crew also tried to enter the village during this operation and report from there, when they were assaulted from local masked men. The team, consisting of the reporter, cameraman, driver, and an engineer, entered the village at noon in their car, with the logo of TV station clearly displayed. At this point, their car was blocked on either directions and the road was cut off. The reporter stated that three masked men came forth and started firing at the car. Afterwards, they confiscated the crew's laptop, camera, and mobile phones. The men reportedly threatened to kill the media employees, telling them that they should know who runs the place and they should know better than coming to the village.

The crew was saved by inhabitants of the village that came between the masked men and the crew, insisting that they were journalists and they should not be harmed. The same people of the village transported the TV crew out of the surrounded village, while the reporter stated that the police special forces did not intervene. The driver sustained a light injury, while the other crew members were not physically harmed. The incident was reported to the local police.

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