

Press Release

Carter-Ruck

Date: 13 October 2011

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Sergei Polonsky

The Russian businessman Sergei Polonsky announced today that he has initiated a legal claim in London against Alexander Lebedev, owner of the *Evening Standard* and *Independent*. A letter of claim written in accordance with the Pre-Action Protocol for Defamation was delivered to Mr Lebedev's London office this week.

The claim follows the astonishing footage from a Russian television debate, broadcast on 18 September and widely circulated online, in which Mr Lebedev is seen to throw punches at a seated Mr Polonsky.

Mr Polonsky said today

"Mr Lebedev's unprovoked and cowardly physical assault on my person in Russia is a matter for the Russian authorities. His unprovoked and cowardly verbal assault on my reputation in England is a matter for the English authorities. As appropriate, I call him to answer to the laws and before the courts of each country."

In the letter of claim, Mr Polonsky demands from Mr Lebedev a full apology and compensation for libel.

Mr Polonsky is represented by Andrew Stephenson in conjunction with the London office of the law firm Alexander Dobrovinsky and Partners LLP.

For further information please contact Andrew Stephenson at Andrew.Stephenson@carter-ruck.com or on 0207 3535005.

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