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To
The Medical Council of India (MCI)
Building Pocket 14
Sector 8, Dwarka Phase 1
New Delhi 110077
INDIA

Subject: Complaint against Dr. Aarti Lalchandani, Principal, Ganesh Vidhyarti Medical College, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, for her communal remarks against the Muslim community and on her remarks for the treatment of patients of a certain community who have been afflicted by the coronavirus

Dear Sir/Madam

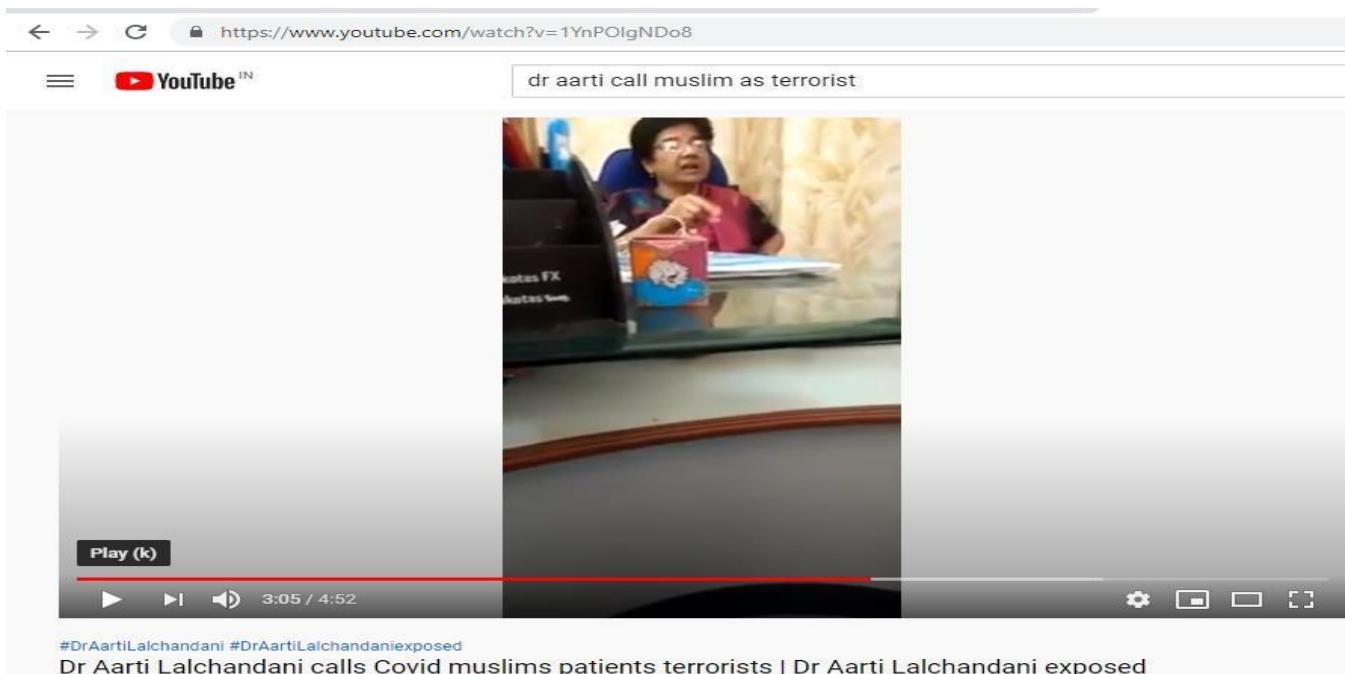
1. This is a complaint about the violation of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as “the said Medical Regulations”) against Dr. Aarti Lalchandani, Principal, Ganesh Vidhyarti Medical College, Kanpur, for her biased and scathing comments against the Muslim community, and on her medically offensive statements regarding the treatment of coronavirus patients and observations on the medial principles of quarantine observed for the purpose of controlling the epidemic. Her reckless comments, which have been captured on video and posted on YouTube, have not only belittled the medical profession but also brought tremendous disrespect, distrust, and disrepute vis-à-vis the entire Indian medical fraternity.

2. The incident is described as follows:
A video of Dr Aarti Lalchandani and another unknown person having a conversation is going viral on the internet. In this video, Dr Lalchandani and the other person can be seen ranting against members of a particular sect and the Muslim community at large. They are heard making the following comments:

“They are terrorists, we are giving VIP treatment to terrorists ...”

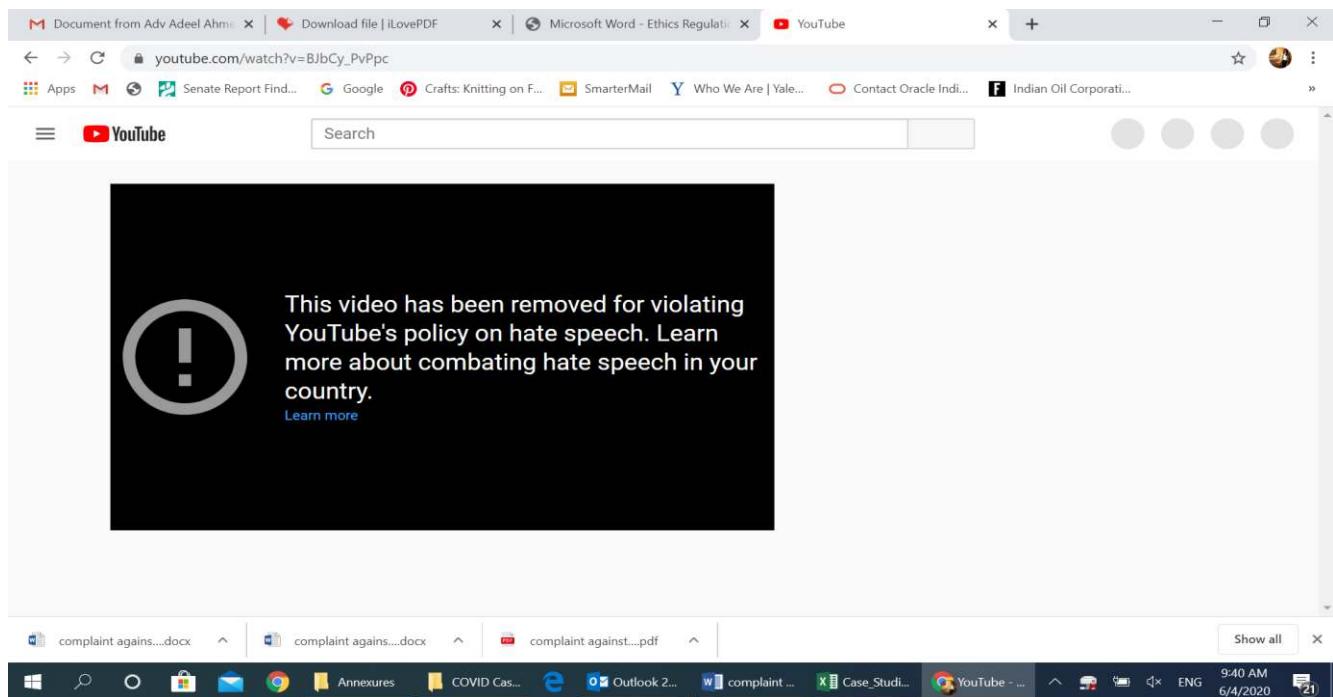
“Send them to jungles, throw them in dungeons. Because of these 30 crores, 100 crores are suffering. There is a financial emergency because of them.”
 “Give them injection, down them one by one ...”

3. These statements are the part of the conversation between Dr Aarti Lalchandani and the other people around her. In the particular video clips below, she points out Muslims and called them terrorists, and makes other statements which are hurtful to and disrespect the Muslim community at large. Further such comments made by her and the other person threaten the whole Muslim community and are aimed to promote enmity among different religious groups. The links to the videos and a screenshot from one of them are reproduced below:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJbCy_PvPpc
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YnPOlgNDo8>



4. The abovementioned videos had gone viral on many social media sites and video-sharing platform like Facebook and YouTube, and in these statements and conversations of a doctor and another person, which are aimed at a particular community are a great threat to the unity and integrity of our nation. This is especially so in view of the sensitive atmosphere today, when aggression is being unleashed on sections of our population.
5. Both videos have now been removed by Youtube.com on grounds of “violating YouTube’s policy on hate speech” (see screenshot below). This is a clear

acknowledgement of the fact that the contents of the videos were Islamophobic in nature and counted as hate speech.



6. These acts of Dr. Lalchandani are against the ethical code for doctors and belie the oath that a doctor takes, and the complainant reserve their right to initiate action on these ground as well, as the statements were not befitting her stature as principal of medical college and that of a doctor.
7. That the said MCI Regulations postulate as under Regulation 1.1.2 that “The prime object of the medical profession is to render service to humanity; reward or financial gain is a subordinate consideration. Whosoever chooses his profession, assumes the obligation to conduct himself in accordance with its ideals. A physician should be an upright man, instructed in the art of healings. He shall keep himself pure in character and be diligent in caring for the sick; he should be modest, sober, patient, prompt in discharging his duty without anxiety; conducting himself with propriety in his profession and in all the actions of his life.”
8. Furthermore, Regulation 5.1 of the said MCI Regulations state “Physicians as Citizens”: “Physicians, as good citizens, possessed of special training should disseminate advice on public health issues. They should play their part in enforcing the laws of the community and in sustaining the institutions that advance the interests of humanity. They should particularly co-operate with the authorities in the administration of sanitary/public health laws and regulations.”

9. The whole world is in the grip of the coronavirus pandemic. At such a crucial time, patients and the public at large are looking up to doctors for their sound advice. It is not merely professional engagement with a patient but also the image of doctors in general that is portrayed at such moments of crisis that is of paramount importance. This is why doctors in this pandemic are being lauded as “corona-warriors”.

10. However, much to our dismay, we find that Dr. Aarti Lalchandani, Principal, Ganesh Vidhyarti Medical College, Kanpur, has clearly violated the said MCI Regulations postulated for the purpose of quarantine and dealing with epidemic and communicable diseases. Regulation 5.2 of the said MCI Regulations postulates the following :

“5.2 Public and Community Health: Physicians, especially those engaged in public health work, should enlighten the public concerning quarantine regulations and measures for the prevention of epidemic and communicable diseases.”

11. Moreover, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, while addressing social stigma associated with Covid-19, had released a set of guidelines, whereunder they have specifically called for any bias against the community for the spread of the virus (Source: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/AddressingSocialStigmaAssociatedwithCOVID19.pdf>), and which is reproduced herein for your ready reference :

“As responsible citizens, we must observe following Do’s and Don’ts:

“Dos

- Appreciate efforts of people providing essential services and be supportive towards them and their families.
- Share only the authentic information available on the website of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India or the World Health Organisation.
- Cross check any information related to CoVID-19 from reliable sources before forwarding any messages on social media.
- Share positive stories of those who have recovered from COVID-19.”

“Don’ts

- Never spread names or identity of those affected or under quarantine or their locality on the social media.
- Avoid spreading fear and panic.
- Do not target healthcare and sanitary workers or police. They are there to help you.
- Do not label any community or area for spread of COVID-19.
- Avoid addressing those under treatment as COVID victims. Address them as “people recovering from COVID”.

12. Furthermore, the MCI Regulations clearly provide for utmost respect to human rights as under Regulation 6.6:

“Human Rights: The physician shall not aid or abet torture nor shall he be a party to either infliction of mental or physical trauma or concealment of torture inflicted by some other person or agency in clear violation of human rights.”

13. That an FIR has been filed on the following grounds against Dr. Aarti Lalchandani, Principal, Ganesh Vidhyarti Medical College, Kanpur:

Section 153A. Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.

Section 153B: Imputations, assertions prejudicial to national-integration.

Section 295A: Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs.

Section 505: Statements conductive to public mischief.

Copy of the Police Complaint leading to the FIR filed by Adv. Ali Zaidi, is annexed herewith this letter of complaint for your kind perusal.

14. Therefore, Dr. Aarti Lalchandani has clearly violated Regulation 7.5 of the said MCI Regulations, amounting to professional misconduct, which is quoted herein below for your kind reference:

“7.5 Conviction by Court of Law: Conviction by a Court of Law for offences involving moral turpitude / Criminal acts.”

15. That a doctor is to be secular and exemplary in his or her conduct towards the public at large and his patients in specific is stated herein below vide the following regulations, which is quoted herein for your kind reference:

“7.15 The registered medical practitioner shall not refuse on religious grounds alone to give assistance in or conduct of sterility, birth control, circumcision and medical termination of Pregnancy when there is medical indication, unless the medical practitioner feels himself/herself incompetent to do so.”

16. Therefore, in light of the above, we call upon your good selves to take cognizance and initiate proceedings against Dr. Aarti Lalchandani, Principal Ganesh Vidhyarti Medical College, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, for her acts that amount to professional misconduct as

well as for initiating disciplinary and appropriate action against the delinquent physician, at the earliest.

Thank you

With best regards and wishes



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CC:

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2. Indian Medical Association, IMA House, [I.P. Estate](#), Next to [Vikas Minar](#), [New Delhi](#) 110002, India.