

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**

**CLAIM NO. HQ05X00542**

**QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION**

**B E T W E E N**

**PRINCE RADU OF HOHENZOLLERN**

**Claimant**

**- and -**

**(1) MARCO HOUSTON**

**(2) SENA-JULIA PUBLICATUS LIMITED**

**Defendants**

---

**STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT**

---

**Counsel for the Claimant (James Price QC)**

My Lord, I appear on behalf of the Claimant, Prince Radu of Romania. My friend appears on behalf of the Defendants. The First Defendant, Marco Houston, is the editor of Royalty Monthly magazine, and he is also a director of the Second Defendant, Sena-Julia Publicatus Limited, which publishes Royalty Monthly.

On 17 September 2004 the Defendants published an article in Royalty Monthly, under the heading 'Scandal in Romania as Princess Margarita's husband is branded an imposter'. In the article the Defendants alleged that there was a very strong case against the Claimant that he was dishonestly claiming to have been granted the title "Prinz von Hohenzollern-Veringen" by Friedrich Wilhelm Furst von Hohenzollern ("the Furst"), the Head of the Hohenzollern family, and that he was relying on a forged document to support his claims. They also alleged that, as a result of his actions, the Claimant was deceiving people into according him access to social circles and to particular official roles, including to NATO committees, to which he would otherwise not

be admitted, and that he was using the title for monetary gain. In addition, the Defendants alleged that there was a strong case that the Claimant had created a security risk because what he had done had exposed him to blackmail. The Defendants also alleged that on learning that the Hohenzollerns had no power under German law to grant such a title, the Claimant then changed his stance to claim that he had in fact been adopted by the Hohenzollerns.

Within the same article the Defendants also alleged that the Claimant was guilty of having been an officer in the Securitate secret police under the regime of Communist dictator Ceausescu.

As the Defendants now accept, these allegations were wholly untrue and should never have been published. The Defendants also acknowledge that they were wholly wrong to have made no attempt to contact the Claimant or anyone on his behalf before publication of the article.

The true position is that since his marriage in 1996 to Crown Princess Margarita of Romania, who is the daughter and heir to King Michael of Romania, the Claimant has worked consistently to further the interests of the Romanian people, including as a Special Representative within the Romanian Government, and as an adviser to King Michael. In light of his position within the Romanian Royal Family the Claimant was granted the title of Prinz von Hohenzollern-Veringen by the Furst in January 1999. From that date on the Claimant quite properly and honestly used and relied upon the title as had been granted to him. On 30 December 2007, and following an amendment to the Fundamental Laws of the Family, King Michael granted the Claimant the title Prince Radu of Romania, by which he is now known.

Furthermore the Claimant was at no time an officer within the Securitate secret police, nor indeed did he hold any other rank within that organisation, nor support it in any way, as is confirmed by the relevant Romanian authorities, including the Collegium of the National Council for the Study of Securitate Archives.

These extremely serious allegations published by the Defendants have caused the Claimant considerable distress and embarrassment. The Claimant's distress has been

further exacerbated by the fact that these wholly unfounded and extremely grave allegations have been defended over a period of some six years, a defence which has included the use of falsified documentation and further unfounded allegations, all of which have had to be painstakingly refuted by the Claimant.

The Defendants are here today publicly to apologise to the Claimant for publishing these damaging and wholly unfounded allegations. They have agreed to pay a substantial sum in damages to him, to publish a report of this statement in Royalty Monthly and to pay the Claimant's legal costs. On this basis the Claimant is prepared to let the matter rest.

Solicitor for the Defendants (Guy Davis)

My Lord, I confirm what my friend has said. The Defendants withdraw the allegations in question and offer their sincere apologies to the Claimant for the damage these allegations have caused. The Defendants would like to state that they had no knowledge of or part in the creation of falsified documentation used in the course of the litigation.

Counsel for the Claimant (James Price QC)

My Lord, it only remains for me to ask for the record to be withdrawn.

Dated this 15 day of July 2010