

# Press Release

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# Carter-Ruck

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## Leader of the Opposition in Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif, issues legal complaint against “politically motivated” attack in Mail on Sunday and Mail Online

Shehbaz Sharif, President of the PML-N party, Leader of the Opposition in Pakistan and former Chief Minister of Punjab, has today issued a formal legal complaint against the Mail on Sunday and Mail Online, and its journalist David Rose, about an article published on Sunday, 14 July 2019.

The article is gravely defamatory of Mr Sharif, including false allegations that he misappropriated UK taxpayers’ money in the form of DFID aid intended for the victims of the devastating 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. Mr Sharif denies these allegations in the strongest possible terms.

Mr Sharif said today:

*“I am utterly appalled by these allegations. It is disgusting for the Mail to claim that I stole money from a fund for earthquake victims. Clearly were there any evidence in support of this, or any of the other allegations contained in the article against me, then I would have been arrested and charged.*

*This appears to be yet another politically motivated campaign against me and my family by the current government of Pakistan, which, according to the article, granted the journalist “exclusive access to some of the results of a high-level probe ordered by [Pakistani Prime Minister Imran] Khan” including a ‘confidential investigation report’ and highly unusually access to “interview key witnesses held on remand in jail”.*

*At no stage were the allegations properly put to me in advance of publication. Had they been, I would have pointed out - among other matters - that at the time of the earthquake in 2005, I was not even in Pakistan but living in exile in the UK.*

*I value my professional and personal reputation very highly and will do all that is necessary to clear my name of these terrible allegations, and will pursue this claim through the courts of England and Wales, if that is what is required”.*

-Ends-

Mr Sharif is being represented by Alasdair Pepper (Alasdair.pepper@carter-ruck.com), Antonia Foster (Antonia.foster@carter-ruck.com) and Victoria Anderson (Victoria.anderson@carter-ruck.com).

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