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US courts drop civil case filed by 9/11 victims' relatives against Saudi businessman 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. It came in a decision taken by Judge Daniels at the District Court of Southern New York on 13 September 2010.

Yassin Qadi was of course among a group of individuals, companies and governments in the Muslim world, against whom relatives of the 9/11 victims filed civil cases, accusing them of having links with Al-Qaeda and therefore of being directly or indirectly responsible for those events. These cases came to be known as the "three billion" 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 him to be dropped due to the absence of any grounds or facts.

He said, "I am an innocent man. As events have shown, where I have been given the opportunity to defend myself against the allegations relating to me, they have been 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 any organisation or entity whose activities are suspect. My support is exclusively for charitable entities and associations".

He added, "I and those others in my situation are victims of some endless "financial Guantanamo", as the action taken against us was supposed to be temporary but has become permanent. I condemn without hesitation the acts committed by Al-Qaeda on 11 September 2001 and the acts subsequently committed by it. I also share with the US and Saudi peoples the belief that terrorism represented by Al-Qaeda must be confronted. However, the struggle against terrorism will not succeed if basic human rights are ignored and people are deprived of the opportunity to prove their innocence or where there is no independent mechanism to allow innocent people like me who are falsely accused to redress the injustice against them".

He managed successfully to win his case with the help of the defence 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.