

WOMEN IN MEDIA: IT'S A RIGHT NOT A PRIVILEGE.

On October 26, 2011, a television cameraman was intentionally violent by pushing and verbally assaulting. The news channel (11 Alive News) in Atlanta refused to return calls. I wrote ads and postings over a 3 month period including a website that helps control the spread of crime in Atlanta, GA. These last ads/postings requested that if anyone had information that would help locate the cameraman, please call the hotline and leave a message for the attorney handling this case. That telephone number is (206) 279-9074.

AFTER 3 MONTHS OF DESPAIR, I GOT A CALL AND THIS EMAIL FROM 11 ALIVE NEWS:

-----Original Message-----

From: Crooke, Ellen <ecrooke@wxia.gannett.com>

To: showcaseatl <showcaseatl@aol.com>

Cc: Hamilton, Kenny <kkhamilton@wxia.gannett.com>; Crooke, Ellen <ecrooke@wxia.gannett.com>

Sent: Tue, Jan 24, 2012 5:27 am

Subject: 11Alive

V.J. Williams, You left a voice mail message on my phone a few months ago. I spent hours trying to contact you. Your message broke up when you left the phone number. We tried various ways to find you. Kenny Hamilton who manages our photojournalists will be contacting you. He spoke with the photojournalists at the event. There are different versions of the event than what you describe but whatever may have happened we would never, under any circumstances allow our photojournalists to act in the manner you describe. We of course want to speak with you directly to hear more about your experience. What number may we call you today?

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Ellen M. Crooke

V.P. Regional News Executive

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www.facebook.com/11Alive

Ellen Crooke,

THIS WAS MY REPLY TO ELLEN:

I received your email. I have to say that I disagree and it is unrealistic. I talked to a lady name Ann after the incident. I gave her the details. I was very upset and she could hear it in my voice. I also told her that I wrote down the van's license plate number and I had a picture of the cameraman. The cameraman left immediately and rushed to the van. That was the last I saw of him. I have seen other cameramen that were very pleasant and professional and that is the way it should be.

There were many people outside of the Justice Center who witnessed the event. Many were affiliated with news channels. The taping of the outdoor event was interrupted by the incident. That was enough to take immediate action. There was no excuse for not calling for reasonable attention to the abuse. Buying time to cover up and push it under the rug is unacceptable.

Additionally, I was ignored and Ann didn't want to be responsible. She gave me your telephone number instead and I had no other choice but to call you. I felt there was nothing else to do. There wasn't any sign of interference with the call and leaving a message.

Furthermore, I sent a complaint through the 11 Alive website and that complaint was ignored. I also tweeted the picture and details of the incident. I posted the event on my Facebook page and other places seeking help.

Next, I contacted a friend of mine who is a television director. He knows you and Ann. He agreed that Ann or someone should have taken immediate action instead of ignoring me and giving me another number to call. I was volunteering my time with Occupy Atlanta. That is a known movement and Ann knew that too. It wouldn't be hard to locate me. I was probably the only female camera operator that was an occupier.

Now, it is 3 months later. It is so ironic that after so much time, you can contact me, knowing that people would probably forget or would be unable to locate. I have been very emotional, confrontational, and irrational because of the controlling incident. I will not continue to be harassed and put through anymore humiliation and trauma. I demand that you and others cease and desist from any further harm. I'm currently seeking therapy and I will overcome someday.

As of now, I want 11 Alive News and the cameraman to be responsible for the trauma. I suggest that a reply only be in writing, and an agreement to settle this case becomes final. I will send a copy of this written message to the street address located on your website.

Signed,
V.J. Williams

In conclusion, I will not allow anyone to deprive me of my rights by using his position in the media. The future of the media is not to be dominated by use of force and abuse.