

## Press Release

# Carter-Ruck

Date: 18 June 2020

### Mail on Sunday and MailOnline apologise and pay damages to Palestinian Return Centre over Tom Bower libel

The publisher of the Mail on Sunday and MailOnline has published full apologies and paid substantial libel damages, plus costs, to the Palestinian Return Centre (PRC) and its Chairman, Majed Al-Zeer. The PRC is a not-for-profit, independent organisation committed to advocating for Palestinian refugees, and which has been granted special consultative status by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The claim arose from an article written by Tom Bower, the political biographer, on 16 February 2019, as part of the Mail's serialisation of Mr Bower's biography of Jeremy Corbyn entitled "Dangerous Hero".

The article (along with Mr Bower's book) contained the grotesque, but utterly false, allegation that the PRC (and, it was implied, its Chairman) is a group "*known to blame the Jews for the Holocaust*". As both the Mail and Mr Bower have now acknowledged, there was no truth whatsoever in this allegation; it arose from mis-reporting of comments made by an individual who was not associated with the PRC, speaking at an event hosted by the PRC at the House of Lords in 2016, and whose comments were strongly condemned by the PRC at the time. Neither Mr Bower, the Mail nor Harper Collins (the publisher of the book) saw fit to properly verify the true position, nor to put the allegation to the PRC prior to publication.

As well as publishing full apologies in the Mail on Sunday and MailOnline website, Associated Newspapers have also paid substantial damages, as well as paying the Claimants' costs. Mr Al-Zeer will be donating his damages to the PRC.

Separately, Harper Collins, the publisher of the Corbyn biography, along with Mr Bower, have also published a full statement expressing their regret and confirming their unqualified withdrawal of the allegation, acknowledging that the PRC does not and never has blamed the Jews for the Holocaust, which the PRC rightly regards as one of the greatest crimes in human history. The false allegation will also be removed from all future editions and the paperback version of the book.

The PRC and Mr Al-Zeer were represented by Adam Tudor, Helena Shipman and Katherine Hooley of Carter-Ruck, and Adrienne Page QC and Jacob Dean of 5RB.

For further information, please contact Adam Tudor ([adam.tudor@carter-ruck.com](mailto:adam.tudor@carter-ruck.com)), Helena Shipman ([helena.shipman@carter-ruck.com](mailto:helena.shipman@carter-ruck.com)) or Katherine Hooley ([katherine.hooley@carter-ruck.com](mailto:katherine.hooley@carter-ruck.com)).

#### Carter-Ruck Solicitors

6 St Andrew Street  
London EC4A 3AE

T +44 (0) 20 7353 5005  
F +44 (0) 20 7353 5553  
DX 333 Chancery Lane  
[www.carter-ruck.com](http://www.carter-ruck.com)

#### Partners

Alasdair Pepper  
Guy Martin  
Nigel Tait  
Cameron Doley  
Claire Gill  
Adam Tudor  
Matthew Wescott  
Antonia Foster  
Miranda Rushton  
Rebecca Toman

Partnership Secretary  
Alison Phillips

Authorised and regulated  
by the Solicitors Regulation  
Authority

SRA No. 44769