

## Press Release

# Carter-Ruck

Date: 30 July 2009

**Carter-Ruck Solicitors**

International Press Centre  
76 Shoe Lane  
London EC4A 3JB

T 020 7353 5005  
F 020 7353 5553  
DX 333 Chancery Lane  
[www.carter-ruck.com](http://www.carter-ruck.com)

### **£100,000 for man accused of financing terrorism**

On 3 February 2008 an article entitled **"EVIL ON BENEFITS"** by Mazher Mahmood, appeared in the News of the World, accompanied by an editorial entitled **"SICK PARASITES SPAWN TERROR."**

In this article it was alleged that Shakil Akhtar, an MOT mechanic from High Wycombe, was the financier for a dangerous and militant Islamic cell responsible for channelling funds to banned terrorist organizations to fund the purchase of weapons to be used against British forces in Afghanistan. As a result of the allegations made within the article, a police investigation was instigated which lasted many months, although no charges were ever brought against Mr. Akhtar.

Today a statement in open court was read by Mr. Akhtar's solicitor, Edward Yell of Carter-Ruck Solicitors, confirming that these allegations were entirely without foundation, as the News of the World now accepts.

The News of the World have agreed to pay compensation to Mr. Akhtar in the sum of £100,000, to publish an apology in this Sunday's edition of the paper, to pay Mr. Akhtar's legal expenses and they have also undertaken not to repeat the allegations.

In a statement read on behalf of Mr. Akhtar his solicitor, Edward Yell from Carter-Ruck, said:

*"Mr. Akhtar has had his life turned upside down by the grievous allegations made by the News of the World, and the police investigation which followed the publication of their article. He welcomes the fact that the News of the World now accepts, as the police did many months ago, that there was not a shred of truth to these allegations and looks forward to putting this matter behind him."*

For further information, please contact Nigel Tait or Edward Yell:

[Nigel.Tait@carter-ruck.com](mailto:Nigel.Tait@carter-ruck.com)  
[Edward.Yell@carter-ruck.com](mailto:Edward.Yell@carter-ruck.com)

Tel: 020 7353 5005

SRA No. 44769