

BEAT IT, GUYS - JUST BEAT IT!

Hi, my name is Anila Weldon. I've been in the business of Internet Marketing plus Media for over 14 years now. Started very young- saying during my teenage years. A few years in this field made me allergic to the fake standards practiced therein. So much so, that when I got married 6 years ago, I decided to not to have TV in my house at all. My husband and I are quite musical, so we 'waste' all our time over music and not watching TV. Doing that has helped me in one big way: It lets me view news events with my own interpretation and opinions

Here's my take on this video of the girl being flogged:

Nowhere in the world does one react to a video specially the one made on a handy camera or mobile phone. Even the pathetic police system in Pakistan does not entertain a complaint and an FIR made over what one watches on a mobile phone or computer screen, that too, from an unknown source!

Yet in this incident of a girl being lashed has caught so much attention, I am actually having friends asking me to join in over a protest against it.

Our entire country is responding with hatred to a fake video. And based on my observations this video here's something to think about:

In the entire film, the film-maker has very cleverly positioned the camera in such a way that no building, no hoardings, no trees, no mountains etc. are visible.

A lot of care has gone into making sure that only the feet of the crowd and perhaps a bit of their shalwars are visible.

In a real life situation, if I were to film a tragic scene like this, I would use the ZOOM feature of the mobile or the camera to get to the center of the action. I'd focus on the faces of people, or move my camera around a bit and so would you.

The person making this particular film chose not to show any faces in case someone wanted to inquire deeper into the crime and wanted to call any one of those many people watching, for investigation etc.

Now let's come to the central character of this movie - the three men beating the woman: All three were already very well disguised behind fake (or perhaps even original) long beards, turbans and sheets, yet the camera was purposely kept OUT OF FOCUS to offer them even more protection

The three men were still so scared, they never, even once, faced the camera as if they knew this video is being made and could get them to be recognized by someone.

Now let's come to the SOUND editing of this film which was obviously DUBBED long AFTER the video was prepared. Notice how there is NO sound from the crowd in this video and how, sometimes, the whip is still in the air and the woman's cry (the pitch) increases even before she gets whipped! That's a sound editor's blooper ;-)

But the biggest flaw in this video is how the end of the movie has accidentally not been left UNEDITED . Notice very carefully how the ACTRESS gets up instantly and she is up and about on her feet right after the 36th lash! According to this lady (whom I doubt is a lady at all but I cannot prove that at this point without evidence) the video was shot and done and she gets up to be walked into the building with her brother. In real life, if you get even 5 of these beatings, you'd be so much in pain that even moving an inch would have been impossible, let alone getting up and walking This part had to be edited but was accidentally left undone. Or maybe, the director thought it'd go unnoticed.

Watch this video again with the sound MUTED and notice how unreal her standing up seems. You will get my point. It'll feel as if there is a DIRECTOR directing this scene and the actress gets a CUT call from him. Immediately she's off the acting and gets up on her feet to walk to the next scene.

The officials in SWAT are denying this incident took place, at all, in their land. They had no clue, no police report, no one reporting it to them, until they saw the video.

I am a huge fan of the pushto language. I know that the language being spoken in this video - the accent and the dialect is not that of SWAT region. Any Pathan working in your homes will vouch for that too. However, the people DUBBING or doing the voice-overs of this video were not aware of this fact and they didn't do enough research before making it public.

I am quite embarrassed by this incident; Embarrassed - not by the Pathans, the Taliban or the Afghans in my country for their rituals, but by each one of you reading, believing and even reacting to something as fake as that video or the news created therein. You all need to switch off your television sets, open your minds and learn to process things with your very own heads.

Beat that!

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Over , now, to Sabizak repending to a friend who included her in a mass email.

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I seriously can't believe you are forwarding this shit. This man's arguments are typical of the Urdu press. Blind, emotional and mere assertions. The last bit especially is typical of *Nawa-i-Waqt* style journalism that cannot be called journalism but just emotional inflammation of the masses on the basis of religion. The moment you say stuff like 'allah rasool' every single point of sense goes out of the window and none of the believers can think straight.

This video was forwarded by Taliban sources themselves. And forget this video, one of the most well known voices from the N.W.F.P, Rahimullah Yusufzai, told Dawn News that these incidents take place in Swat from time to time. They certainly took place under the rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan (as depicted in the Afghani writer Hosseini's book 'The Kite Runner'), so if now the Taliban rule N.W.F.P do we not expect them to do the same?

His 'arguments' are the weakest shit I have heard in a long time. He talks about stuff like the camera is deliberately out of focus when it is obviously a cell phone camera that is being used and what other kinds of results does Mr. journalist and long time television man expect such a camera to produce? Also the fact that the maker of the video has not bothered to show anyone else. Could it be because he was trying to catch the action and not trying to show the birds and the trees?

And even if all his 'arguments' were to be accepted, and we accept just one other thing, that this video has been deliberately made and distributed by the Taliban, then it is in their favour not to be identified but to spread this video

as a warning for what can and will happen to women under their regime. This is a *khauf-o-hiraas* creating strategy. The woman's 'getting up immediately' argument is nullified by his own 'editing' point. If the perpetrators of this video were all that sophisticated (considering how they have made an elaborate *jhooti* video) then why could they possibly not edit out the last bit where the woman gets up seemingly okay to truly incriminate the Taliban and raise anger against them? To me that woman's getting up is exactly because of the fact that it is not an orchestrated video (the very thought of which is beyond ridiculous). It means she is not acting. She wants to get away from this horrid situation. And she may not even have been terribly hurt by the flogging but it is the humiliation and the emotional scars that count. Which leads us to the her screaming even before she is hit at times. Do you think a person who is being badly beaten screams only because the beating hurts or only when she is hit? Does fear play no role in it? Do you never scream at the very idea of a thing just about to happen again, even before it has happened? Do women only scream during labour when the actual contraction comes? Do not some of them continuously moan in pain? It is the whole experience, not that one point where the *koRa* comes down that is condemnable and scream-able.

But of course it would be beyond any 'decent' Muslim's comprehension to understand that the Taliban are a brutal, barbaric lot. No. No. They are perfect role models in behaviour. So what if they plant poppy while claiming to be religious? Or, in Afghanistan and Swat, are hell bent on eliminating all female education and have no concept of civil liberties and rights for women. In ACTUALITY they are men with hearts of pure gold and are overbrimming with love for humanity. Till our own people do not wake up to the reality of their cruelty, what can one expect but this? The Urdu press will bring the Taliban upon themselves by defending them in every false way possible. And perhaps that IS what they want ... for men all over the country, Taliban or no Taliban, are as deeply chauvinistic as them and identify with the Taliban's strictly patriarchal beliefs. What upsets me is that the women lap up this patriarchy and since they enjoy its benefits they do not ever wish to speak out against it and therefore condone and perpetuate it all.