

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

Claim No: HQ08X01702

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

BETWEEN:

INAYAT BUNGLAWALA

Claimant

- and -

EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor Advocate for the Claimant, Adam Tudor

My Lord, I appear for the Claimant in this action and my learned friend Ian Helme appears for the Defendant.

The Claimant is a British citizen born in Bolton and now living in Luton. He is a systems engineer and is also an Assistant Secretary General of 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 Saturday 1 March 2008, the Defendant published an article under the headline "TARGET HARRY" with its subsidiary headline "**British Fanatics Threaten Him**". The article stated "sneering Muslim fanatics" had "labelled Prince Harry a target for assassins after his heroics against the Taliban." It went on to state that Prince Harry's perilous army mission in Afghanistan had been "dismissed by British extremists as a

mere publicity stunt” and that they also “claimed that by participating in an illegal war, the brave young prince had made himself fair game for a terrorist attack”. The article contained quotes from three individuals, including a purported quote from the Claimant, whose remarks were condemned by Conservative MPs as “highly irresponsible”.

The article was repeated in similar terms on the *Daily Express*'s website.

Taken as a whole, the articles suggested that the Claimant is a fanatical, sneering extremist who was inciting or, at the very least, condoning a terrorist attack upon Prince Harry, and that he considered the Prince to be a fair and legitimate target for terrorists.

In fact, and as the Defendant now acknowledges, the quote attributed to the Claimant was incomplete. As had correctly been reported in other media, the Claimant had in fact made clear his wish that Prince Harry and his army colleagues should be brought home safely from Afghanistan, out of harm's way. There was no basis whatsoever for the Defendant to suggest that the Claimant had either condoned or incited any attack on Prince Harry, or that he would ever do so. Nor is there any basis for alleging that he is an extremist of any kind.

The Defendant now accepts that these false allegations should never have been published. The Defendant is here today by its Counsel to apologise to Mr Bunglawala for the distress and embarrassment caused, to retract the false statements and to set the record straight. The Defendant has published a full and prominent apology in the *Daily Express* and on its website, having removed the article in question from the newspaper's website. In addition, the Defendant will pay a substantial sum by way of damages together with the Claimant's legal costs.

Defendant's Counsel

My Lord, the Defendant accepts what my friend Adam Tudor has said.

Through me, the Defendant apologises to the Claimant for any distress and embarrassment caused as a result of the publication of these false allegations, and welcomes this opportunity to set the record straight.

Solicitor Advocate for the Claimant

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

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