

EDITORS GUILD URGES POLICE FOR 'IMPARTIAL' PROBE INTO COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE WIRE

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The Editors Guild of India (EGI) on Wednesday urged the Delhi Police to be objective and impartial in investigating all the complaints filed against *The Wire* news portal, asking them not to use "intimidatory tactics in disregard of democratic principles".

In a statement, the Guild said it was disturbed by the manner in which the Delhi Police Crime Branch carried out search and seizures at the homes of founding editors and senior editors of *The Wire*, as well as their office and the newsroom in Delhi on October 31.

The searches were carried out in a follow-up to a first information report (FIR) registered in response to a complaint filed by BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya. "The haste with which the police searches were carried out at multiple locations, is excessive and disproportionate, and in the manner of a fishing and roving enquiry," the Guild said.

The Guild said that as per a statement published by *The Wire*, the police seized phones, computers, and iPads from the homes of the journalists, as well as from the office, and no hash value of the devices was given in spite of requests made by them.

"This is a serious violation of procedures and rules of investigation. Moreover, digital devices of editors and journalists would have sensitive information pertaining to journalistic sources and stories under work, the confidentiality of which can be seriously compromised in such seizures," it said.

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