

IN THE ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE

Claim No: HQ12D00445

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

B E T W E E N

ADAM INGRAM

Claimant

- and -

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant

I appear on behalf of the Claimant, The Rt. Hon. Adam Ingram, the former Labour MP and Minister of State. My learned friend, Jonathan Scherbel-Ball of Counsel, appears on behalf of the Defendant, Times Newspapers Limited, the publisher of the Sunday Times.

On 27 November 2011, the Defendant published an article on the front page of the Sunday Times headed "*MP's £100,000 gift to Gaddafi son*" which continued on page 3 under the heading "*Firms accused of 'bribing' Saif Gaddafi for contracts.*" The article referred to an internal investigation by the London School of Economics into donations it had received in 2009 from a foundation of Saif Gaddafi, the son of the late Libyan ruler. In relation to the Claimant, the article in substance alleged that he was responsible, through a company said to be headed by him, for making a secret £100,000 payment as a bribe to Saif Gaddafi in order corruptly to secure contracts for his company in Libya.

This allegation is untrue. From June 2008 to July 2009 the Claimant held a non-executive position as a consultant to the company to which the Sunday Times article referred; he was never a director of that company nor involved in the management of the business. The

Claimant has no knowledge of any payment by the company to Saif Gaddafi or to any foundation in Libya. The Claimant has never met Saif Gaddafi nor has he ever had any dealings with him or any foundation of his, nor has he ever been to Libya. He has also never sought to bribe anybody.

Therefore the true position is that the Claimant was not responsible for making any unlawful or improper payment whether to Saif Gaddafi, to his foundation or otherwise. The Defendant appears here by its counsel today to tender its apologies to the Claimant for the harm the article has caused to his reputation. The Defendant has agreed to pay compensation to the Claimant. On this basis, the Claimant is prepared to let the matter rest.

Solicitor for the Defendant

The Defendant took the view prior to the publication of the article that as a matter of public interest the company's name and the Claimant's association with it should be disclosed. In the course of its enquiries the Defendant relied on the Claimant's entry in the Parliamentary Register of Members' Interests, which regrettably had not been updated, and tried to contact the Claimant for his comment prior to publication of the article. The Claimant chose not to respond at that time. Now that the Claimant has explained his position, the Defendant accepts that the allegation of which he has complained is not true and apologises to him. The article has now been removed from the Defendant's website and will not be republished.

Solicitor for the Claimant

In all the circumstances, the Claimant's object in bringing these proceedings has been achieved. I ask for permission for the record to be withdrawn.

Andrew Stephenson
Partner
Carter-Ruck
Solicitors for the Claimant

Jonathan Scherbel-Ball
Counsel, 1 Brick Court
Instructed by Legal Department of
Times Newspapers Ltd, the Defendant.

28 June 2012