

**B E T W E E N :**

**MUHAMMAD ABDUL BARI**

**Claimant**

**-- and --**

**BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

**Defendant**

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**JOINT STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT**

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**Claimant's Solicitor-Advocate (Adam Tudor):**

1. My Lord, in this libel action I appear for the Claimant, Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari, who is the Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain ("MCB"). Robert Brosgill appears on behalf of the Defendant, the BBC.
2. The MCB is a national affiliation of mosques, Muslim associations and institutions in the United Kingdom. The Claimant has been Secretary General and leader of the MCB since 2006 and before that from 2002 was Deputy Secretary General.
3. During the BBC1 programme *Question Time* on 12 March 2009 a member of the public asked the panel of politicians and commentators to address the following question: "Should these protests we saw last week when the Royal Anglia Regiment came to Luton be banned?" This was a reference to the controversial protests in March by a group of Muslim men against a regiment of British troops who were parading in Luton on their return from duty in Iraq.
4. In response to the question, one of the *Question Time* panellists suggested that despite having been asked many times to condemn the kidnapping and killing of British soldiers,

the Claimant had failed to do so and thereby implicitly condoned such acts. The panellist further suggested that the Claimant believes the kidnapping and killing of British soldiers to be a good and Islamic thing. Although the Claimant was not actually mentioned by name, the “leadership” of the MCB was referred to, impliedly referring to the Claimant in his capacity as leader and chief spokesperson of the MCB.

5. My Lord, I am pleased to say that the Defendant accepts that these allegations about the Claimant are untrue. The Claimant does not condone the kidnapping and killing of British soldiers and does not believe this would be a good or Islamic thing to do. In fact in 2007 the Claimant said publicly that the killing of British troops in Iraq was unacceptable.
6. The Defendant, who has made an offer of amends to the Claimant which has been accepted, has agreed to join in the reading of this statement. The Defendant has also agreed to pay the Claimant damages (which he will pay to a charity) and his legal costs.

**Defendant’s Solicitor**

7. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I endorse what has been said by my friend. The BBC, through me, apologises unreservedly to the Claimant for the allegations broadcast on *Question Time* and is pleased to set the record straight.

**Claimants’ Solicitor-Advocate**

8. My Lord, with that the Claimant is content to let the matter rest.