



UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime

Regional
Office for
South Asia

EP 16/17, Chandragupta Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi -110 021. India
Tel: +91-11-4222-5000 Fax: +91-11-2410-4962 Website: <http://www.unodc.org/india>

5 July 2007

Dear Mr. Sengupta,

This is in reference to the article, '*48% Afghan heroin routed through India*', which appeared in the Times of India on 30 June 2007. The article has quoted information from the UNODC 2007 *World Drug Report* which we released on 26 June. I would like to first thank you for bringing the important matter of drug trafficking to the attention of the reading public. However, the article has erroneously presented the information on the flow of heroin through India. In light of this, I consider it important to request you to issue a correction.

The article wrongly claims that the estimate of 48% Afghan heroin is being routed through India. In fact, the *World Drug Report* makes no such estimate. It merely states that 48% of the heroin and morphine leaving Afghanistan transits through Pakistan (page 45). It does *not* say, as you claim, that this heroin is "using India as the main transit route", or as is claimed later in the article, that "48% of Afghan heroin is estimated to have left via Pakistan and India." In a separate discussion, the Report states "In 2005/6, new heroin routes have emerged from Afghanistan via Pakistan to China and India, as well as via Central Asia to China." But this statement can also be no basis for your claim that "48% of Afghan heroin is routed through India."

Nonetheless, countries in the region, including India, ought to be deeply concerned about the negative impact which the illicit opium crop in Afghanistan will have in the region. It continues to be our objective, and that of countries in the region, including India, to prevent illicit trafficking of opium and heroin out of Afghanistan and to block the flow of precursor chemicals into the country.

Despite the need for this important clarification, I am delighted that articles on the issue of drug abuse and trafficking, have been regularly carried by your newspaper. UNODC would be happy to work with you to bring additional crime and drug issues to light. In this context, I invite you visit our website: <http://www.unodc.org/india>.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Lewis
Representative

Mr. Arindam Sengupta
Editor
The Times of India (Delhi)
7 Bahadurshah Zafar Marg
New Delhi – 110002