

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

SIOC/

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

BETWEEN:

INAYAT BUNGLAWALA

Claimant

- and -

ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS LTD

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant, Stevie Loughrey of Carter-Ruck

My Lord, I appear for the Claimant in this action.

The Claimant is a British citizen born in Bolton and now living in Luton. He is a systems engineer at Thomson Reuters. He is also a spokesperson at the Muslim Council of Britain. In 2005, he was appointed by the British government as one of seven conveners for a Home Office taskforce with the responsibility for combating extremism among young Muslims.

On 15 March 2009 the Defendant published an article in the Mail on Sunday under the headline “**Government adviser on Islamic terror arrested after man stabbed at his home**”. The article alleged that there were strong grounds to suspect the Claimant of unlawfully stabbing a man at his home on 13 December 2008 and that he was an extremist who supports the views and objectives of Abu Qatada and Al Qaeda. It also called into question his suitability as a Government Advisor.

The article was repeated in similar terms on the *Mail on Sunday's* website. The allegations contained within the article were subsequently picked up on and republished by others.

In fact, the Claimant did not commit any criminal act in relation to the incident at his home on 13 December 2008, nor were there reasonable grounds to suspect him of having done so. As the Defendant now accepts, the Claimant was forced to act in self-defence to protect himself and his family against an intruder who it later turned out was so drunk he had no recollection of the incident.

Just 24 hours after publication, the Crown Prosecution Service confirmed it would be taking no action against the Claimant.

The Claimant does not support or condone the views or objectives of Abu Qatada or Al Qaeda. Indeed he has gone on the record many times to criticise and condemn Al Qaeda and those who support it.

The Defendant now accepts that the allegations it published about the Claimant were false. It has published an apology to the Claimant in the *Mail on Sunday* and on its website. In addition, the Defendant has agreed to pay a substantial sum to the Claimant by way of damages together with his legal costs.

My Lord, on that basis, I ask for permission to withdraw the record.

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