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US court drops damages case against Yassin Qadi

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A New York court has ruled to drop all civil cases filed by relatives of the 9/11 victims against Saudi businessman Yassin Abdullah Qadi.

Judge Daniels at the District Court of Southern New York ruled last Monday to reject the civil cases brought by relatives of the 9/11 victims against the Saudi businessman, amongst a group of individuals, companies and governments in the Muslim world, accusing them of having links with Al-Qaeda and therefore of being directly or indirectly responsible for those events. The cases came to be known as the "three billion dollar" claims, reflecting the compensation claimed by the lawyers for the victims' relatives.

However, the US court rejected the allegations and ordered all the cases against the Saudi businessman to be dropped due to the absence of any grounds or facts to support them.

Sheikh Yassin was able to win his case with the help of the defence team led by David Geneson (of the Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton Law Firm in Washington) and Guy Martin, Cameron Doley and Saad Djebbar (of the Carter-Ruck Law Firm in London).

Yassin Qadi said, "I am an innocent man. As events have shown, where I have been given the opportunity to defend myself against all the allegations relating to me, I have demonstrated that they are completely untrue".

"I reaffirm what I have said from the outset. In all my personal, commercial and charitable activities, I have never supported and have never intended to provide support of any kind whatsoever to Osama Bin Laden or Al-Qaeda".

He added that he and those others in his situation were victims of some endless "financial Guantanamo", as the action taken against him was supposed to be temporary but had become permanent.