

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CLAIM NO. HQ09D05474

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

B E T W E E N :-

MOHAMMED JAMIL ABDELQADER ASHA

Claimant

-and-

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant

My Lord, I appear on behalf of the Claimant in this action, Mohammed Asha. My friend appears for News Group Newspapers Limited.

The Claimant is a Doctor, and the Defendant is the publisher of The Sun newspaper.

Dr Asha's claim is over the article published by the Defendant on the front page of The Sun on 10 August 2009 under the heading "*Terror case doc works in casualty*" and online. The purpose of this statement is to correct the false allegations made by the Defendant, namely that there were very strong grounds to suspect that the Claimant would be involved in the future in terrorist bomb plots and was, therefore, an ongoing threat to national security. There is no truth in these allegations whatsoever.

The article complained of was published to millions of people and has been devastating for the Claimant, causing him immense damage both personally and professionally. The publication of these false allegations was so prominent and so upsetting for Dr Asha that he immediately contacted Carter-Ruck, to pursue proceedings. The Claimant complained to The Sun through his solicitors on 20 August 2009. After giving the Defendant 4 months to provide a substantive response to his complaint, a response he

never received, he had no choice but to issue proceedings, which he did on 14 December 2009.

Over 5 months after Dr Asha's complaint was sent to The Sun, the Defendant made an offer of amends in which it accepted that the allegations complained of were entirely false and without foundation. The Defendant has now withdrawn the allegations, promised not to repeat them again, taken other articles down from its website and apologised to Dr Asha. The Defendant has also offered to pay Dr Asha substantial compensation and his legal costs.

In all the circumstances, the Claimant is content for this statement, together with the payment of compensation, to serve as vindication of his good name, and hopes that his ordeal can now be brought to an end.

Solicitor for the Defendant

My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm what has been said by my friend. The Defendant offers its sincerest apologies to Dr Asha for the damage it has caused, and is pleased to set the record straight.

Solicitor for the Claimant

My Lord, with that the Claimant is content to let the matter rest.