Anchor says NY1 refusing to let her cover USWNT parade over lawsuit

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Veteran NY1 anchor Roma Torre was denied her request to cover <u>Wednesday's victory</u> <u>parade</u> for the US women's soccer team in "retaliation" for her and her colleagues' genderand age-discrimination suit, she claims in an open letter to Mayor Bill de Blasio, asking him to condemn the network.

"In addition to everything described in our lawsuit, the way NY1 has handled this US women's soccer win is emblematic of the problem," wrote Torre, noting that she covered the celebration the last time the US squad triumphed four years ago.

"In contrast to 2015, this year NY1 has excluded me from live coverage of the celebration," wrote the journalist, 61. "This year, only weeks after we filed our lawsuit, NY1 has informed me that I will not be involved in the live parade coverage despite my request to continue in this role."

Torre — who was joined in the blockbuster federal suit last month against NY1 parent company Charter Communications by network mainstays Kristen Shaughnessy, Jeanine Ramirez, Vivian Lee and Amanda Farinacci — called the decision blatant payback on the part

of their employer.

"Of course, this is retaliation and a further demonstration of NY1's complete failure to take women's issues seriously," she wrote.

"NY1/Charter cannot on the one hand celebrate and promote US women's soccer, but on the other hand treat female employees in a manner that runs completely afoul of what the team and its players stand for and represent."

Torre — who, according to the suit, particularly saw her fortunes fall in favor of network golden boy Pat Kiernan — went on to quote soccer squad star Megan Rapinoe in the missive.

"It's to stop having the conversation about equal pay and are we worth it," Torre quoted Rapinoe as saying. "It's time to sit down with everyone and really get to work."

The newswoman said that she hopes revelers packing the Canyon of Heroes on Wednesday will spare a thought for the hurdles women still have to clear.

"When New Yorkers line the streets tomorrow, it is my hope that they not only celebrate US women's soccer but also, as they watch the blank pieces of ticker tape fall from the sky, think about the millions of faceless women who suffer in silence at the hands of sexual harassment, gender discrimination and unequal pay," she wrote — and she extended that sentiment to City Hall.

"I would specifically ask that Mayor de Blasio condemn NY1's actions in the strongest terms and continue to stand with us as we make change," Torre closed the letter.

Hizzoner's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but de Blasio, who appears nearly every Monday on NY1's "Inside City Hall," did tweet his support for the five plaintiffs when the suit was first announced.

"Discrimination against someone's age or gender is an insult to every New Yorker and these allegations against @GetSpectrum are shameful," wrote de Blasio. "It takes true courage to stand up and speak out the way these women have. We stand with them."

Charter Communications did not immediately respond to a request for comment.