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by B J

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Ethics and Real World

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Ethics and Real World

The New York Times daily business briefing reported on June 29 2021, that Fox News had agreed to pay a fine of \$1 million. Remarkably, this was the biggest penalty ever witnessed after the media station was found guilty of burying evidence of sexual harassment cases at the workplace by New York Commission on Human Rights. With the heading of the report dubbed as “Fox News agrees to a \$1 million penalty after workplace culture investigation,” Michael M. Grynbaum gave an account of how the giant media company was left with no option but to agree to the demands made by the human rights commission. Notably, after it was found guilty of aiding sexual harassment either through omission or commission of their employees while at the workplace.

The investigation of Fox news started when various employees registered various sexual harassment cases. They claimed that some senior officials at the media station made negative advances. When they rejected such moves, they received further work-related harassment, including fewer periods of news anchorage. Grynbaum (2021) described the whole situation that the commission on human rights, whose mandate is to bring arbitration in discrimination cases at workplaces, started investigating the network way back in 2017 after several sexual harassment cases were reported. Additionally, he further reported that in response to the heavy fine, Fox News acknowledged the decision by the commission and thanked them for their commitment towards the conclusion of the investigation. Also agreed to effect the changes required by the commission to prevent such ethical problems from recurring.

The ethical issue and problem, in this case, is sexual harassment at the workplace. Thus, in connection with the theories of ethics, sexual harassment at Fox News is an ethical issue that

goes against the deontological ethical theory. This is because this type of theory requires that one must be treated with dignity and utmost respect. So, failure to curb this ethical problem made the network fire Roger Ailes and Bill O'Reilly. Furthermore, in its decision, the network felt that the two had tarnished the name of the media network and so firing them could be the best way of redeeming the name of the media network.

Reference

Grynbaum, M, M. (June 29 2021). Fox news agrees to a \$1 million penalty after workplace culture investigation. Daily Business Briefing: The New York Times.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/29/business/media/fox-news-fined-sexual-harassment.html>

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